

**New Jersey Advisory Commission on Advancing  
LGBTQIA+ Youth Equity & Inclusion In Schools  
Meeting Date: August 5, 2025  
Meeting Minutes**

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairperson Allison.

**Compliance:** Adequate notice of this meeting has been disseminated in accordance with NJSA 10:4-8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, specifying the date, time, and place of this meeting.

**Attendance/Roll Call:**

Allison Connolly	x	Daniella Mendez		Richard Wilson	x	Christopher Cannella	x
Michael Hoffman	x	Karen Bingert	x	Jason Sabino	x	Robyn Gigl	x
Robt Martin Seda-Schreiber	x	Katherine Lin	x	Jaivon Lewis	x	Nelson Troche	x
Zaneta Rago-Craft	x	Justine Evyn Saliski		Trish Perlmutter		Keywuan Caulk	x
Shannon Cuttle	x	JoAnn Groeger	x	Niambi London	x	Andrea Caporale	

**Approve Minutes from 5/4:** Jo Ann made a motion to approve the minutes, and Robt seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Shannon, Karen, and Jason have abstained.

**Committee Reports:**

- *Data and Analysis:* We will meet over the summer to review some meta-analysis; many of our findings were proprietary. A meeting was held with the Trevor Project, and they are willing to share
- *Professional Learning:* have had trouble meeting over the summer, Rich will be taking over as chair
- *Educational Programming:* They have not had a chance to meet
- *Outreach, Communications & Advocacy:* discussed a community assessment survey and other programs to complete this work. We have developed a tool to do this work and have it sent out at the start of the school year. We are looking to host a listening session tour, both in-person and with a virtual option.
- *Bylaws:* A recommendation was put forward by the committee to approve the constitution and bylaws; the motion carried

**Executive Director Report:**

Kate thanked the commissioners for their work as we move into our second year of work under challenging circumstances

An update on the Pride season was given, highlighting activities attended in Morris and Bergen counties. Collaborated with Monmouth County EA on an educational program. We will work with the NJEA SOGI committee to expand this program to other counties and spaces.

Kate attended the following events/made contact with: NJEA Carol Watchler LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Conference, Apple Farm community event, FDU Day of Learning, Change colloquium, NJ TESOL, NJEA RISE and Consortium, Disabilities Conference in New Hampshire, SPAN, Mexican Consulate invitation, Second Floor, Rustin Center, EDGE

No update is available on our website. Chris has requested a follow-up to understand why it is not ready. There are concerns around curriculum resources being shared.

Information about the student internship is outlined in packets. Would like to take formal action on this no later than the next scheduled meeting. Shannon suggested that we move on this initiative sooner, and a discussion was held.

Upcoming events: GSE Youth Advocacy Conference, the Amistad Institute, NJ State Bar Association Conference on Bullying, NJ Historical Commission Conference, NJEA Convention, and others...we were denied a spot at the School Boards Conference. A conversation was held on the School Board's decision to exclude LGBTQIA+ content from their conference.

QSAC: Kate shared a document outlining how districts will be held accountable for implementing the LGBTQIA+ curriculum mandate.

Kate is working on the annual report, which will be shared soon.

Kate emphasized the need for commissioners to assist her in areas where the commission is present.

**Open Public Comment on Agenda Items:**

Carol Watchler from Burlington County emphasized the need to invite folks to be communities of care. She also discussed improving the archive and collecting the history of work done in NJ around LGBTQIA+ issues.

**New Business:**

A discussion took place regarding the Mahmoud v. Taylor Supreme Court Case and its potential impact on implementing the LGBTQIA+ curriculum mandate.

Robyn gave an overview of the Heaps vs. Delaware Valley case that is in the court system. The District Court ruled in favor of the district. This is at the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals.

Allison made a motion to direct Kate to write a brief on these issues. Chris seconded it, and the motion passed.

Jason has requested that information about the commission's work be disseminated. Kate will include this in her post-meeting reports.

Andrea asked if there were resources out there to help people who are facing anti-LBGTQIA+ sentiment at BOE meetings. Kate reminded the commission that we have to be invited in and can not engage in political work.

**Motion to Adjourn:** A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Robt to adjourn; the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher F. Cannella