



# Great Schools New Jersey: The Association of High Need School Districts

*In partnership with Education Law Center Advancing Educational Opportunities for  
All Students*

**Virtual Meeting: September 21, 2021  
10:30am – 12 p.m.**

## **Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84601018571?pwd=c08rMlVxK1o3bVFnYXFmcnBXY2RJQT09>

Meeting ID: 846 0101 8571

Passcode: 696235

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,84601018571#,,,,\*696235# US (New York)

+13017158592,,84601018571#,,,,\*696235# US (Washington DC)

## **AGENDA**

- I. **Welcome: Kenyon Kummings, GSNJ President, Superintendent, Wildwood City School District**
  
- II. **Discussion: Recent Developments with Maintenance of Equity provision in the ARP  
Dr. Danielle Farrie, ELC**
  
- III. **Discussion: Funds available for SDA Districts and RODs for School Construction  
Theresa Luhm, ELC**
  
- IV. **Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt, Chair, Assembly Education Committee**
  
- V. **Legislative Update: Melanie Schulz, NJASA Director of Government Relations**
  
- VI. **Education Law Center Update: Sharon Krengel, ELC Policy & Outreach Director**
  
- VII. **Approval:**
  - a. **GSNJ May 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes**
  - b. **Treasurer Reports: Jan. 2022 – July 2022**

# Great Schools New Jersey – May 19, 2022

---

## Great Schools New Jersey – The Association of High Need School Districts Spring Leadership Conference – Thursday, May 19, 2022

### I. Welcome: Kenyon Kummings, GSNJ President, Superintendent, Wildwood City School District

Superintendent Kummings welcomed everyone to the first in-person meeting of Great Schools NJ in two years. He introduced Shaunna D. Finley, PhD, from Communities in Schools, and Julie Borst from the New Jersey Community Schools Coalition.

He noted that Dr. Finley is the Principal External Professional Development Partner at Communities in Schools and an experienced educator who has served as an interim superintendent, assistant superintendent, high school principal, high school teacher, and a college and careers coordinator serving Hispanic and African American students in low-income communities. She also has firsthand experience with Communities in Schools, since her school district had an affiliate model program.

Dr. Finley was the 2018 District 1 Principal of the Year in the State of Indiana. She received the North Township Trustee Woman of Prominence in Education Award and The Crossing Student Empowerment Award. She also authored a chapter, titled “Plant a Seed,” in *The Leader Reader: Narratives of Experience*. She is also a school board member in the community where she resides.

### II. Community Schools 101

Dr. Finley said she’s been working with Communities in Schools for four years, bringing an educator perspective to the organization. She explained that community schools are public schools that use evidence-based strategies to strengthen existing services and identify new services to support students. They bring together academic and non-academic support, health and social services, youth and community development, community engagement, and enrichment activities.

Dr. Finley said she used Communities in Schools in her schools. Examples included dinner with the principal, an extended school day for students, and afterschool enrichment. They engaged in creative planning with Communities in Schools, using their dollars.

She said community schools have four pillars: integrated student supports, expanding learning time and opportunities, family and community engagement, and collaborative leadership and practice. She noted the “impact statement:” no matter the race, background, or zip code, we want to ensure our children can live fulfilling lives.

Rahway Superintendent Trisha Camp said students in their alternative high school have additional needs, so they provide weekend backpacks of food, summer school, afterschool, and evenings meetings with food. She said it’s not officially a community school, but it’s based on what the community needs.

## Great Schools New Jersey – May 19, 2022

---

That was followed by discussion of what other districts are doing, including offering vaccinations, partnering with local food pantries, connecting with local pharmacies, and providing a lot of support in school for families.

Dr. Finley asked who the districts' point person is, and several superintendents raised their hands to show it was themselves. Dr. Finley said you need someone else to be the point person. She said the Chicago Public Schools have introduced community schools since 2002, and they have a point person. The Greater Lehigh Valley schools have a partnership with a university. They have a site coordinator, and each of the schools in the district have different partnerships.

Dr. Finley described how Communities in Schools works, noting that integrated student supports tackle hunger; the need for school supplies, shoes, and clothing; poor health; family needs; homelessness; students' inability to get to school; and the need for a caring adult in their lives.

She said Communities in Schools affiliates hire site coordinators and seek out collaborative partners, so it becomes less of a load for principals and superintendents.

Communities in Schools does a needs assessment of a school, then plans and provides integrated student supports, then evaluates, monitors and adjusts. She said this is an evidence-based model, evaluated by third parties, and with proven success. She added that Communities in Schools is in 26 states and D.C., in 2900 schools and community sites, serving 1.79 million students. She said 82% of Communities in Schools students are students of color.

Dr. Finley said Covid affected their work, since students weren't in school. So, instead, they went to schools' food distribution sites and homes.

She also said that Communities in Schools has a huge alumni group. These students say they would never have succeeded without Communities in Schools. She added that she has worked with several superintendents in New Jersey, including Superintendent Kummings.

Julie Borst explained that Save Our Schools NJ is a grassroots parent organization with 36,000 members in all legislative districts. They organize around assessment, charter school funding, etc. She and members of Save Our Schools NJ started the NJ Community Schools Coalition. Melanie Schulz is on their board, as is Mercer Street Friends.

Ms. Borst said the longest running community schools situation in New Jersey is connected with Montclair State University. She added that Paterson has several community schools, and noted that full-service community schools result in higher graduation rates, lower suspension rates, and other improvements.

She said the NJ Coalition works with the national community schools organization and is working with St. Elizabeth University, which houses SEL4NJ.

She noted that Communities in Schools had been in Newark for some years, but they left about 11 years ago. At that time, they focused on afterschool tutoring. She said the NJ Community

## Great Schools New Jersey – May 19, 2022

---

Schools Coalition has been talking to Communities in Schools for several years. There's a bill in the NJ Legislature for money for 21 community schools in partnership with St. Elizabeth.

Superintendent Kummings said there was a meeting at the Red Bank schools to showcase community schools, which could be a remedy in the school desegregation lawsuit. He said community schools could also be an answer to what happens when the superintendents in the room aren't there anymore, but gains need to be sustained.

### **III. Approval:**

#### **a. GSNJ April 13, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were moved and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Great School of New Jersey  
An Association of High Need Districts  
Formerly Urban School Superintendents of New Jersey

Treasurer Report - JANUARY 2022

**GSNJ - SAVINGS ACCOUNT - (7801)**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$ 27,611.19</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Interest	\$ 0.29	
Deposits	\$ 11,475.00	<b>\$ 11,475.29</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 39,086.48</b>

**GSNJ - CHECKING ACCOUNT - (1790)**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$ 48,711.34</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Interest	\$ -	
Deposits	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 48,711.34</b>

**WELLS FARGO - Advisors**

	Previous Value	Change in value	Current Value
	December 31		January 31
<b>Cash</b>	\$ (674.52)	\$ -	\$ (674.52)
<b>Mutual Funds</b>	\$ 13,041.89	\$ (3.21)	\$ 13,038.68
<b>Asset Value</b>	<b>\$ 12,367.37</b>	<b>\$ (3.21)</b>	<b>\$ 12,364.16</b>

Opening Cash and Asset Value	<b>\$ 88,689.90</b>
Net Change in Position	<b>\$ 11,472.08</b>
Closing Total Cash and Value	<b>\$ 100,161.98</b>

Great School of New Jersey  
An Association of High Need Districts  
Formerly Urban School Superintendents of New Jersey

Treasurer Report - FEBRUARY 2022

**GSNJ - SAVINGS ACCOUNT - (7801)**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$ 39,086.48</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Interest	\$ 0.30	
Deposits	\$ -	<b>\$ 0.30</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 39,086.78</b>

**GSNJ - CHECKING ACCOUNT - (1790)**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$ 48,711.34</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Interest	\$ -	
Deposits	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Expenses</b>		
ELC CHK# 1003	\$ (35,000.00)	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
		<b>\$ (35,000.00)</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 13,711.34</b>

**WELLS FARGO - Advisors**

	Previous Value	Change in value	Current Value
	January 31		February 28
<b>Cash</b>	\$ (674.52)	\$ -	\$ (674.52)
<b>Mutual Funds</b>	\$ 13,038.68	\$ (329.08)	\$ 12,709.60
<b>Asset Value</b>	<b>\$ 12,364.16</b>	<b>\$ (329.08)</b>	<b>\$ 12,035.08</b>

Opening Cash and Asset Value	<b>\$ 100,161.98</b>
Net Change in Position	<b>\$ (35,328.78)</b>
Closing Total Cash and Value	<b>\$ 64,833.20</b>

**Great School of New Jersey**  
**An Association of High Need Districts**  
**Formerly Urban School Superintendents of New Jersey**

**Treasurer Report - MARCH 2022**

**GSNJ - SAVINGS ACCOUNT - (7801)**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$ 39,086.78</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Interest	\$ 0.33	
Deposits	\$ -	<b>\$ 0.33</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 39,087.11</b>

**GSNJ - CHECKING ACCOUNT - (1790)**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$ 13,711.34</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Interest	\$ -	
Deposits	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 13,711.34</b>

**WELLS FARGO - Advisors**

	Previous Value	Change in value	Current Value
	February 28		March 31
<b>Cash</b>	\$ (674.52)	\$ -	\$ (674.52)
<b>Mutual Funds</b>	\$ 12,709.60	\$ (216.20)	\$ 12,493.40
<b>Asset Value</b>	<b>\$ 12,035.08</b>	<b>\$ (216.20)</b>	<b>\$ 11,818.88</b>

Opening Cash and Asset Value	<b>\$ 64,833.20</b>
Net Change in Position	<b>\$ (215.87)</b>
Closing Total Cash and Value	<b>\$ 64,617.33</b>

Great School of New Jersey  
An Association of High Need Districts  
Formerly Urban School Superintendents of New Jersey

Treasurer Report - APRIL 2022

**GSNJ - SAVINGS ACCOUNT - (7801)**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$ 39,087.11</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Interest	\$ 0.32	
Deposits	\$ -	<b>\$ 0.32</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 39,087.43</b>

**GSNJ - CHECKING ACCOUNT - (1790)**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$ 13,711.34</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Interest	\$ -	
Deposits	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 13,711.34</b>

**WELLS FARGO - Advisors**

	Previous Value	Change in value	Current Value
	March 31		April 30
<b>Cash</b>	\$ (674.52)	\$ -	\$ (674.52)
<b>Mutual Funds</b>	\$ 12,493.40	\$ (871.82)	\$ 11,621.58
<b>Asset Value</b>	<b>\$ 11,818.88</b>	<b>\$ (871.82)</b>	<b>\$ 10,947.06</b>

Opening Cash and Asset Value	<b>\$ 64,617.33</b>
Net Change in Position	<b>\$ (871.50)</b>
Closing Total Cash and Value	<b>\$ 63,745.83</b>



Great School of New Jersey  
An Association of High Need Districts  
Formerly Urban School Superintendents of New Jersey

Treasurer Report - MAY 2022

**GSNJ - SAVINGS ACCOUNT - (7801)**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$ 39,087.43</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Interest	\$ 0.33	
Deposits	\$ -	<b>\$ 0.33</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 39,087.76</b>

**GSNJ - CHECKING ACCOUNT - (1790)**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$ 13,711.34</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Interest	\$ -	
Deposits	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 13,711.34</b>

**WELLS FARGO - Advisors**

	Previous Value	Change in value	Current Value
	April 30		May 31
<b>Cash</b>	\$ (674.52)	\$ -	\$ (674.52)
<b>Mutual Funds</b>	\$ 11,621.58	<b>\$ 222.48</b>	\$ 11,844.06
<b>Asset Value</b>	<b>\$ 10,947.06</b>	<b>\$ 222.48</b>	<b>\$ 11,169.54</b>

Opening Cash and Asset Value	<b>\$ 63,745.83</b>
Net Change in Position	<b>\$ 222.81</b>
Closing Total Cash and Value	<b>\$ 63,968.64</b>

Great School of New Jersey  
An Association of High Need Districts  
Formerly Urban School Superintendents of New Jersey

Treasurer Report - JUNE 2022

**GSNJ - SAVINGS ACCOUNT - (7801)**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$ 39,087.76</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Interest	\$ 0.32	
Deposits	\$ -	<b>\$ 0.32</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 39,088.08</b>

**GSNJ - CHECKING ACCOUNT - (1790)**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$ 13,711.34</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Interest	\$ -	
Deposits	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Expenses</b>		
CHK# 1004 ELC AD	\$ (1,500.00)	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
	\$ -	
		<b>\$ (1,500.00)</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 12,211.34</b>

**WELLS FARGO - Advisors**

	Previous Value	Change in value	Current Value
	May 31		Jun 30
<b>Cash</b>	\$ (674.52)	\$ -	\$ (674.52)
<b>Mutual Funds</b>	\$ 11,844.06	\$ (845.18)	\$ 10,998.88
<b>Asset Value</b>	<b>\$ 11,169.54</b>	<b>\$ (845.18)</b>	<b>\$ 10,324.36</b>

Opening Cash and Asset Value	<b>\$ 63,968.64</b>
Net Change in Position	<b>\$ (2,344.86)</b>
Closing Total Cash and Value	<b>\$ 61,623.78</b>

Great School of New Jersey  
An Association of High Need Districts  
Formerly Urban School Superintendents of New Jersey

Treasurer Report - JULY 2022

**GSNJ - SAVINGS ACCOUNT - (7801)**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 39,088.08</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Interest	
Deposits \$ _____	\$ -
<b>Expenses</b>	
TRANSFER TO CHECKING \$ (33,340.00)	
\$ -	
\$ -	
	<b>\$ (33,340.00)</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 5,748.08</b>

**GSNJ - CHECKING ACCOUNT - (1790)**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 12,211.34</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Interest \$ -	
Deposits \$ 36,882.00	<b>\$ 36,882.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
CHK# 1005 \$ (13,000.00)	
CHK# 1006 \$ (30,840.00)	
\$ -	<b>\$ (43,840.00)</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 5,253.34</b>

**WELLS FARGO - Advisors**

	Previous Value	Change in value	Current Value
	Jun 30		July 31
<b>Cash</b>	\$ (674.52)	\$ -	\$ (674.52)
<b>Mutual Funds</b>	\$ 10,998.88	\$ 438.76	\$ 11,437.64
<b>Asset Value</b>	<b>\$ 10,324.36</b>	<b>\$ 438.76</b>	<b>\$ 10,763.12</b>

Opening Cash and Asset Value	<b>\$ 61,623.78</b>
Net Change in Position	<b>\$ (39,859.24)</b>
Closing Total Cash and Value	<b>\$ 21,764.54</b>