



# Advocating for Exemplary Health and Physical Education

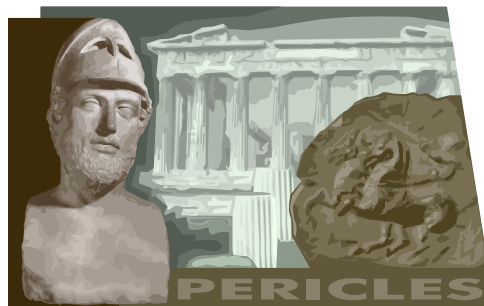
**NJAHPERD Annual Convention**

JoAnn Doherty, Fran Pfeffer and Jennifer Sullivan

February 23, 2016

*Just because you do not take an  
interest in politics  
doesn't mean politics won't take an  
interest in you!*

*- Pericles*





# Political Action: Why Bother

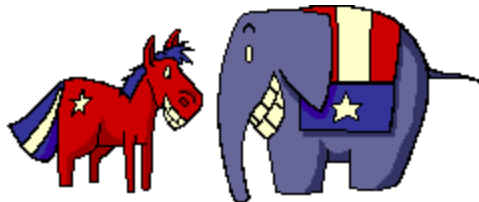


## Who Makes the Following Decisions for You?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Certification and Licensure Standards</li><li>• Tenure</li><li>• Due Process Rights</li><li>• Salary</li><li>• Health Benefits/Medical Coverage</li><li>• Pensions</li><li>• Class Size</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Length of School Day</li><li>• Length of School Year</li><li>• School Funding</li><li>• Course Content</li><li>• Health/Safety Standards</li><li>• Social Security Coverage</li><li>• Unemployment coverage</li><li>• Recess Policy</li></ul> |
|---|---|

*The job of a school  
employee is governed by  
law and regulation.*

*Democracy is not a spectator sport!*





## Regulation (Code)

**Executive  
Agencies  
(Department of  
Education)**

**Appointed  
Officials**



## Law (Statute)

**Legislature  
and  
Governor**

**Elected  
Officials**

# New Jersey Legislative Process

- New Jersey General Assembly  
40 Districts/2 Assembly Members= 80 Members
- New Jersey State Senate  
40 Legislative Districts/1 Senator= 40 Senators
- Bills must be passed by both houses of the legislature and signed into law by the Governor

## What Are We Looking At?

### Regulation

(NJ Department of Education)

- **Evaluation**
- **Professional Development**
- **Special Education**
- **Certification & Licensure**
- **Core Content Standards**
- **PARCC**

### Legislation

(Legislature & Governor)

- **Pensions**
- **Health Benefits**
- **Health and Physical Education Teacher Certification**
- **Mandated Recess**



# NJAHPERD State Issues

- Recess Bill

- New Bill Numbers: A-2469 (Peterson/DiMaio/Diegnan/ Jasey)/ S-1144 (Turner)

- Requires minimum 20 minute daily recess period in public elementary schools (K-5)

- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- Replaces No Child Left Behind Act

- School Health and Physical Education included in ESSA, on same level as other academic subjects; states and school districts will now have access to significant funding for health and physical education programs



# What Are We Looking At?

## Local Level: School Boards

- Recess Policy: What happens if we **DON'T** Get Involved

**Warren schools to provide physical education during recess**

**WARREN TWP.** – [Warren Township Schools](#) starting with the 2016-17 school year will provide physical education options during recess to meet state requirements, according to a statement from Interim Superintendent Elizabeth Nastus.

*February 6, 2016, New Jersey Hills, Echoes-Sentinel*



Never in my wildest dreams could I  
have imagined that we would have to  
defend children's right to play.

*Nancy Carlsson-Paige • Artist: Lance Hunter*



# Why Advocate? Why Lobby?



- Communicate our views
- Opportunity to provide information that can shape educational policy
- Ask for something from an elected/appointed official to achieve a policy goal
- Successful policy change has large impact
- New partnerships/alliances
- Credibility for our profession and better informed public
- If you don't speak up – who will?



# Taking Action



- **Follow education issues in the Legislature and at State Board meetings**
- **Get to know your local public officials: set up a meeting, invite him/her to a school event and then contact them on important issues**
- **Attend your local school board meeting**
- **VOTE! Volunteer for elections and campaigns**
- **Stay involved with your association (NJAHPERD and NJEA)**

# Effective Advocacy

## HOOK

Name, Town, School

## LINE

Personal Story

## SINKER

The “Ask”

**A political system does not change  
because something is right, moral or  
just!**

**Political systems (including school boards)  
change because not changing creates more  
problems than changing!**

**As Frederick Douglass said:  
*“Power concedes nothing without a demand!”***

# Thank You



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