NJASA/NJAPSA SPRING LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE COMMITTEE PLANNING CALL
November 19, 2026 / 9:30 am via Zoom

Summary

Conference Planning and Strategy Meeting

The meeting focused on planning the upcoming Spring Leadership Conference, with discussions about the agenda, keynote speakers, and theme. Mitzi Morillo, co-chair, outlined the process for introductions and the goal of establishing a conference theme to guide speaker selection. The committee discussed potential keynote speakers and agreed to research and narrow down options after determining the theme. The group also touched on the venue change, the possibility of adding more presentations, and feedback on roundtable sessions, held in the Exhibit Hall from the previous year.

Spring Leadership Conference Planning Meeting

The meeting focused on planning the Spring Leadership Conference, scheduled for May 19-21 at a new venue for this event, in Atlantic City (Harrah's). Marci Grabel, the NJAPSA Executive Director, proposed a keynote speaker through LightSwitch but was asked to provide more details later in the call. The group discussed the importance of determining the conference theme before selecting speakers, with Mitzi Morillo suggesting potential themes related to AI and connectedness. The meeting emphasized the value of attendance for networking and sharing experiences among superintendents.

Spring Leadership Conference Theme Finalization

The committee finalized the theme for the Spring Leadership Conference as **"The Heart of It All: Human Connection When It Matters Most,"** focusing on human-centered leadership and networking in challenging times. They agreed to form a subcommittee led by Mitzi to rename and realign existing session categories, for the Call for Proposals form, to better match the new theme, particularly rewording "work-life balance" to "whole leader, whole life" and changing "life after superintendency" to something more positive like "life during superintendency." The committee also discussed incorporating "unplugged conversations" as interactive sessions and potentially including AI topics that support well-being rather than competing with the conference's human connection focus. Lastly, committee members were asked to email Mary Capasso at mcapasso@njasa.net with speaker suggestions that align to this year's theme.