

Orange County School Boards Association

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MINUTES: DELEGATES' MEETING October 6, 2021 VIRTUAL

In Attendance: Martha Bogart, Bill Boss, Dave Eaton, Bill Hecht, Jean Pavak (OU-BOCES), Sandy Nagler, John Pasichnyk (Chester), Margaret Quinn (Cornwall), John Redman (Florida, NYSSBA Area 9), Shannon Johnson (Goshen), Sue Selser (Greenwood Lake), Faith Aprilante, Kristen O'Dell (Highland Falls), Karen Brooks (Marlboro), John Williams (Middletown), Joseph Flaherty (Minisink Valley), Nancy Dunn, Bill Harris (Port Jervis), Sarah Messing, Angela Terralavoro (Valley Central), Astrid Delbue, Robin White (Washingtonville), Karyn Meier (OCSBA).

Guests: MaryAlice Kovatch (Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Council of Orange County), Lauren Savino (OC STOP DWI & Traffic Safety)

- Call to Order** President Joe Flaherty called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Our guests were welcomed and OCSBA attendees were introduced.
- Secretary's Report** Secretary Sarah Messing asked for a motion to approve the minutes of 9/1/21 meeting, which was m/s/c. She reported that welcome letters and emails were mailed to new board members and OCSBA Delegates.
- Approval of Minutes**
- Treasurer's Report** Treasurer Faith Aprilante reported on OCSBA's first quarter financials. Except for two districts, all membership dues have been collected, and all payments for Mandated Training in Governance have been received. She reported the current checking account balance of \$34,328.97, and the money market fund balance of \$2,795.09. Faith also reported that Nugent & Haeussler is preparing OCSBA's 2020 Business Tax Return.
- President's Report** President Flaherty confirmed that our guest speakers for our November 3rd meeting are from the law firm TDWP&M and will address how to handle social media misinformation and social media trends. He also asked that members start to identify legislative issues important to them for inclusion on our 2022 Legislative Platform.
- Presentation:** ADAC Prevention Program Coordinator MaryAlice Kovatch reviewed the many resources available to districts from the Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Council of Orange County, with particular focus spent discussing their restorative justice Teen Intervene program. ADAC has received a grant and is encouraging school districts to utilize this currently free early intervention program for first time substance misuse offenders in lieu of suspension. Program Educator for OC STOP DWI, Lauren Savino, also reviewed the extensive work they do with local districts through a variety of free programs.
- Teen Intervene & OC STOP DWI**
- General Reports:** Executive Director Karyn Meier shared information about OCSBA's virtual meeting to be held for our local NYSSBA Voting Delegates in advance of NYSSBA's Annual Business Meeting.
- Exec. Director's Report**
- NYSSBA Area 9 Report** NYSSBA Area 9 Director John Redman thanked everyone for supporting his re-election to his Area 9 Director position. He encouraged board members to reach out to him should they have any issues they'd like to have discussed/addressed by NYSSBA. He also conveyed the NYSSBA Board's disappointment at having to go back to a virtual format in lieu of an in-person convention, but that the Board considered that to be the best decision given circumstances.
- NYSSBA DEI Report** Middletown BOE President John Williams gave a brief update of the DEI Committee's activities. He shared that at their last meeting they met with NYSSBA's Leadership Development Manager, Mark Snyder, to discuss the big picture of DEI – what it is and what it isn't, and the benefits gained by boards who participate in customized DEI training.

OU-BOCES Report

COO Bill Hecht reported that his most recent superintendents' meeting was held in-person, and that at the next BOCES Cooperative Board meeting the BOCES' Building Condition plan and its 5 Year Facilities plan will be reviewed. Jean Pavek added that is important to keep their facilities in good condition and commended BOCES staff for their efforts. Bill Hecht also reported that at the recent County Team meeting, discussions were had regarding the higher number of students returning to school in various states of crisis, and the increased need for mental health services and other support services, as well as restorative justice practices across the county.

NYSSBA Resolutions Review

NYSSBA Resolutions Committee member Bill Boss gave a brief status report of the resolutions to be voted on during NYSSBA's Annual Business Meeting. He reminded members to make sure that they have their district's respective voting delegate registered with NYSSBA. There are 17 resolutions recommended for adoption, 8 not recommended for adoption, and 5 submitted as late resolutions subjected to needing 2/3 of attendees to vote to hear each resolution. He discussed resolutions submitted by the Washingtonville district. Robin White discussed the resolution regarding expanded funding for school meals. John Redman reminded everyone that the voting delegates are voting on advocacy positions and not actual legislation.

Delegates Comments/Concerns

John Pasichnyk congratulated and recognized John Redman on his re-election to NYSSBA Area 9 Director.

Each district present gave a brief overview of their main concerns. These concerns included:

- Given the prevalence of contentious meetings, it is important to keep a voice of reason at the board table to counter the voice of chaos, although not all districts are experiencing difficult board meetings
- The need to maintain good procedures/policies in order to run effective board meetings
- Whether or not school boards are or should be writing letters to legislators regarding mask mandates.
- The need for quarantining continues, but at a lower level
- Many districts reported that things were going fairly well all things considered
- Many districts recognized the great work being done by their administrators and teachers
- The malicious TikTok challenge has been experienced by some districts
- Many districts have increased levels of staff vaccinations
- Several districts have new superintendents, or are entering a superintendent search
- Some districts are looking into capital projects
- A reminder that masks help districts with quarantine rules
- A question regarding whether parents are allowed back into schools
- Some school activities, like pep rallies or field trips are beginning to return, many being outside events

Adjournment

President Flaherty thanked all for attending. Motion to adjourn was m/s/c at 9:04 PM.