

Orange County School Boards Association

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MINUTES: DELEGATES' MEETING SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 OU-BOCES

In Attendance: Bill Boss, Ed Estrada, Bill Hecht, Jean Pavak (OU-BOCES), Sandy Nagler, Caroline NegerSmith, Frank Sambets (Chester), Larry Berger (Cornwall, OU-BOCES), Rob Andrade, Lori Gorcosos (Florida), Tom Loftus, Superintendent Kurtis Kotes (Goshen), Mike Emsworth, Superintendent Sarah Hadden (Greenwood Lake), Faith Aprilante (Highland Falls), Vince Crescenzo, John Williams (Middletown), Mike Ciriello (Monroe-Woodbury), Bill Harris (Port Jervis), Sarah Messing (Valley Central), Bill Fanos (Warwick Valley), Robin White (Washingtonville), Karyn Meier (OCSBA).

Guest: Regent Frances Wills (Board of Regents, NYSED)

- Call to Order** Vice President John Williams called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Our guest was welcomed and OCSBA attendees were introduced.
- Secretary's Report**
Approval of Minutes Secretary Sarah Messing asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 5/4/22 and 6/1/22 meetings, which was m/s/c. She reported that welcome letters and emails were mailed to new board members and OCSBA Delegates.
- Treasurer's Report** Treasurer Faith Aprilante thanked our members for approving the OCSBA 2022-2023 budget. She reported that the Executive Committee met in August to review OCSBA's financials for the past year, with all being found in good order. She reported the current checking account balance of \$21,502.85, and the money market fund balance of \$2,795.32, and that OCSBA membership dues were coming in, as well as payments for the New Board Member Mandated Training sessions. OCSBA's 1st Quarter financial report will be shared at the October meeting.
- President's Report** Vice President Williams noted that it was great to hold an in-person meeting and thanked Bill Hecht and his staff for all their help. He noted that OCSBA meetings will continue to be in-person unless otherwise noted. He confirmed that due to a holiday on the first Wednesday of the month, our next meeting will be October 12th and will focus on "Student Athletes, Social Media and Name, Image & Likeness (NIL)" legalities.
- Presentation:**
A Conversation with
Regent Frances Wills Regent Wills discussed the impact of the past two years on our students and reflected on the purpose of education. She talked about NYSED's Culturally Responsive Framework and the importance of creating a welcoming environment for everyone within our districts. She stressed the continued need to provide access to SEL/health outreach programs on a P-20 continuum. Regent Wills addressed plans to expand teacher certification, and teacher development from within our districts and communities.
- General Reports:**
Executive Director's
Report Executive Director Karyn Meier shared information about the Sept. 28th OU-BOCES Tour for New Board Members. She reported on OCSBA's plans for the NYSSBA Convention - due to hotels being spread out, OCSBA will not be hosting a hospitality suite. However, information regarding OCSBA Thursday & Friday dinners was shared with members. She also shared that OCSBA will host a virtual Meet & Greet for NYSSBA Voting Delegates from Orange County prior to the virtual NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting. She reviewed a sample letter received from Senator Skoufis which districts were encouraged to send to the IDA Board requesting representation when property tax abatements are being negotiated. She reviewed information received from Assemblyman Brabenec regarding a zoom meeting, "Connecting to Military Families", about resources and ways districts can support military families.

OU-BOCES Report	COO Bill Hecht reported on OU-BOCES' Capital Project. Before the project can be presented to the public for a vote, component districts must vote for one of two different financing options. Mr. Hecht also welcomed several new superintendents in Orange County school districts and noted that his "Chief's" meeting with all superintendents is next Friday.
NYSSBA Area 9 Report	Tabled until next meeting.
NYSSBA DEI Report	Middletown BOE President John Williams gave a brief update of the DEI Committee's activities which includes work on developing a defining statement as to what DEI comprises because some have misconstrued that DEI is only about race or ethnicity, when it encompasses much more. The committee is also developing and advocating for a DEI approach when considering resolutions, so that resolutions are also evaluated through a DEI lens. He also mentioned that Bill Boss and he have been included in a Member Relations video that will be viewable soon.
NYSSBA Resolutions Committee	NYSSBA Resolutions Committee member Bill Boss reported that all members should have now received a Resolutions booklet for them to consider. He also made a Resolutions Summary Chart to be shared with everyone that provides an easy way to keep track of all resolutions during NYSSBA's Annual Business Meeting. He briefly reviewed the variety of resolutions that will be put to a vote at the Business Meeting. He advised all members to review the booklet with their boards so that NYSSBA Voting Delegates will know how to vote appropriately. In addition, Dutchess BOCES Board Member Gully Stanford joined our meeting to discuss and ask for support of their specific resolution which asks that the state fully fund and formally add Arts and Music to the state's required curriculum.
Delegates Comments/Concerns	<p>BOCES Board Member Ed Estrada noted that most districts have seen a presentation on BOCES' Capital Project and asked that attendees share their districts thoughts regarding that project. Overall, people shared that their districts were supportive of, and understood the need for BOCES' Capital Project. There were a variety of comments regarding the financing options and the concern over the expense associated with the project. Additionally, several members stressed the need they felt BOCES had in communicating the importance of this project to the general public who will ultimately vote on this endeavor. Ed Estrada thanked everyone for their input.</p> <p>Other concerns/comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification regarding making a rebuttal to a NYSSBA Resolution • The need for NYSED to clarify what Covid relief funds can be used for in districts • Kudos to the BOCES' team for doing an impressive job during his Board of Ed's BOCES' walk thru • A request that BOCES make a video explaining "What is BOCES" • The Chester Board welcoming their new superintendent • The need for NYSED to do more to address learning not realized due to the pandemic lock down
Adjournment	Vice President Williams thanked everyone for their great comments and for attending. He also noted how enjoyable it was to have met in-person for OCSBA's Annual Meeting this past June. Motion to adjourn was m/s/c at 9:33 PM.