

# OCSBA Orange County School Boards Association

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**MINUTES: ANNUAL MEETING**

**JUNE 2, 2021**

**ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

## **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance**

President Joe Flaherty called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM, welcomed all and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Introduction of Guests**

President Flaherty welcomed our guests from NYSSBA and invited OCSBA member and NYSSBA Area 9 Director John Redman to introduce Fred Langstaff, NYSSBA President, and Mike Bieber, NYSSBA Member Relations.

## **Budget Approval**

President Flaherty recognized Treasurer Faith Aprilante who present the proposed 2021-2022 budget. Ms. Aprilante noted that with regards to the current pandemic, OCSBA membership dues remain unchanged, as well as OCSBA's budget overall. She asked for a motion to approve the proposed budget. The budget was then m/s/c.

## **Election of Officers**

President Flaherty, as the Nominating Committee Chairperson, reported on the Nominating Committee's activity and presented the slate of officers for 2021-2022:

President: Joseph Flaherty, Minisink  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: John Williams, Middletown  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Robin White, Washingtonville  
Treasurer: Faith Aprilante, Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery  
Secretary: Sarah Messing, Valley Central  
Executive Director: Karyn Meier

He asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, a motion to approve the slate as presented was m/s/c. President Flaherty declared the slate approved and thanked the Nominating Committee members –John Williams, Faith Aprilante, Robin White, Bill Boss, and John Pasichnyk - for their contributions. President Flaherty welcomed Sarah Messing to the Executive Committee, and thanked and recognized Meg Vaught, as she retires from board service, for all her contributions to the Executive Committee and to OCSBA.

## **Recognition of District Clerks & Administrative Assistants**

Executive Director Meier recognized the critical importance of all our districts' District Clerks and Admin. Assistants, and the work they do to ensure successful district and board operations. She was joined by NYSSBA's Fred Langstaff and OU-BOCES' Sharleen DePew (Executive Assistant to the COO & Clerk of the OU-BOCES Board) who offered their comments and commendations as well. Exec. Dir. Meier noted that recognition packets had been sent to all Honorees which included a Commendation Letter, a Certificate of Appreciation, and a printed program which detailed their respective districts' praise and gratitude. Honorees include:

Chester – Debra Lys, Joanne Valastro  
Florida – Helen Arena, Leta Jagielski  
Greenwood Lake – Mary DePietro  
Marlboro – Cindy Storno, Theresa Laraia  
Minisink Valley – Debbie Roda  
Newburgh – Matthew McCoy  
Pine Bush – Maria Wise, Debbie June  
Tuxedo – Kristine DiFrancesco  
Warwick Valley – Susan Laroe

Cornwall – Linda Mengersen, Harvey Sotland  
Goshen – Maureen Farrell  
Highland Falls – Marisa Frederick  
Middletown – Taryn Clark  
Monroe-Woodbury – Donna Vitucci, Lisa Suden  
OU-BOCES – Sharleen DePew  
Port Jervis – Kristen Lopez  
Valley Central – Ellen McGoldrick  
Washingtonville – Carrie Rodriguez, Teresa Silverman

**Recognition of Retiring Board Members**

President Flaherty acknowledged those board members who were retiring from school board service at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Retirees:

Cornwall – Matt Bannon  
Goshen – Martha Bogart, Judith Green  
Highland Falls – James DiSalvo, Col. Cecil Marson  
Marlboro – John Marro, Frank Milazzo  
Middletown – John Lacenere  
Minisink Valley – Christopher Briecke, Kathlee DeRose, Catherine Prezioso  
Monroe-Woodbury – Lorraine Carroll  
Newburgh – Silvia Santiago  
Pine Bush – Kristen Graessle  
Port Jervis – Kayla Finan, Tanya Parker-Hughes, Rey Torres, Linda VanHorn  
Tuxedo – Michael Arone, Kimberly Breiland, Meg Vaught  
Valley Central – Sonia Lewis, Melvin Wesenberg  
Warwick – Dave Eaton  
Washingtonville – Kevin Radday, Mary Ellen Shute

President Flaherty also recognized OU-BOCES Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Terry Reynolds upon her retirement after 39 years in education. He noted that Terry has been a great friend to OCSBA, sharing her expertise on a wide variety of educational topics at our meetings and with all our school districts.

**Guest Speaker**

President Flaherty recognized our guest speaker, Fred Langstaff, President of NYSSBA.

President Langstaff noted that the past year has been a trying one for everyone and he stated his appreciation of all our board members and OCSBA for being very active and supportive of NYSSBA activities. He noted his appreciation of all our board members keeping the needs of our students first and foremost throughout these difficult times. Mr. Langstaff recognized our District Clerks as being heroes in our districts for many reasons, and he recognized retiring board members. He noted that retiring can be bittersweet because so many board members feel that board service is one of the most fulfilling missions to engage in. He said that while board service can be challenging, it is very important because “our students and our communities depend on us.” In addition, he discussed NYSSBA’s recent focus on how we prepare our students to be involved in civic engagement, as well as its work on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee. He discussed upcoming events such as the NYSSBA Summer Law Conference and the October Convention. Many members expressed appreciation regarding NYSSBA’s efforts to respond to the needs of our board members by keeping everyone informed and involved with current issues and the changing landscape of education. Some discussion followed about the need for more information regarding how districts can manage volatile social media. Further discussion will be had to explore this topic.

**Adjournment**

President Flaherty thanked our guests and everyone for attending. Motion to adjourn was m/s/c at 8:03 PM.