

Orange County School Boards Association

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MINUTES: DELEGATES' MEETING December 1, 2021 VIRTUAL

In Attendance: Bill Boss, Bill Hecht, Jean Pavek (OU-BOCES), Rob Scheuermann (Florida), Shannon Johnson (Goshen), Faith Aprilante (Highland Falls), Karen Brooks (Marlboro), John Williams (Middletown), Joseph Flaherty, Nakia Hickman (Minisink Valley), Bill Harris (Port Jervis), Sarah Messing, Angela Terralavoro (Valley Central), Astrid Delbue, Robin White (Washingtonville), Karyn Meier(OCSBA).

Guests: Kathy Bendheim, Wendy Wallace (National Student Support Accelerator at Brown University)

- Call to Order** President Joe Flaherty called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM, and led 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 11/3/21 meeting, which was m/s/c.
- Approval of Minutes**
- Treasurer's Report** Treasurer Faith Aprilante reviewed OCSBA's 2nd Quarter financial data, and reported that OCSBA's 2020 Business Tax Return was prepared by Nugent & Haeussler, and electronically filed. A motion to approve the report was m/s/c.
- President's Report** President Flaherty confirmed that OCSBA would host a January virtual meeting with guest speakers from NYSSBA's Governmental Relations Team. He also reminded everyone of NYSSBA's virtual Capital Conference on February 2nd, followed by a Lobby Day on February 9th.
- Presentation:** NSSA Director of Engagement & Development Wendy Wallace reviewed data about the learning loss many students have experienced due to pandemic disrupted learning, and the positive effects targeted high-impact tutoring can have in mitigating learning loss. She reviewed the definition of high-impact tutoring and its key elements. NSSA Consultant Kathy Bendheim discussed what this tutoring would look like in a school district and gave examples of some existing successful tutoring programs that could be used if a district was not able to create their own program. They reviewed the tools and resources available to districts through the National Student Support Accelerator program.
- Learning Needs & High Impact Tutoring**
- General Reports:** Executive Director Karyn Meier gave an overview of the Restorative Justice Policy Workgroup virtual meeting that was held November 30th, with the next meeting scheduled for January 25th. She also reminded everyone about NYSSBA's 2022 Legislative & State Budget Preview Webinar slated for December 9th.
- Exec. Director's Report**
- OU-BOCES Report** COO Bill Hecht shared information about a positive professional development meeting for BOCES District Superintendents whereby Dr. Sean Eversley Bradwell from Ithaca College discussed NYSED's DEI initiative. This included recommendations to consider the vocabulary used in district policies, etc. ("educational gap" instead of "achievement gap", "student engagement" instead of "student behavior/discipline"). Additionally, Mr. Hecht noted that OU-BOCES Instructional Support Services are offering more PD courses on DEI, some of which was utilized during a recent virtual conference day. He also noted that OU-BOCES is in the process of developing their 2022-2023 budget, which he will present to component districts either virtually or in person. He discussed the proactive work done by Deputy Superintendent Deb Heppes and her team in developing a database to be used by athletic ref's and officials to self-report COVID test results to help facilitate scheduling these personnel for athletic events. Likewise, BOCES has worked to be flexible in scheduling athletic events and transportation due to difficulties from pandemic issues. Finally, he reported on a very well attended and productive Chiefs meeting that was recently held in person at the Carl Onken Conference Center.

OCSBA Legislative Platform

Bill Boss discussed some of NYSSBA's top legislative and funding priorities, some of which will be incorporated into OCSBA's updated platform. Additionally, the ramifications of a recent court decision finding that a local public school district must provide bus transportation for non-public school students to attend their religious school on days when the public school is closed was discussed. An appeal has been filed as this finding does not align with current state law. If this holds, an argument may be made to include this on our platform with regards to the need for the state to provide aid/resources to the public school district for such purpose.

Delegates Comments/Concerns

Delegates concerns and comments included:

- Some delegates reported a good rate of student vaccinations, while overall, many delegates did not have information regarding their student vaccination rate.
- One district is using its buildings to offer booster shots, while another district is hosting a vaccination clinic for students aged 5-11 years old.
- Concern for students and staff's social and emotional well-being was expressed, as anxiety over the fluctuating pandemic continues.
- Shortages of staff and especially bus drivers was reported due to an uptick in covid cases.
- Concerns over out-of-state travel quarantine protocols was reported.
- Inconsistency in whether student athletes had to be vaccinated in order to participate in events was shared.

Adjournment

President Flaherty thanked all for attending. Motion to adjourn was m/s/c at 8:55 PM.