

# Orange County School Boards Association

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## MINUTES: DELEGATES' MEETING SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 VIRTUAL

**In Attendance:** Bill Boss, Bill Hecht, Jean Pavek (OU-BOCES), Sandy Nagler, John Pasichnyk, Frank Sambets (Chester), Larry Berger (Cornwall), John Redman (Florida, NYSSBA Area 9), Robert Scheuermann (Florida), Faith Aprilante (Highland Falls), Karen Brooks (Marlboro), John Williams (Middletown), Joseph Flaherty (Minisink Valley), Meg Vaught (Tuxedo), Art Fitzgerald, Sarah Messing (Valley Central), Dave Eaton (Warwick Valley), Robin White (Washingtonville), Karyn Meier (OCSBA).

**Guests:** Barry Entwistle (Director of Member Relations, NYSSBA)

- Call to Order** President Joe Flaherty called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 Robin White asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 5/6/20 and 6/30/20 meetings, which was m/s/c. She reported that the OCSBA Directory had been sent to OCSBA Delegates, and that welcome letters were mailed to new board members and OCSBA Delegates.
- Treasurer's Report** Treasurer Faith Aprilante reported that the Executive Committee met online to review OCSBA's financials for the past year, with all being in good order. She reported the current checking account balance of \$14,732.26, and the money market fund balance of \$2,794.81. She reported that OCSBA membership dues were beginning to come in, and that OCSBA's 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter financial report will be shared at the October meeting.
- President's Report** President Flaherty reported that the Executive Committee met virtually to discuss future meeting plans, and it was decided that meetings would continue to be virtual. He confirmed that our October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will focus on "Prevention Education for Substance Use & Misuse" with Mary Alice Kovatch from the Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Council of Orange County. He encouraged everyone to join us for meetings and recognized newly elected board members.
- Executive Director's Report** Executive Director Karyn Meier shared information about the NY Education Policy Fellowship Program, reported on an August COLSBA/NYSSBA virtual meeting, and noted that an OCSBA email was sent to new board members to alert them to a free NYSSBA webinar regarding School Policy. She discussed that OCSBA may host a virtual NYSSBA Voting Delegates' meeting during the NYSSBA convention, and that an OCSBA email was sent to all members regarding participation in NYSSBA's Investment Advisory Committee.
- NYSSBA Area 9 Director's Report** NYSSBA Area 9 Director John Redman expressed his hope that all our districts were faring well during the pandemic and noted that his NYSSBA newsletter update was emailed to all members. He also noted that Area 9 also needs new representatives to participate on NYSSBA's Awards Committee and Resolution Committee. He thanked Jean Pavek for her past contribution to NYSSBA's Investment Committee and noted that Bill Boss had worked on the Awards Committee in the past, and that John Pasichnyk finishes his term on the Resolution Committee this year.
- Presentation: NYSSBA Convention Preview** Barry Entwistle gave a preview of NYSSBA's Virtual Convention, to be conducted over two weeks to hopefully make attendance easier. He noted that recorded sessions will be available for attendees to view for a period after the convention ends, and that bonus sessions will be released to attendees over the next few months. Importantly, he noted that Voting Delegates' need not be registered for the convention in order to participate in the Annual Business Meeting. He provided information about the pre-convention law and communication sessions, and highly recommended several impactful Keynote Presentations.

**NYSSBA Resolution Review**

John Pasichnyk, who is a member of NYSSBA's Resolutions Committee, reviewed the current status of resolutions to be voted on at the business meeting during convention. He noted that it was a pleasure to serve on the committee and highly recommended that other members consider doing so.

**Delegates Comments/Concerns**

Since our topic was School Reopening, District Superintendent Bill Hecht started off our discussion with his BOCES Report. He provided some historic context for all the work being done by all our districts since in-person attendance at schools closed last March. He reviewed that eleven districts were opening with remote instruction, three would open on a hybrid schedule, and the remaining were planning on in-person instruction. Many of the districts opening with remote instruction were making plans to move to a hybrid model over Sept-Oct. He commented that he was impressed with all our superintendents and school personnel. He noted that districts need to be ready to go in a different direction at a moment's notice but felt that our districts were well prepared to respond accordingly. He also commented on the ongoing high level of anxiety that everyone was experiencing, which was echoed by the majority of meeting attendees.

**OU-BOCES Report**

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

- Potential state cuts to financial aid and the disastrous effect that would have on districts
- The significant added expenses (PPE, training) districts are having with being able to reopen, vs. some community members who think they should get a tax rebate since students are not attending in-person
- Teachers concerned with ability to grade fairly when having to grade in-person students vs. students electing to attend virtually and need for clear grading guidelines
- Managing the needs of faculty members who also have young children, implementing FMLA
- The need for improved technical infrastructure
- The need for bus drivers
- Increased professional development for faculty in social emotional learning
- Ventilation issues
- Overall stress experienced by board members.

Member districts also discussed whether they were holding board meeting in-person or virtually. Some districts expressed the feeling that it was important to hold meetings in-person since districts were asking faculty and staff to also come into the school buildings to work. Not all districts are meeting in-person yet. Not all districts meeting in-person are inviting the public to attend. Regardless, all districts were recording and/or live streaming their board meetings.

**Adjournment**

President Flaherty thanked all for attending. Motion to adjourn was m/s/c at 9:11 PM.