

Orange County School Boards Association

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MINUTES: DELEGATES' MEETING May 5, 2021 VIRTUAL

In Attendance: Bill Boss, Bill Hecht, Jean Pavek (OU-BOCES), Sandy Nagler, John Pasichnyk (Chester), Larry Berger (Cornwall/OU-BOCES), Rob Scheuermann (Florida), Martha Bogart (OU-BOCES), Mathew Buckley (Greenwood Lake), Faith Aprilante (Highland Falls), Karen Brooks (Marlboro), John Williams (Middletown), Joseph Flaherty (Minisink Valley), Linda Van Horn (Port Jervis), Meg Vaught (Tuxedo), Art Fitzgerald, Sarah Messing (Valley Central), Dave Eaton (Warwick/OU-BOCES), Jennifer Dellova, Robin White (Washingtonville), Karyn Meier (OCSBA). **Guests:** Darcie Miller, Commissioner of OC Dept. of Social Services & Mental Health, Meghan Gildea, Principal OU-BOCES, Jeanne Slichta, LCSW OU-BOCES, Lydia Woodard, LMSW OU-BOCES, and Kara Evans, OU-BOCES Administrative Intern

- Call to Order** President Joe Flaherty called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Secretary's Report** Secretary Robin White asked for a motion to approve minutes from 3/3/21, which was m/s/c.
- Presentation: Best Practices During the Pandemic to Stay Engaged with our Students** The presentation with a high school student video entitled "Numb" which provided insight into one teenager's view of the pandemic and remote learning. Our BOCES guests reviewed statistics regarding a significant increase in mental health emergencies for children ages 5-11 years old and for adolescents. They discussed the importance of observing children as they return to school, or via remote contact, and helping to "normalize" what children are feeling in order to open avenues of discussion. They stressed the need to provide time for uninterrupted learning, keeping consistent schedules, incorporating mindfulness strategies, and creating safe place for families to vent and connecting families to mental health resources among many. Darcie Miller covered many topics, and discussed the importance of SEL curriculum, and of districts being aware of the many resources available to districts to support students' well-being. She discussed the impact of marijuana legalization on students and school districts and provided information about the Teen Intervene program.
- President's Report** President Flaherty invited all board of education trustees to attend OCSBA's Virtual Annual Meeting on June 2, 2021, at 7:00 pm. At that time members will vote on the proposed budget and slate of officers for the coming year. Retiring board members will be recognized and there will be special recognition of all our District Clerks and Administrative Assistants. He noted that our guest speaker will be NYSSBA President Fred Langstaff. He also reported that the Executive Committee plans to do its annual audit of OCSBA's financial records over the summer.
- Nominating Committee Report** President Flaherty reviewed the Proposed Slate of Officers for 2021-2022 year:
- President – Joe Flaherty, Minisink
1st Vice President – John Williams, Middletown
2nd Vice President – Robin White, Washingtonville
Treasurer – Faith Aprilante, Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery
Secretary – Sarah Messing, Valley Central
Immediate Past President – John Pasichnyk, Chester
Executive Director – Karyn Meier
- He recognized and thanked current 2nd VP Meg Vaught for her service and participation, and wished her well upon her decision to retire at the end of her Board of Education term.

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| Treasurer's Report | Treasurer Aprilante gave a brief review of OCSBA's financial status since a formal report was not yet due. She noted that due to limited activity during the pandemic, our expenses minimal, and that OCSBA would close the year with a satisfactory fund balance. |
| Budget Committee Report | Treasurer Aprilante also reported that the Budget Committee met and reviewed the proposed budget for the 2021-2022 year. The decision was made to hold dues at their current level, as well as holding our budget to its current levels with no changes being made. |
| Executive Director's Report | Exec. Director Karyn Meier reported that OCSBA's virtual Workshop for Prospective Board Members, offered at two different times, March 20 th at 9:00 AM, and on March 23 rd at 7:00 PM, was well attended with 26 people having signed up and a total of 18 attending. A brief conversation was had regarding NYSSBA's convention, and Bill Boss notified members that NYSSBA's annual Business Meeting would be held virtually one week prior to the convention. |
| OU-BOCES Report | COO Bill Hecht reported that in his recent Chief's meeting with local superintendents. OU-BOCES Cooperative Board President Jean Pavek thanked everyone for supporting and passing the OU-BOCES budget for the coming year. She also recognized Bill Hecht for being a recipient of the MHSSC Excellence in Leadership Award. |
| Delegates Comments/Concerns | Delegates shared their districts' proposed budget plans, with multiple districts reporting 0% increases to their budgets. They also reviewed how their board of ed elections were shaping up. Additionally, many districts reported on how they were conducting high school graduation ceremonies, and their plans for summer academic programs. |
| Adjournment | President Flaherty thanked all for attending. Motion to adjourn was m/s/c at 9:12 PM. |