

# Orange County School Boards Association

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**MINUTES: ANNUAL MEETING**

**JUNE 30, 2020**

**ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

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

President John Pasichnyk called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM, welcomed all and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Introduction of Guests**

President Pasichnyk introduced our guests from NYSSBA:

Robert Schneider, Executive Director  
Jay Warona, Deputy Exec. Dir. & General Counsel  
Barry Entwistle, Director of Member Relations  
Brian Fessler, Director of Gov't Relations  
John Redman, OCSBA, Florida UFSD BOE President, & NYSSBA Area 9 Director

## **Budget Approval**

President Pasichnyk recognized Treasurer Meg Vaught who present the proposed 2020-2021 budget. Ms. Vaught 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 Pasichnyk recognized Nominating Committee Chairperson Joe Flaherty, who reported on the Nominating Committee's activity and presented the slate of officers for 2020-2021:

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

A motion to approve the slate as presented was m/s/c. President Pasichnyk declared the slate approved and thanked the Nominating Committee members – Joe Flaherty, Faith Aprilante, Martha Bogart, Bill Boss, Sandy Nagler, John Pasichnyk - for their contributions. President-elect Joe Flaherty thanked John for his many years serving on the Executive Committee in a variety of positions since 2012 and for his many contributions to OCSBA's activities. John wished Joe Flaherty much luck and success and commented fondly of his time to date with OCSBA.

## **Recognition of Retiring Board Members**

President John Pasichnyk acknowledged Executive Director Karyn Meier to recognize those board members who were retiring from school board service at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Retirees:

Jim Congelli, Cornwall	John Odland, Minisink Valley
Michael Buckley, Greenwood Lake.	John Huberth, Monroe-Woodbury
Kevin Tuhey, Greenwood Lake	Joan McBride, Port Jervis
Susan Horton, Marlboro	Nancy Bourke, Tuxedo
James Kuha, Marlboro	Sheila Schwartz, Valley Central
Hertelou Pierre, Middletown	Col. Joshua Higgins, West Point Liaison HFFM
Kishia Zucks, Middletown	

Members were asked to please remember Susan Prokosch, VP of Newburgh BOE, on her recent passing from COVID-19.

## **Guest Speaker**

President Pasichnyk recognized Area 9 Director John Redman who introduced our NYSSBA guest speakers. NYSSBA Executive Director Bob Schneider thanked John Redman and complimented John for his excellent representation of our area at NYSSBA board meetings. He also recognized Jean Pavek's contributions to NYSSBA's Investment Advisory Committee, as well as Champion for Change awardee Bill Boss, and Larry Berger and John Pasichnyk, both having worked on NYSSBA committees. He celebrated the overwhelming results of positive school district budget votes (98.4%).

Mr. Schneider then reviewed NYSSBA's activities during the pandemic with regards to advocacy and legislation, participating in SED Task Force meetings, as well as paying attention to member relations, and keeping all board members and districts apprised of the latest news and developments. Mr. Schneider discussed the importance of a federal stimulus package to support education monetarily as well as by addressing broadband availability and the digital divide. He recognized Joe Flaherty who participated in the June Commissioner's Roundtable with Interim Commissioner Shannon Tahoe.

Further discussion was had regarding the different approaches being drafted for the return to school (fully live in-person instruction, hybrid instruction, and fully distance learning) and the related complexities of each method. The vital importance of collaborative decision-making was noted.

Jay Warona stressed NYSSBA's recognition of its purpose – to utilize the relationships they've developed to represent and advocate on all our behalf. He noted that he and many NYSSBA representatives are interacting almost daily with SED and the Governor's office. He also discussed virtual meeting and the Open Meetings law.

Brian Fessler reviewed activities as they prepped for the passage of NY State's budget. He noted that the budget passed, and this year remained unusually light on policy initiatives – which he noted was a good thing. He confirmed that earlier hopes for increases in education were eliminated, and that state aid to schools would remain flat – and that would happen only if additional federal monies were provided. Mr. Fessler also reviewed a variety of legislative issues being addressed including aid forgiveness, state retirement incentives, reserve fund flexibility, meal cost reimbursement, etc.

Barry Entwistle reported that they were looking closely at public health guidance as they considered how to proceed with the October convention. They would make a recommendation to the NYSSBA board on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **Adjournment**

President Pasichnyk thanked all for attending. Motion to adjourn was m/s/c at 8:38 PM.