

# Orange County School Boards Association

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## MINUTES: DELEGATES' MEETING January 12, 2022 VIRTUAL

**In Attendance:** Martha Bogart, Bill Boss, Ed Estrada, Bill Hecht, Jean Pavek (OU-BOCES), Larry Berger (Cornwall, OU-BOCES), Margaret Quinn (Cornwall), John Redman (Florida/NYSSBA Area 9), Matt Buckley, Susan Selser (Greenwood Lake), Shannon Johnson (Goshen), Karen Brooks (Marlboro), Joseph Flaherty (Minisink Valley), Bill Harris (Port Jervis), Sarah Messing, Angela Terralavoro (Valley Central), Bill Fanos (Warwick), Robin White (Washingtonville), Karyn Meier(OCSBA).

**Guests:** John Daley (NYSSBA Governmental Relations Representative)

- Call to Order** President Joe Flaherty called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Our guest was welcomed and OCSBA attendees were introduced.
- Secretary's Report** Secretary Sarah Messing asked for a motion to approve the minutes of 12/1/21 meeting, which was m/s/c.
- Approval of Minutes**
- President's Report** President Flaherty reminded everyone that OCSBA's next meeting is February 2, 2022, which is the same day as NYSSBA's Capital Conference, which will be reviewed during our meeting. He also said that we'll discuss our planned virtual meetings with our legislators.
- Presentation:** NYSSBA Governmental Relations Representative John Daley brought everyone up to date on the latest NY State budget outlook and what NYSSBA views as legislative priorities for the year ahead. He reviewed some recent legislative successes, and then reviewed state budget and school aid projections. He discussed fiscal priorities and legislative and policy priorities that need to be addressed with elected officials during this state budget development timeframe. Q&A conversations included PILOT issues, staffing shortages and limits on retiree earnings, non-public school busing/transportation issues, and financial audits.
- 2022-2023 Legislative & Budget Priorities**
- General Reports:** Executive Director Karyn Meier reminded everyone that the next meeting for the Restorative Justice Policy workgroup is scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup>. She also shared that information regarding OCSBA's Workshop for Prospective Board Members, and for OCSBA's Mandated Training in Governance sessions has been sent to all District Clerks.
- Exec. Director's Report**
- NYSSBA Area 9 Report** Area 9 Director John Redman discussed that in person legislator meetings being planned as part of NYSSBA's Capital Conference are in a state of flux and may end up being virtual instead. He noted that NYSSBA is in touch with all the state's county school board associations regarding this issue.
- OU-BOCES Report** COO Bill Hecht noted that he shared OCSBA's current legislative platform with district superintendents who supported our positions on the various issues we are facing. He discussed the "test to stay program" and it's tracking and progress. He also shared that the Cornwall BOE visited OU-BOCES to better acquaint itself with BOCES and its services and programs with which Cornwall's students participate. Margaret Quinn added positive comments about the impact their visit had on her and her fellow Cornwall board members. Jean Pavek welcomed all districts to set up similar visits.
- OCSBA Legislative Platform** OCSBA's Legislative Platform for 2022 was reviewed and a suggestion was made and accepted to include as a priority the need to increase the cap on aid for BOCES' salaries for CTEC educators. Additionally, Karyn Meier shared that as soon as all meeting dates/times with legislators is set, an email will be sent to all board members to ascertain participation.

**Delegates  
Comments/Concerns**

Delegates concerns and comments included:

- Continuing comments from parents – some of whom want in-person learning, and some of whom who want a remote learning option.
- Parental questions over the “test to stay” regarding athletic programs.
- COVID staffing issues/coverage.
- School threat management
- Positive vote for a district’s capital project proposal
- School musicals ready to go with limited seating
- Contract negotiations
- Fluctuating COVID cases
- Recognition and praise for the hard work being done by all our district administrators, and for student cooperation
- Condolences and recognition of Superintendent Tim Mains from Pine Bush CSD.
- Thank you to Bill Hecht for his work with our superintendents and for conveying their feedback regarding our legislative efforts
- Concerns over faculty and staff stress and burn-out.

**Adjournment**

President Flaherty thanked all for attending. Motion to adjourn was m/s/c at 9:06 PM.