

Orange County School Boards Association

7 Panel Lane, Florida, New York 10921

Phone: 845-325-9244 Email: karyn.meier@ocsba.com Website: www.ocsba.com

MINUTES: DELEGATES' MEETING December 2, 2020 VIRTUAL

In Attendance: Bill Boss, Ed Estrada, Bill Hecht, Jean Pavek (OU-BOCES), Sandy Nagler, John Pasichnyk, Frank Sambets (Chester), Margaret Quinn (Cornwall), Martha Bogart (Goshen/OU-BOCES), Mathew Buckley, Susan Selser, Sarah Hadden (Greenwood Lake), Aaron Falk (Highland Falls), Karen Brooks (Marlboro), John Williams (Middletown), Joseph Flaherty (Minisink Valley), Linda Van Horn (Port Jervis), Meg Vaught (Tuxedo), Art Fitzgerald (Valley Central), Colleen Doyle, Robin White (Washingtonville), Karyn Meier (OCSBA). **Guests:** Robbie Greene, Executive Director MHSSC; Brian Fessler, NYSSBA Dir. Governmental Relations, Alicia Artessa, NYSSBA Governmental Relations

- Call to Order** President Joe Flaherty called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Our guests were welcomed and OCSBA attendees were introduced.
- Secretary's Report** Secretary Robin White asked for a motion to approve minutes from 11/4/20, which was m/s/c.
- Treasurer's Report** Karyn Meier presented the financials on behalf of Faith Aprilante. She asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for 12/02/20, which was m/s/c.
- President's Report** President Flaherty reminded everyone that OCSBA does not meet during January, and that our next meeting would be on February 3, 2021. At that time, we will review our legislative platform prior to our legislative meetings.
- Presentation: Mid-Hudson School Study Council Update** MHSSC Executive Director Robbie Greene shared information about MHSSC's current activities. She noted that they are focused strongly on their work with and support for the teacher prep programs at colleges within the mid-Hudson region. They have also joined forces with additional colleges in the lower Hudson Valley, and participate in the Hudson Valley Teacher Educational Consortium. She discussed how SED and school districts can still utilize and support student teachers, stressing the importance of doing so considering a shortage of educators in the near future. Robbie also brought members up to date regarding their annual Employer Survey which assesses the abilities of new teachers and the effectiveness of teacher prep programs. She discussed the need for providing student teachers with educational law instruction regarding student and data privacy. She also provided an update on the MHSSC & SUNY New Paltz Administrative Cohort program.
- Presentation: NYSSBA Legislative Review** NYSSBA Director of Governmental Relations Brian Fessler, and Alicia Artessa, provided a "best of" and "worst of" review of school district issues during 2020. He reviewed the state government outlook for 2021, and provided estimated state budget projections for the next four years. There was considerable discussion regarding state aid withholdings, transportation aid, and the importance of federal assistance. Additional issues discussed included the need to address and mitigate existing cost drivers, not all of which are pandemic related.
- General Reports** In the interest of having time to continue discussion regarding legislative and budgetary issues, the following general reports were tabled: Executive Director's Report, NYSSBA Area 9 Report, OU-BOCES Report
- OCSBA 2021 Legislative Platform** Bill Boss reminded everyone to look at the Advocacy Updates sent by NYSSBA, and to consider attending the Legislative Preview Webinar being hosted by Brian Fessler on December 10th. John Pasichnyk participated in an SED Stakeholders Meeting regarding public school districts' oversight of "Substantially Equivalent Instruction for Nonpublic School Students". An extensive conversation followed. While this is not a new initiative, it may be at the forefront of SED's

agenda due to recent legal issues. The overwhelming opinion of our delegates was unfavorable to making public school districts responsible for demonstrating that nonpublic schools are delivering substantially equivalent instruction. There was an unanswerable question about the economic impact on districts, but that SED should consider that this may not be the time to impose this upon districts given the significant financial impact the pandemic has had on public education. Brian Fessler shared that a previous NYSSBA survey (approx.. 18 months ago) showed member support for substantial equivalency requirements, but that as time has gone on the pendulum has swung in the opposite direction.

Members reviewed a draft OCSBA Legislative Platform document.

**Delegates
Comments/Concerns**

Bill Boss congratulated Joe Flaherty for receiving a MHSSC Award for Excellence in School Board Service.

Condolences were expressed over the recent passing of a Washingtonville school bus driver.

Adjournment

President Flaherty thanked all for attending. Motion to adjourn was m/s/c at 9:09 PM.