

Orange County School Boards Association

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MINUTES: DELEGATES' MEETING February 2, 2022 VIRTUAL

In Attendance: Martha Bogart, Bill Boss, Ed Estrada, Bill Hecht, Jean Pavek (OU-BOCES), Sandy Nagler (Chester), Margaret Quinn (Cornwall), Robert Scheuermann (Florida), Sarah Hadden, Susan Selser (Greenwood Lake), Faith Aprilante (Highland Falls), Karen Brooks (Marlboro), Joseph Flaherty (Minisink Valley), Staci McCleary (Monroe-Woodbury), Amy Creeden, John Williams (Middletown), Bill Harris (Port Jervis), Sarah Messing, Angela Terralavoro (Valley Central), Bill Fanos (Warwick), Robin White (Washingtonville), Karyn Meier(OCSBA).

- Call to Order** President Joe Flaherty called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Secretary's Report** Secretary Sarah Messing asked for a motion to approve the minutes of 1/12/22 meeting, which was m/s/c.
- Approval of Minutes**
- President's Report** President Flaherty reminded everyone that OCSBA's next meeting is March 2, 2022, and that our guest speaker will be David Shaw, who will discuss the latest contract negotiations trends, personnel issues and the effects of Covid on legal affairs.
- General Reports:** Executive Director Karyn Meier reviewed notes from the latest COLSBA meeting held 1/26/22.
- Exec. Director's Report** She shared preliminary news about the October NYSSBA Convention, and NYSSBA's plan to bring back the Member Academy training program.
- NYSSBA DEI Committee** Committee Member John Williams share that at its most recent meeting the DEI Committee met new NYSSBA President Peggy Zugibe, set the committee's ground rules for productive discussions, as well as reviewing info for future webinar/trainings that will help boards recognize what their own starting point is for addressing DEI in their own districts.
- OU-BOCES Report** COO Bill Hecht concurred that DEI is a topic discussed at his meetings with Orange County superintendents, and that BOCES can assist districts in their DEI initiatives through their Structural Support Services. He also shared information about BOCES' assistance in distributing state provided Covid home test kits to all our districts. He recognized and thanked the superintendents for their support and help. Interim Superintendent Amy Creeden agreed that the tests have been helpful with "test to stay" protocols, as well as helping staff and families at home. All tests are tracked. Superintendent Sarah Hadden also shared that tests will be distributed prior to the February break to help families test prior to students' return to classrooms.
- OCSBA Legislative Update** A quick overview of NYSSBA's Capital Conference was discussed. Meetings with our legislators have been set and members discussed what issues should be prioritized in these meetings. Bill Boss also discussed the importance of board members being able to share personal district stories to illustrate our advocacy positions. Pre-meeting protocols and general advocacy and virtual meeting tips will be sent to all legislative meeting attendees.
- Delegates** Delegates concerns and comments included:
- Comments/Concerns**
- What can we do to recognize our superintendents, given the substantial stress that administrators are under?
 - The intricacies of contract negotiations given the pressures of the pandemic.

- The strength of the collaboration and strong relationships between Orange County superintendents was highlighted.
- In general, districts report that covid numbers are going down.
- Parental concerns over mask mandates are high countywide.
- Suggestions for how to respond to people who approach you outside the confines of a board meeting.
- Strategies for managing public comment periods during board meetings.

Adjournment

President Flaherty thanked all for attending. Motion to adjourn was m/s/c at 8:51 PM.