

Orange County School Boards Association

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MINUTES: ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 1, 2022

COSIMO'S, MIDDLETOWN

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

President Joe Flaherty called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM, welcomed all and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Guests

President Flaherty welcomed our Guest Speakers, Darcie Miller, Commissioner of Orange County Dept. of Social Services & Mental Health, Julika von Stackelberg, Parenting & Family Life Educator from Cornell Cooperative Extension. He also welcomed our guests from Thomas, Drohan, Waxman, Petigrow & Mayle, and recognized Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, both firms who are valuable partners in support of OCSBA's efforts. He then invited OCSBA member and NYSSBA Area 9 Director John Redman to introduce Patrick Longo, NYSSBA Member Relations Manager, who provided introductory remarks.

Budget Approval

President Flaherty presented the proposed 2022-2023 budget. He shared that OCSBA membership dues reflect a 2% increase which provides a revenue increase of \$523, noting that dues had not been increased since the 2016-2017 school year. He reviewed the slight changes made to revenue and expenditure categories, followed by asking for a motion to approve the proposed budget. The budget was then m/s/c.

Election of Officers

Immediate Past President John Pasichnyk reported on the Nominating Committee's activity and presented the slate of officers for 2022-2023:

President: Joseph 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
Executive Director: Karyn Meier

He asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, a motion to approve the slate as presented was m/s/c. He declared the slate approved and thanked the Nominating Committee members for their contributions.

Motivational Remarks

Reflecting on the past two years of pandemic difficulties, OCSBA 1st Vice President & Middletown BOE President John Williams recognized the significant efforts and contributions made by school district personnel and board members and shared uplifting commentary to help motivate everyone as we move forward into the new school year.

Recognition of District Superintendents

President Joe Flaherty and OCSBA 2nd Vice President Robin White recognized the important work and contributions that all our Orange County superintendents make on behalf of all our public-school districts, noting the positive comments about each individual superintendent that were shared in the Annual Meeting program.

Recognition of Retiring Board Members

OCSBA Secretary Sarah Messing and Executive Director Karyn Meier acknowledged those board members retiring from school board service at the end of the 2021-2022 school year, noting that each receives a certificate of appreciation and are noted in the Annual Meeting program.

Guest Speakers

OCSBA Ex-Officio Executive Committee Member and OU-BOCES Cooperative Board Member Bill Boss introduced our guest speakers, Darcie Miller and Julika von Stackelberg.

Darcie Miller thanked school districts for the work being done with anti-bullying, drug misuse prevention, and efforts to teach students about depression, anxiety and how to get help. She emphasized the importance of the atmosphere we create in our districts, and the need to model behavior that demonstrates that “we are here for our students and families”. She discussed the current state of students’ mental well-being and shared info about the various outreach efforts being done within our schools to help students and families connect with services. She noted that the earlier that mental health symptoms can be addressed, the better the chance for successful long-term recovery. She also emphasized the importance of foundational social and emotional curriculum such as PBIS, or Choose Love, etc. She discussed the impact of the legalization of marijuana within our schools. She also discussed the developmental loss being seen in the 0–5-year-old population and what is being done to fill those gaps.

Likewise, Julika von Stackelberg discussed the work of the Orange County Resilience Project which started in 2018 as a coordinated response to trauma. This Resilience Project is a coalition of school district personnel, health care and mental health care workers, as well as representatives from social services, law enforcement, and the judicial system, and faith-based persons and grass roots community members. She discussed the deleterious impact of toxic stress during childhood on a person’s long-term health and well-being, and how efforts are being made to increase our capacity to respond to trauma, mitigate it, and ultimately prevent it.

Adjournment

President Flaherty thanked our guests and everyone for attending. Motion to adjourn was m/s/c at 9:03 PM.