

Orange County School Boards Association

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MINUTES: DELEGATES' MEETING November 3, 2021 VIRTUAL

In Attendance: Martha Bogart, Bill Boss, Dave Eaton, Bill Hecht, Jean Pavak (OU-BOCES), Sandy Nagler, John Pasichnyk (Chester), Larry Berger (Cornwall/OU-BOCES), John Redman (Florida, NYSSBA Area 9), Shannon Johnson (Goshen), Mathew Buckley, Sue Selser (Greenwood Lake), Faith Aprilante (Highland Falls), Karen Brooks (Marlboro), John Williams (Middletown), Joseph Flaherty (Minisink Valley), Bill Harris (Port Jervis), Sarah Messing (Valley Central), Bill Fanos (Warwick), Astrid Delbue, Robin White (Washingtonville), Karyn Meier (OCSBA).

Guests: Steven Banks, Neel Choudhury, David Strong (Thomas, Drohan, Waxman, Petigrow & Mayle)

- Call to Order** President Joe Flaherty called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Our guests were welcomed and OCSBA attendees were introduced.
- Secretary's Report** Secretary Sarah Messing asked for a motion to approve the minutes of 10/6/21 meeting, which was m/s/c.
- Approval of Minutes**
- President's Report** President Flaherty confirmed that our guest speakers for our December 1st meeting are from the Annenberg Institute at Brown University and from the National Student Support Accelerator and will present on high-impact tutoring to remediate student learning loss due to the pandemic. He also asked that members start to identify legislative issues important to them for inclusion on our 2022 Legislative Platform.
- Presentation:** Attorney David Strong gave a brief review of First Amendment rights, and then discussed options that districts can use to manage social media within the different categories of public forums, and what limits/conditions can or cannot be imposed (how to maintain a "viewpoint neutral" position), especially with regards to online activity.
- Social Media: Issues & Management** Attorney Steven Banks discussed Public Comment policy and practices in detail, including resident vs. non-resident participation, defamatory statements, and when it's acceptable to use "No Trespass" letters.
- Attorney Neel Choudhury discussed specifics regarding student speech rights (on district property and off-campus), the Tik Tok "Devious Licks" challenge, and what constitutes a material substantial disruption of in the operation of a school. Likewise, he reviewed the finer points of what comprises protected or unprotected employee speech.
- General Reports:** Executive Director Karyn Meier shared information from a recent COLSBA meeting, and invited members to join in a Restorative Justice Policy Workgroup virtual meeting to be held later in November. Email notification will be sent.
- Exec. Director's Report**
- NYSSBA Area 9 Report** NYSSBA Area 9 Director John Redman commended NYSSBA's well done Virtual Member Event that was held in lieu of the October convention and emphasized NYSSBA's desire to return to in-person events in 2022.
- NYSSBA DEI Report** Middletown BOE President John Williams informed everyone that the DEI Committee will meet later in the week and that he'd provide an update at the December OCSBA meeting.
- OU-BOCES Report** Due to time constraints, COO Bill Hecht agreed to provide a report at our December meeting.

**NYSSBA Resolutions
Review**

NYSSBA Resolutions Committee member Bill Boss gave a brief review of actions taken during NYSSBA's Annual Business Meeting.

**Delegates
Comments/Concerns**

Tabled until December.

Adjournment

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