

OCSBA Orange County School Boards Association

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MINUTES: DELEGATES' MEETING March 4, 2020 OU-BOCES, GOSHEN, NY

In Attendance: William Boss, Bill Hecht, Jean Pavsek (OU-BOCES), Sandy Nagler, John Pasichnyk, Frank Sambets (Chester), Larry Berger (Cornwall, OU-BOCES), Robert Scheuermann (Florida), Martha Bogart (Goshen, OU-BOCES), Faith Aprilante (Highland Falls), Karen Brooks (Marlboro) John Williams (Middletown), Joe Flaherty (Minisink), Dawn Tauber (Monroe-Woodbury), Meg Vaught (Tuxedo), Sarah Messing (Valley Central), Robin White (Washingtonville), Karyn Meier (OCSBA).

Guests: Deborah Heppes (OU-BOCES), Neel Choudhury (Thomas, Drohan, Waxman, Petigrow & Mayle)

- Call to Order** President John Pasichnyk called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Our guest was welcomed and OCSBA attendees introduced themselves.
- Approval of Minutes** A motion to approve the minutes of the 2/5/20 meeting was m/s/c.
- President's Report** President Pasichnyk asked for a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of officers for the 2020-2021 school year. Committee volunteer members include Joe Flaherty, Faith Aprilante, Bill Boss, Sandy Nagler, Martha Bogart, and John Pasichnyk. He noted that the Budget Committee is the Executive Committee per OCSBA's bylaws. He announced that at our May 6th meeting our guest Kendra McQuilton, from The ECG Group, will discuss district energy efficiency projects and conservation, and reminded all that our Annual Meeting & Dinner is June 3rd at Cosimo's Brick Oven in Middletown with guest speaker Robert Schneider, Executive Director of NYSSBA.
- Presentation:** Neel Choudhury, from the law firm of TDWPM, reviewed in detail the past 50 years of free speech law as it applies to students, beginning with the Tinker Decision of 1969, which confirmed that students don't "shed their constitutional right to freedom of speech at the schoolhouse gate", but also recognized the need to determine the degree that student free speech might materially and substantially interfere with a school's primary function to provide disciplined education. Mr. Choudhury discussed related topics including what controls over expression a school can regulate, what defines a substantial disruption, reasonably forecasting a disruption, school sponsored speech vs. individual speech, obscene speech, defining controversial images and symbols, political expression, student protests and walkouts, and unreasonable time/place/manner restrictions on such, and finished with off-campus speech and examples of protected and unprotected out of school speech.
- OU-BOCES:** Bill Hecht and Deborah Heppes took attendees through the development of OU-BOCES' 2020-2021 proposed budget with a close look at the Administrative Budget and a discussion of the various services and programs offered through BOCES as well as BOCES' assistance in helping districts obtain funding through grants.
- Budget Review**
- Legislative Review** Vice President Flaherty reviewed OCSBA's February legislative appointments held during NYSSBA's Capital Conference. Legislative Director Bill Boss encouraged members to attend in the future and be their districts' "voice" in meeting with legislators.
- General Reports:** Karyn Meier discussed the March 28th Workshop for Prospective Board Members, and Bill Boss' thank you note to OCSBA members for the memorial donation honoring his daughter Mary.
- Executive Director**
- OU-BOCES** Bill Boss led an in-depth discussion regarding impending guidance to districts as to how to manage COVID-19 pandemic plans, and the need for further clarification.
- Delegates**
- Comments/Concerns** Frank Sambets commented on the time and effort which goes into creating a necessary district referendum and the enormous effects outside pressure can have on its success or failure.
- Adjournment** President Pasichnyk thanked all for attending. Motion to adjourn was m/s/c at 9:42 PM.