

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 May 6, 2020 OU-BOCES, GOSHEN, NY

In Attendance: William Boss, Bill Hecht, Jean Pavek (OU-BOCES), John Pasichnyk (Chester), Larry Berger, Margaret Quinn (Cornwall, OU-BOCES), John Redman (Florida, NYSSBA Area 9), Martha Bogart (Goshen, OU-BOCES), Faith Aprilante (Highland Falls), Karen Brooks (Marlboro) John Williams (Middletown), Joe Flaherty (Minisink), Nancy Bourke, Meg Vaught (Tuxedo), Sarah Messing (Valley Central), Dave Eaton (Warwick), Robin White (Washingtonville), Karyn Meier (OCSBA)

Guests: Mark Coleman – Director of Operations, Deborah Heppes – Ass't Superintendent for Finance, Terry Reynolds – Ass't Superintendent for Instruction (OU-BOCES)

- Call to Order** President John Pasichnyk called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Our guests were welcomed, and introductions made.
- Approval of Minutes** A motion to approve the minutes of the 3/4/20 meeting was m/s/c.
- President's Report** President Pasichnyk shared that the Executive Committee met online, and due to the pandemic, decided to cancel OCSBA's in-person Annual Meeting scheduled for June 3rd. Instead, the Annual Meeting will meet virtually on June 17th, which is after the newly rescheduled June 9th district budget votes and board elections. He noted that our guest speaker will be NYSSBA Executive Director Bob Schneider. President Pasichnyk reminded all that members will then vote to approve the 2020-2021 Slate of Officers, and the 2020-2021 OCSBA budget.
- Nominating Committee Report** Committee Chairperson Joe Flaherty shared that the Nominating Committee met online on April 29th to discuss officer positions for the coming school year. He reviewed their recommendations and thanked committee members for their help.
- Treasurer's Report** Treasurer Vaught reviewed OCSBA's latest financials which reflected a modest but satisfactory fund balance in line with budget projections for next year. Meg also reviewed the proposed 2020-2021 budget. She shared that given the financial difficulties districts are facing due to the pandemic, the Executive Committee recommended there be no increase in member dues, and that budget categories remain fixed for another year.
- General Reports: Executive Director, NYSSBA Area 9** Karyn Meier reported that she took part in a phone conference call which NYSSBA held with all SBA's, and attended two webinars, all of which were ongoing discussions of the effects of the pandemic on our districts. She reported that OCSBA's Workshop for Prospective Board Members was held online via Zoom, and that OCSBA's sessions for Mandated Training for New School Board Members would be postponed until further notice. She attended an online meeting for the OC Complete Count Committee which discussed census efforts during the pandemic. NYSSBA Area 9 Director John Redman asked if any delegate would attend a June 5th virtual NYSSBA Roundtable with Chancellor Betty Rosa. Joe Flaherty agreed to participate.
- Delegates Comments/Concerns** The main topic concerned the pandemic. District Superintendent Hecht and his BOCES' team helped update everyone and facilitated the conversation. Mr. Hecht and Jean Pavek thanked everyone for passing OU-BOCES' budget. He reported that Regent Frances Wills joined in a 'chiefs' call to discuss the financial implications of coronavirus on NYS' budget, the submission of instructional plans, and the importance of feeding students among other things.
- Deborah Heppes discussed the complications regarding school budget votes, and the assistance BOCES was able to provide to districts in printing district budget newsletters, and absentee budget vote and BOE election ballots.

Mark Coleman shared an example of a postcard mailer that BOCES has created for districts to use to inform their constituents about voting the coming election. He is also working closely with districts' superintendents, maintenance and operations personnel regarding health and safety plans for safe reentry (also waiting on further guidance from the state).

Terry Reynolds reported that she is meeting with school administrators weekly to share reference material regarding a wide variety of topics including end-of-year graduation ceremonies, crisis intervention information, maintaining the continuity of learning plans, family guides, faculty guides, kindergarten registration procedures, etc.

John Redman, seconded by many attendees, commended BOCES personnel for the outstanding job they continue to do working with and supporting Orange County school districts.

Other questions/comments brought up included a discussion about the efficacy of the different online platforms that districts are using to handle budget hearings, meetings, etc. There was also discussion about the use of closed captioning, and how to handle public remarks in virtual meetings.

Further conversation regarded some different approaches being considered for senior graduation ceremonies, and concerns over how to handle a failed budget vote.

Bill Hecht summed things up by noting that all of the aforementioned concerns were also being continually discussed during his meetings with local superintendents.

Adjournment

President Pasichnyk thanked all for attending. Motion to adjourn was m/s/c at 8:15 PM.