



February 8, 2013

2013 OSBA Legislative Policies and Priorities guide advocacy

Question: *Who decides whether OSBA opposes or supports a bill during the 2013 session?*

Answer: The 2013 OSBA Legislative Policies and Priorities, written and voted on by OSBA members, guide and inform the positions OSBA staff takes on legislative proposals.

<http://www.osba.org/~media/Files/Resources/Legislative/2013%20PP%20Approved%2012142012.pdf>

It all starts with the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). The committee consists of the voting members of the OSBA Board of Directors and up to 19 representatives nominated and elected by local boards (school district, education service district or community college) from 14 regions of the state. These LPC members are responsible for reporting information to their region's local board members and acting as a regional point of contact for OSBA members who are interested in the legislative advocacy of the organization. The committee also advises the executive director and staff during legislative sessions and may act on behalf of the association in accordance with those policies.

The main task of the LPC is to draft OSBA's legislative priorities and policies prior to the convening of the Legislative Session held in odd-numbered years. LPC members heard clear direction from the membership that they wanted a more positive, proactive approach to legislation; rather than listing what OSBA opposes, they wanted a document with proposals and issues that OSBA supports and will seek legislation to achieve.

With this goal in mind, the Legislative Policy Committee met several times in 2012 and developed draft recommendations on a variety of topics: funding, student achievement, mandate relief, collective bargaining issues and student safety. These concepts were approved by the OSBA Board in September and referred to a vote of OSBA's member boards in December. OSBA's member boards then adopted the Legislative Priorities and Policies, with more than 90 percent of boards voting casting their ballot to approve.

In summary, the document directs the OSBA legislative staff to introduce and support legislation which provides for adequate funding, supports student achievement and empowers local boards while highlighting shared accountability for student success. Whenever there is a question about OSBA's position on a

bill, this is the first place legislative staff go to for guidance.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in legislative affairs and live in either the Yamhill/Polk or North Coast region, consider applying to fill the LPC vacancy in your respective region. Contact OSBA Deputy Executive Director Jim Green, jgreen@osba.org or 800-578-6722. Our website has more information about the roles and responsibilities of an LPC member, http://www.osba.org/About%20OSBA/Article/LPC_Duties_and_eligibility.aspx.

LPC Committee Members

http://www.osba.org/About%20OSBA/LeftNav/Legislative_Policies/Committee_Members.aspx

OSBA's online legislative resources: Keeping you informed

If you are interested in tracking the status or progress of a bill introduced during the 2013 legislative session, real-time information is just a mouse click away. Go to OSBA's "Legislative and Advocacy" resources page to gain access to a host of features that are regularly updated. This powerful set of tools can help you stay on top of the latest happenings at the State Capitol.

Features include:

- **Bill Tracking** – Use this link to find a specific House or Senate bill. You can also search by topic or status, read a summary, link directly to the bill or find out which OSBA staff member to contact if you have questions or need additional information.
<http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx>
- **Hearings Schedule** – Use this link to find out which bills are scheduled for public hearings or a final vote. From here you can also get a summary, read the bill, see the hearings history and link directly to a live webcast of the committee meeting.
<http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/HearingsSchedule.aspx>

- **Daily Updates** – Each day of the session, the legislative team will post a brief summary of key hearings, votes or meetings that impact your work as a school board member.
<http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/DailyUpdates?id=569&ptadd=%20for%20Wednesday,%20February%2006,%202013>
- **Follow us on Twitter** – OSBA's legislative team also posts short messages when an important vote is in process, a key report is being released or something happened at the Capitol of critical importance for board members.
<http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/Twitter-Legislative.aspx>
- **Legislative Highlights** – Looking for an article about a past hearing or vote? Missed an issue of *Legislative Highlights*? Back issues and stories are archived for your convenience.
http://www.osba.org/News%20Center/Newsletters/Legislative_Highlights.aspx

Board members take OSBA's message to Washington, DC

The National School Boards Association held their 40th Annual Federal Relations Network (FRN) Conference January 27-29 in Washington, D.C. Attendees were able to participate in a wide variety of workshops to get the latest perspective on relevant education issues like school safety and the federal budget for K-12 education. NSBA also lined up an impressive group of speakers, including U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and renowned political analyst Norm Ornstein, to update and enlighten the crowd on the issues and political battles of the day. The conference culminated on Jan. 29 when 800 school board members from across the country descended on Capitol Hill to lobby their Senators and members of Congress on behalf of our nation's K-12 schools.

Oregon School Boards Association Board members in Washington, D.C., for the FRN conference were: President **Terry Lenchitsky** (Oregon Trail School District), Past President **Kris Howatt** (Gresham-Barlow School District), Vice President **Dave Krumbein** (Pendleton School District), Secretary-Treasurer **Bobbie Regan** (Portland Public Schools), **David Beeson** (Silver Falls School District), **Greg Kintz** (Vernonia School District), and **Samuel Lee III** (Winston-Dillard School District). Hillsboro School Board member **Carolyn Ortman** also joined the delegation.

Before heading off to meetings with Congressional staff, Oregon's delegation hosted a breakfast meeting with Senator Ron Wyden and Senator Jeff Merkley in the Capitol Visitors Center to start their "Day on the Hill." In these meetings, our delegation stressed the importance of making Oregon's No Child Left Behind waiver permanent, the need for a long-term solution to ensure county timber payments continue to support public schools and the devastating impacts on Oregon schools if Congress does not reach a solution to education cuts slated under

"sequestration" provisions, among other issues. If the nation crosses the so-called "fiscal cliff," Oregon could lose over \$30 million in federal education dollars. These funds primarily serve students who are low income, have special education needs or are learning to speak English.

An underlying theme of the day on Capitol Hill was the important role that locally elected school board members play in determining how children in their communities are educated. Oregon has a strong tradition of board members leading at the district level that contrasts with the increasing role the federal government is having over education in the form of increased mandates and conditions for federal funding. OSBA's delegation made it clear that our districts need federal mandate relief so that scarce resources can be focused on increasing student achievement.

OSBA legislative staff tracks legislation and issues in Washington, D.C., that impact schools in Oregon. If you have a question about federal issues, please contact Morgan Allen at mallen@osba.org.

For more information on NSBA's FRN Conference please visit the FRN website,
<http://www.nsba.org/NSBAWebData/Advocacy/frn/>.

Questions about legislative issues?

Contact the OSBA Legislative Services Team:

800-578-6722 or 503-588-2800

Jim Green igreen@osba.org

Morgan Allen mallen@osba.org

Lori Sattenspiel lsattenspiel@osba.org

Graphic with text: MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD IN SALEM OSBA/COSA Legislative Day April 18, 2013 Salem - Capitol - Hearing Room 50 www.osba.org