

OSBA Legislative Highlights



February 6, 2015

Board members deliver OSBA's message to Congress

Members of the Oregon School Boards Association Board of Directors and Legislative Policy Committee visited the nation's Capital this week to meet with Oregon's congressional delegation as part of the National School Boards Association's 2015 Advocacy Institute.

In meetings held February 3, OSBA members urged Oregon's senators and representatives to eliminate the failed policies of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and reauthorize a version that restores local decision making regarding school improvement, find a long-term solution to ensure that county timber payments continue to support public schools, provide flexibility for districts as they consider changes to the Child Nutrition Act and provide increased funding for programs that help children living in poverty (Title I) and children with special education needs (IDEA). OSBA members also shared information about "The Promise of Oregon" campaign and efforts to highlight the dreams and successes of students across Oregon.



L to R: Liz Hartman, Bobbie Regan, Sam Lee, Oregon Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, Dave Krumbain, Betty Reynolds, Fred Marble, Nancy MacMorris-Adix, Kris Howatt. [Copyright 2015 Lifetouch National School Studios]

highlighted the need for increased federal funding, an end to punitive provisions in NCLB and a renewed emphasis on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) and career and technical education. She also discussed legislation she has introduced to improve student assessments. The SMART (Support Making Assessments Reliable and Timely) Act includes grants for states to audit their assessment systems and eliminate redundant or unneeded tests.

It is critically important for our elected officials in Congress to hear from school board members about all of the challenges our students and our schools are facing. Face-to-face meetings with our congressional delegation



The OSBA delegation met with U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (center).

The Advocacy Institute included two days of workshops to help more than 700 school board members from around the nation understand the policy and political climate related to K-12 issues in Congress. Attendees heard enlightening keynote addresses from Gwen Ifill (PBS Newshour), D.C. power couple Mary Matalin and James Carville, and Congressman John Kline (R-Minnesota), who serves as the Chair of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Oregon Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici received a standing ovation for her keynote address that



U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley (center) met with the OSBA delegation.



L to R: Dave Krumbein, Bobbie Regan, Kris Howatt, U.S. Rep. Greg Walden (seated), Liz Hartman, Jim Green (OSBA Deputy Executive Director). [Photo courtesy of Rep. Walden's office]

in Washington, D.C., are critical to their understanding of what is happening back home in the schools in their communities.

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 growing role the federal government is asserting over education in the form of increased mandates and additional conditions for federal funding. OSBA's delegation made it clear our districts need federal mandate relief and flexibility so scarce resources can be focused on increasing student achievement.



OSBA members support the Stand Up 4 Public Education Campaign at NSBA's Advocacy Institute. [Copyright 2015 Lifetouch National School Studios]

OSBA Board members in Washington, D.C., for NSBA's Advocacy Institute included: President **Dave Krumbein** (Pendleton SD) President-elect **Bobbie Regan** (Portland Public Schools), Secretary-Treasurer Sam Lee (Winston-Dillard SD), **Kris Howatt** (Gresham-Barlow SD),

and **Betty Reynolds** (West Linn-Wilsonville SD). OSBA Legislative Policy Committee members **Liz Hartman** (Lake Oswego SD), **Fred Marble** (Forest Grove SD) and **Nancy MacMorris-Adix** (Salem-Keizer SD) were also part of the delegation.

Senate Education Committee holds first hearing on OEIB sunset; work group to be appointed

On Feb. 5, the Senate Education Committee heard testimony on [Senate Bill 215](#), which was drafted at the request of Governor Kitzhaber. When the Oregon Legislature created the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) in 2009, they included what is known as a 'sunset' provision in the legislation. A 'sunset' means that unless the Legislature takes affirmative action before a specified date, the law is repealed. OEIB is currently scheduled to sunset in 2016 unless the Legislature takes action; SB 215 would eliminate that sunset and allow the OEIB to continue as a state agency.

Knowing that the future of OEIB would be a topic of serious discussion during the 2015 Session, OSBA's Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) considered the question of whether or not to support the continuation of the OEIB. Our members agreed with the LPC that several conditions must be met before OSBA would support a removal of OEIB's sunset. Two of the most important are:

- Appointment of more educators and education stakeholders, specifically the appointment of a school board member and a K-12 parent to serve on the OEIB. (Note: OSBA has sponsored [House Bill 2608](#) that does exactly this.)
- That the OEIB focus on supporting a seamless P-20 education system and not be given broad new powers over the K-12 education system of education budgets.

During Thursday's hearing, Chief Education Officer Nancy Golden testified about work OEIB has done to "bust down barriers" between education sectors and the importance of the Board being allowed to continue work on Regional Achievement Collaboratives and other efforts to facilitate cooperative work between education sectors.

On the other end of the spectrum, representatives from Oregon Save Our Schools urged the Legislature to let OEIB "ride into the sunset." Speakers from the Oregon PTA, Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) and the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) urged the committee to take a close look at the governance structure, membership and purpose of OEIB before considering lifting the sunset.

During the hearing, OSBA Legislative Specialist Morgan Allen asked the committee to "...review the membership parameters of the OEIB. We generally support more educators and education stakeholders, and specifically we think the Board is missing the voice and perspective of locally elected school board members and

parents...those voices are critical to hear if we are ever going to come close to the 40-40-20 goals.”

Committee Chair Senator Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay) closed the hearing by saying that he would be appointing a workgroup of representative stakeholders and education organizations to meet and deliberate on the legislation. Contact Morgan Allen (mallen@osba.org) for more information.

View Senate Bill 215:

<http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=15&t=&r=&q=sb 0215&c=50&key=SB 02150&ptadd=: SB 215 Details>

View House Bill 2608:

<http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=15&t=&r=&q=hb 2608&c=50&key=HB 26080&ptadd=: HB 2608 Details>

Education committees hear from state education leaders

The 78th Legislative Assembly began its work this week, as did the substantive committees. In both House and Senate Education Committees, that meant hearing from the leaders of the state education agencies.

Chief Education Officer Nancy Golden outlined the mission and the goals of the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB). Governor Kitzhaber and the Legislature created the OEIB to coordinate Oregon’s public education system from birth to college and career-ready. The goal was – and remains – the creation of a seamless P-20 system for students to realize their dreams. OEIB’s role, Golden pointed out, “is to ensure children are successful with the transitions along the pathway.”

Ben Cannon, executive director of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), then gave a brief, high-level view of the new structure for higher education. Under the new structure, HECC now oversees the operations for Office of Private Post-Secondary, the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, the Office of University Services and the Office of Student Access and Completion. “The consolidation of several departments into one will help align the work of the HECC with that of the OEIB,” Cannon told the committees.

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Rob Saxton provided final testimony, opening his presentation by saying he was “excited to have this opportunity to work with my colleagues to leverage partners in key transitions for students.” Saxton went on to outline the major ongoing changes that the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) has been experiencing with the addition of the Office of Early Learning and the Youth Development Council. Megan Irwin, interim director of the Early Learning Division, and Iris Bell, director of the Youth Development Council, joined Saxton at both hearings.

To view the entire presentation done for the House and Senate Education committees, click on this link: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/43643>

If you are interested in attending meetings, the regular schedules of the committees are:

- **House Education Committee:**
Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1:00 p.m. in Hearing Room D, State Capitol
- **Senate Education Committee:**
Tuesday and Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in Hearing Room C, State Capitol

Questions about legislative issues?

Contact the OSBA Legislative Services Team:
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Contact your legislator

Find your legislators’ contact information on the Oregon Legislature’s website:

www.oregonlegislature.gov/FindYourLegislator/leg-districts.html

Click on your district on the map, then:

- For Representatives – click the House tab
- For Senators – click the Senate tab

To contact your legislator by phone, call the Capitol Switchboard at 1-800-332-2313.



Feb. 23, 2015

OSBA/COSA JOINT

LEGISLATIVE DAY

Register online: <http://bit.ly/15dNt2s>
(Make your legislative appts. for after 11 a.m. on 2/23/15)

The graphic features a circular seal on the left with the text "Make your voice heard in Salem" and a star border. The background is dark blue with white and red text.