

OSBA Legislative Highlights



The Promise
OF OREGON



February 27, 2015

OSBA Bill Spotlight: House Bill 2608 shakes up OEIB membership

At the direction of OSBA's Legislative Policy Committee, the OSBA legislative team drafted several bills that bear the tagline "at the request of the Oregon School Boards Association." On February 23, the House Education Committee held a public hearing on one of these bills, [House Bill 2608](#), which would add two board positions to the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) to be filled by a sitting school board member and the parent of a current K-12 student.

The bill has bipartisan sponsors, including Hood River County School Board member and State Representative **Mark Johnson** (R-Hood River) and former David Douglas School Board member and State Representative Jeff Reardon (D-Happy Valley).

Under current law, the OEIB is made up of 12 members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. The board includes members who are teachers, superintendents, union leaders, business leaders, professors, academics and representatives of social service non-profits; however, there is not a sitting school board member or a person who represents parents.

OSBA Executive Director Betsy Miller-Jones told the committee OSBA members are concerned that OEIB "...only added another layer of bureaucracy and distant hands on an already overburdened system. We appreciate that the Legislature is going to take a close look at the structure and governance of the OEIB in the coming weeks... That is why school board members across Oregon are asking you to make sure that K-12 boards and parents are represented at the table as full voting members on the Oregon Education Investment Board (if the Board continues)."

OSBA Board member and West-Linn Wilsonville School Board member **Betty Reynolds** told the committee that "...we know there are separate bills and discussions about the future of the OEIB, and we're happy we're included in those discussions. If the OEIB continues, we want to assure that those who are responsible for implementation of the policy decisions of the OEIB – school boards – have a seat at the decision-making table."

OSBA Legislative Specialist Morgan Allen testified that "...House Bill 2608 is intended to be a conversation starter about the future shape of OEIB or any successor board or coordinating council...our members strongly support the Legislature having a conversation about the

OEIB sunset in the coming weeks...specifically, OSBA hopes that you look at the overall P-20 governance structure. Part of the idea behind the creation of the OEIB is that we would have fewer boards, commissions and meetings...we think that goal has yet to be met. Look at putting time limits for service on OEIB, just like many other boards and commissions...there are currently no service time limits or opportunities for OEIB membership to be scrutinized by the Legislature on a regular basis.

Review the membership parameters of the OEIB...we think the Board is missing the voice and perspective of locally elected school board members and parents... "

The OEIB is currently scheduled to sunset – or dissolve – in March 2016 if the Legislature takes no action to continue it. Senate Education Committee Chair Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay) has put together a legislative workgroup to consider the future of the OEIB; the first meeting will be March 3 in Salem. Morgan Allen will serve as OSBA's representative at the meetings; contact him for more information at mallen@osba.org.

View HB 2608:

www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=15&t=&r=&q=hb_2608&c=50&key=HB_26080&ptadd=: HB 2608 Details



Betty Reynolds, Betsy Miller-Jones and Morgan Allen testify in support of HB 2608 before the House Education Committee.

Career and Technical Education bills receive hearings

Career and Technical Education (CTE) took center stage this week at the Capitol. On Feb. 25, two separate committees held hearings on CTE-related bills. Along with these hearings, several students were stationed in the Capitol Galleria showcasing their successes, and demonstrating 3D printing and other robotics and industry technologies.

The House Committee on Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development heard two bills related to CTE, [House Bill 2623](#) and [House Bill 2624](#). Rep. Jeff Reardon (D-Happy Valley) and Rep. Mark Johnson (R-Hood River) initiated discussion on both bills, praising the work done in the area of CTE over the last biennium.

Rep. Reardon testified about each bill, stating that HB 2623, “looks at how to create more time in a student’s schedule so a student can take CTE classes and continue to work on their other core subjects at the same location.” Reardon went on to explain that HB 2624 works to address the need to get qualified teachers into schools to teach CTE classes.

Testimony continued with industry representative Eric Meslow, the president of Timbercon, Inc., a fiber optics company located in Tualatin. Meslow told the committee, “Today’s shop classes are not what they were in the 60’s and 70’s. We do more than just wood shop and metal shop and we need to invest in CTE. Making an investment in these programs today will provide a huge benefit to students and the economy of Oregon.”

Later in the day, the Senate Workforce Committee held a CTE/Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) informational hearing which included a public hearing on [Senate Bill 112](#), which would create a joint CTE/STEM Council. The invited testimony included industry representatives, teachers and students, who spoke to the importance of having opportunities for students to experience the real work world.

Two students, Jason Hearn and Elizabeth Herrera, both currently enrolled in a CTE regional program established by the Columbia Basin Home Builders, spoke about their experiences and outcomes from the program. Hearn told the committee, “I get a real-world sense when working side by side with a contractor; it gives you a really good feeling.” Herrera added, “It’s real-life work and a step beyond making sawhorses in class.”

Committee members were very interested in the students’ experiences. Sen. Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland) asked the students to explain what they have learned about themselves after being involved in the homebuilding opportunity. Hearn said, “I learned problem-solving skills that I can use in my school life, but the biggest thing is to think with my head.” Herrera talked about the responsibility she feels to the project because, “someone is going to buy this house and live in it.”

John Rakowitz, Associated General Contractors, completed the invited testimony, speaking to the need for Oregon to take a step now to advance CTE. “Studies done by the Oregon Employment Department indicate that Oregon will need upwards of 25,000 additional workers by 2020, given the demographics in the construction industry,” he said. “This is a state issue, and the three pillars for success are resources, teachers and time out of a student’s day to take the CTE courses,” he added.

The Senate hearing concluded with a brief description and public hearing on SB 112. Sen. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland) described the bill for the committee, saying it would create a joint STEM and CTE state-level council. The STEM council has been in existence a year and is currently housed under the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, while the CTE grant process is housed and operated by the Oregon Department of Education. There is sufficient overlap of the two initiatives to merit a joint council, given they both have shared outcomes, shared approaches and share the focus to create interest in high-demand careers.

While neither committee took action on the bills this week, it is expected that the committees will revisit the bills in the near future. Contact Lori Sattenspiel (lsattenspiel@osba.org) for more information.

View HB 2623:

www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=15&t=&r=&q=hb%202623&c=50&key=HB%2026230&ptadd=:%20HB%202623%20Details

View HB 2624:

www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=15&t=&r=&q=hb%202624&c=50&key=HB26240&ptadd=:HB%202624%20Details

View SB 112:

www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=15&t=&r=&q=sb%20112&c=50&key=SB01120&ptadd=:SB%20112%20Details

Ways and Means Subcommittee to hold hearings on State School Fund

The Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education will begin hearing information on the State School Fund next week. The subcommittee will hear presentations from Oregon Department of Education (ODE) staff related to the State School Fund at that time and should hold public hearings the following week.

Two days of public testimony have been tentatively scheduled during the week of March 9. However, according to subcommittee staff, the dates will depend on how long the subcommittee takes to hear the ODE presentation and any follow-up information the subcommittee may request. Check the OSBA website later next week for the exact dates of the public hearings.

OSBA/COSA Legislative Day welcomes big crowd to Capitol

More than 100 school board members and administrators visited the Capitol on Feb. 23 as part of OSBA/COSA Legislative Day.

Most attendees took the opportunity to visit directly with legislators and share their views on pressing topics such as educational funding, assessments, the Oregon Education Investment Board and replacing aging school buildings.

The day began at Willamette University's Montag Center, where OSBA President **Dave Krumbein** (Pendleton School District) welcomed attendees and introduced "The Promise of Oregon" campaign.

"Remember, there is great power in numbers," Krumbein said. "Today is our day to leverage our local connections, and together advocate for the promise of this generation of young people, and those to come."

State Rep. Jodi Hack (R-Salem) also spoke, and OSBA staff and others provided outlines on current bills and issues, and gave advice on how to effectively speak with legislators.



Left to right: Klamath County School Board members Denise Kandra, Mike Noonan, Jill O'Donnell*, Supt. Greg Thede, John Rademacher and Steve Lowell** meet with Sen. Doug Whitsett (R-Klamath Falls, far right).



Left to right: Lake Oswego School Board members Liz Hartman*, John Wendland, Sara Howell, and Patti Zebrowski (far right) meet with Sen. Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin, center), along with Betty Reynolds, West Linn-Wilsonville School Board member and OSBA Board member (second from right).



Tigard-Tualatin School Board member Maureen Wolf** and Supt. Ernie Brown with Rep. Julie Parrish (R-Tualatin/West Linn, center).

*also member of OSBA's Legislative Policy Committee
**also an OSBA Board member