



OSBA EVENTS

www.osba.org

New OSBA Board and Legislative Policy Committee, take office Jan. 1

School Board Recognition Month
January 2012

OSBA Board Meeting
January 20-21, 2012, Salem

OSBA Legislative Policy Committee Meeting
January 21-22, 2012, Salem

Sustainable Schools Conference
Feb. 1-2, 2012, Salem

Labor and Employment Regional Conferences (see page 4)
Feb. 6-13, across the state



Sustainable *adjective*

sus-tain-a-ble [suh-stey-nuh-buhl]

1. Pertaining to a system that maintains its own viability by using techniques that allow for continual reuse.
2. Able to be supported as with the basic necessities or sufficient funds.

Schools are the fundamental building blocks to education and the community. A school district's ability to maintain financial viability and facilities and increase student achievement is at the core of a great community. A team of experts and practitioners, just like you, have been assembled to guide you through topics all relating to sustainability. We'll cover everything from making sustainable financial decisions, deciding between building new or retrofitting existing buildings or bringing your community together to plan for the future. Learn from each other, be inspired and go home with energy and tools to

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OEIB report and legislative recommendations due this month

During the 2011 Legislative Session, the passage of *Senate Bill 909* created the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB). The 12-member board is chaired by the governor and was established "for the purpose of ensuring that all public school students in this state reach the education outcomes established for the state. The board shall accomplish this goal by overseeing a unified public education system that begins with early childhood services and continues throughout public education from kindergarten to post-secondary education." Governor Kitzhaber and the members of the OEIB have made it very clear their work is driven by the 40-40-20 goals set out in *Senate Bill 253*.

The Oregon State Senate confirmed the governor's appointments to the OEIB during their November meetings. Executive Director Kevin McCann has been working with the OSBA Board to provide the newly constituted OEIB with the perspective of school board members. **Beth Gerot** (Eugene), **Karen Cunningham** (Beaverton), and Kevin testified at an organizational meeting of the OEIB nominees on October 26 regarding school accountability and educational outcomes.

The OEIB has been quite busy since their confirmation working to meet several deadlines. At its December 7 meeting, the OEIB approved the *job description* for the Chief Education Officer and kicked off the search for a highly qualified applicant to fill that position. Senate Bill 909 requires the OEIB submit an initial report to the Legislature by December 15, 2011, on their deliberations and early recommendations regarding an integrated "0-20 education system" (0 meaning birth, 20 meaning through graduate school). A draft of the *report* can be found online, www.oregon.gov/Gov/OEIB/Docs/129CompiledOEIBReportChapter1_3.pdf. The OEIB also made recommendations for the upcoming 2012 session, set goals for the 2013 session, and proposed significant changes to the early childhood system.

The OEIB recommended two pieces of legislation be prepared for 2012 at their December 1 meeting. The first is to formalize the work of the Early Learning Council

(ELC) report into a bill. The *report* (www.oregon.gov/Gov/docs/EarlyLearning_CouncilSB909Report12_6_11.pdf) contains proposals for major changes to how early childhood education is organized and envisions a streamlined process of coordination under the guidance of the Early Learning Council. The second bill will require all educational entities to enter into "achievement compacts" as a requirement to receive state funds beginning in the 2012-13 school year. The OEIB is still taking input and deliberating these compacts; expect them

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NCLB waiver moving forward

This past September, the U.S. Department of Education announced that states could apply for "waivers" from the federal No Child Left Behind law (NCLB). In order for states to receive a waiver, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan has said states must adopt higher academic standards, come up with ways to identify the state's highest and lowest performing schools and demonstrate student academic growth and achievement is incorporated into evaluations of both teachers and administrators. In exchange for doing these things, states will be freed up to design their own accountability systems and will be allowed to implement state- and district-led programs of assistance and interventions rather than the one-size-fits-all, proscriptive measures for schools that fail to meet adequate yearly progress (AYP).

Shortly after this news broke in Washington, D.C., Governor John Kitzhaber and State Superintendent Susan Castillo announced Oregon would pursue an NCLB waiver. Unlike the earlier "Race to the Top" funds, waivers from the more onerous provisions of NCLB are not a competition and each state's application will be judged against the criteria for waivers laid out by the U.S. Department of Education.

In October, a group of about 100 superintendents, teachers, school board members and education stakeholders were convened

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PRESIDENT'S POST

“A Celebration of Lights”



David Beeson
OSBA president

We find ourselves now in the traditional season of celebration and thanksgiving, and we see around us the ancient custom of decorating with lights as a symbol of hope and joy in the face of the darkest, long nights of winter.

In this, my last official posting as your 2011 OSBA president, I would like to share a few thoughts about our role as democratically-elected directors in the governance of our local community school districts.

I have been an elected local school board director for, cumulatively, over thirty years now, have served as a director on the board of our association for over a decade, and now twice as our association president.

This has been an interesting journey, to say the least. It is a history of endless public meetings and long hours away from home and family or other compensated work, learning about the ever-changing issues we confront, learning how to succeed in problem solving with others and learning how to lead in our communities – all focused on the single bright star that guides our journey together – providing the very best educational opportunities possible within our means for our boys and girls.

For me, it is a joy to be counted among those local school board directors who exemplify the finest traditions in community service in our democracy. I give thanks every day for the work they do, selflessly and sometimes at great personal expense, to support our most important work as a people – that of educating our youngsters, of building a better world for tomorrow. It is the gift of their precious time, of their experience, knowledge, courage, talent, imagination, patience and perseverance, that drives the success of our system of local governance.

All elected and uncompensated, these local officials embrace and adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct and comport themselves with a standard of civility and professionalism that should – in a better world – be the standard for those at the highest levels of our government.

Our OSBA board of directors takes this call to service in our most important work

yet a step further. Not only do they give enormously in their local communities, but they step forward to give of themselves yet again in the service of governing and directing our association which supports, in so many different ways, our work at the local level.

These citizens read and digest volumes of informational material, travel far to meetings, spend long days representing our association's interests with the legislature, invest uncounted hours with other partners in education both statewide and at the national level, and commit themselves to a partnership of service with others that is truly amazing. Once again, in this realm these same servants of the public interest conduct themselves in a manner that honors the highest standards of ethical behavior, the most exemplary code of personal and of public conduct. Each day I celebrate the opportunity to work with these leaders from around our state, and each day I give thanks for their tireless commitment to service in what I believe is our most important work.

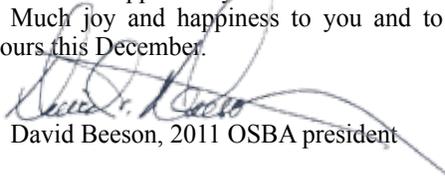
The historic symbol of the Oregon School Boards Association is the torch. Our directors in every sense carry that torch – to light bonfires on every front against the dark night of ignorance, to light through their leadership and example thousands of other candles of leadership and service among those who serve the same causes and to help light the way for our future as a people through education.

My wish this holiday season is that all those elected locally to serve as governors of public education are reminded of how much appreciated they are for their gift of service and how vitally important their role is in our scheme of democratic governance of our public institutions.

My wish is the same for our OSBA board of directors – that they would be reminded of the importance of their work and that their gift of service is so appreciated, at so many levels, and by so very many, with deep and lasting gratitude.

It has been my honor and my pleasure to serve as president of our association. Thank you for this opportunity.

Much joy and happiness to you and to yours this December.


David Beeson, 2011 OSBA president

OEIB report – Continued from page 1

to identify and incorporate outcomes that quantify completion/graduation rates, college and career readiness, student growth, and other validations of knowledge and skills acquired by students. This bill will also require the heads of the early childhood, K-12, community college and OUS systems to report to the Chief Education Officer “for the purpose of designing and organizing the state’s 0-20 education system.”

For the 2013 Legislative Session, the OEIB is considering two major recommendations. The first is to “develop legislation for the 2013 session to complete the organization of the state’s 0-20 education system, consolidate boards and commissions to streamline management and free up resources to support teaching and learning.” The second is to work “at the governor’s direction, (to) develop legislation for the 2013 session to authorize independent boards for one or more OUS universities, beginning in (the) 2013-14 fiscal year.”

The OEIB work on these two issues is in its infancy, but OSBA board members and staff will be following their meetings closely, providing updates to members and seeking input on how any proposed changes to the K-12 system will impact locally-elected boards and school districts. Go to www.oregon.gov/Gov/OEIB/OregonEducationInvestmentBoard.shtml to access all of the information related to the OEIB, including meeting notices and materials.

For information, contact OSBA Executive Director Kevin McCann at kmccann@osba.org or call 503-588-2800 or 800-578-6722.

Sustainable Schools – from page 1

make the right decision for your district.

Learn about:

- Bonds, local options
- Communicating your campaign message
- Sustainable practices and saving money
- Retrofitting existing space or building new
- Long-range planning

More information and registration are at www.osba.org/Calendar/Events/Sustainable_Schools-2012. Registration for the first three OSBA members is \$175, additional members \$140. Non-member fee is \$275.

Make hotel reservations directly with *The Grand Hotel*, 877-540-7800. Rates are \$109/single and \$129/double, plus 10% tax.

Need help with costs to attend? Scholarships are available. Check our website for more information.

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

Lots of work in progress and much to be done in the new year



Kevin McCann
OSBA executive
director

First of all I want to say how glad I was to see so many of our members at the annual convention in Portland. It was an exciting, inspiring and rejuvenating experience for me and I hope for you.

While everyone at OSBA breathed a collective sigh of relief at the end of convention, it didn't signify an end to any of the work at hand. Our leadership development and policy staff are working directly with a number of boards and are in the thick of budget committee training sessions as districts prepare for the upcoming budget cycle. They also report an increase in requests from charter school boards for policy services and board training.

Our human resources team is working to settle contracts across the state and note this is a challenging year for negotiations. OSBA's legal staff is assisting several districts facing complaints filed by employees and other legal issues. Everyone recognizes the stresses on both employers and employees in these difficult economic times and we are trying to provide the assistance and services to help resolve conflict.

The legislative team is laying the groundwork for the coming February legislative session as well as preparing for work the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee will undertake beginning in January and the NSBA Federal Relations Network conference in Washington, D.C., in February. They are also monitoring interim legislative committees and the actions of the Public Employees Retirement Board and the Oregon Education Investment Board.

So far the OEIB has approved the job description for the Chief Education Officer and are searching for the right person to fill that position. The OEIB continues to offer intriguing glimpses of the reforms envisioned by the governor and I am very pleased school board members and OSBA continue to have a strong presence in this work, with OSBA board members **Beth Gerot** (Eugene SD), **Jim Harper** (Portland CC), **Karen Cunningham** (Beaverton SD), **Tim Cook** (Centennial SD), **Dana**

Terhune (Tigard-Tualatin SD), **Greg Jackle** (John Day SD) and others monitoring work and providing input. See the story on page one for more about what we anticipate the OEIB will propose to the legislature and the timeline for future changes.

Governor Kitzhaber said in his address at convention, "There are urgent challenges for Oregon. In times like these, it is very important we remain focused on the children and our schools. This is their one shot at a quality preschool experience, their one chance to earn a high school diploma and their one opportunity to get the post-secondary education and training they need to launch themselves into successful careers. The fact is they cannot wait until our economy recovers or until Oregon reforms its system of public finance."

We will all continue to work on behalf of every child in the state as we make plans and hope for the future. The new year promises exciting times in education – and in the meantime, have a wonderful and safe holiday season.

Kevin McCann, OSBA executive director

CURRENT POLICY ISSUES:

Open enrollment

The effective date for House Bill 3681 (HB 3681), often referred to as the "Open Enrollment Law," is January 1, 2012. The law requires districts to determine in advance the number of non-resident students they will admit without the consent of the sending district. These student transfers will first appear in our schools in the 2012-13 school year. Key dates related to this law are:

- **March 1:** Districts must have determined, and school boards must approve and announce, the number of students that will be admitted under this law.
- **April 1:** The last day for interested students using this pathway to seek consent from the district they would like to attend.
- **May 1:** The last day for admitting districts to notify resident districts in writing of the student(s) that have received consent to transfer.

The traditional methods available to

NCLB waiver – Continued from page 1

by the Oregon Department of Education to help the state answer the questions laid out by the waiver and draft the application for submission to the USDOE. OSBA Board members **James Woods** (Parkrose), **Greg Kintz** (Vernonia) and **Beth Gerot** (Eugene) are members of this No Child Left Behind Workgroup. During the first week of December, workgroups presented recommendations and reports to the governor, the state superintendent and ODE.

The waiver application is currently being drafted and is expected to be released to the public on December 19. As part of the waiver process, a public comment period is required and we expect comments on the application will be taken through approximately January 15. When the full details and the draft are available, this information will be posted on the OSBA website so school board members have an opportunity to review and offer their comments; OSBA will also provide comments and a response in conjunction with our board members who serve on the NCLB Workgroup.

The final deadline for the waiver request submission is February 21, 2012. Read the requirements of the NCLB waiver application at www.ed.gov/esea/flexibility.

For information on the NCLB Workgroup, contact Morgan Allen, OSBA legislative and public affairs specialist, mallen@osba.org, 503-588-2800 or 800-578-6722.

districts through inter-district transfer and mutual consent are still available and are not subject to provisions through HB 3681. The Oregon Department of Education has published a series of "frequently asked questions" on their website (www.ode.state.or.us) that covers transportation requirements, lottery information, enrollment criteria and many others topics.

OSBA is encouraging districts to review their policy on non-resident admissions and can provide sample language to assist school boards and ensure compliance with this new law.

Children's Internet Protection Act

The Children's Internet Protections Act (CIPA) is a federal law enacted by Congress to address concerns about access to offensive content over the Internet on

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Policy issues – Continued from page 3

school and library computers. CIPA imposes certain requirements on any school or library that receives funding for Internet access or internal connections from the E-rate program, which makes certain communications technology more affordable to eligible schools and libraries.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) added statutory language from the CIPA to existing Commission rules (released in 2009) to provide additional protections for minors using the Internet. Districts, ESDs and charter schools must certify that, as part of their required Electronic Communications policy, they are educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including cyberbullying awareness and response, and how to interact with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms.

For additional information or questions on these issues and other policy topics, please contact OSBA's policy services staff, 503-588-2800 or 800-578-6722.

Labor & Employment Conference comes to you, Feb. 6-13

OSBA understands budgets are strained and bargaining is a top priority in most districts, ESDs and community colleges. In recognition of your need for timely and cost-effective bargaining resources, we are again bringing our Labor & Employment Conference to you! OSBA's labor and employment team is conducting six regional conferences across the state. You save time and money by attending a meeting closer to home and get the critical information you need to successfully navigate labor and employment issues this year.

Meetings are targeted for board members, district superintendents, community college presidents, human resource directors and business managers. Whether you are an experienced veteran at the bargaining table or a first-year board member, we will have answers to your questions.

The agenda includes updates on labor

and employment data, legal issues and trends, best practices and plenty of sound advice.

Six locations across the state

Meetings run from 1 to 8 p.m. Dinner runs from 4 to 5 p.m. and is included in the registration fee. All attendees are welcome to attend all or any portion of the meeting.

<i>Monday, February 6</i>	<i>Medford</i>
<i>Monday, February 6</i>	<i>Pendleton</i>
<i>Tuesday, February 7</i>	<i>Baker</i>
<i>Tuesday, February 7</i>	<i>Roseburg</i>
<i>Wednesday, February 8</i>	<i>Redmond</i>
<i>Monday, February 13</i>	<i>Hillsboro</i>

Registration and more information are online at www.osba.org/LE.

Training funds available

Some funding is still available for board members to participate in equity training. In October, OSBA funded two participants at the Coaching for Education Equity (CFEE) seminar. The next CFEE training session is February 27-March 2, at the Village Green in Cottage Grove. Information is online at www.edequityoregon.com.

In cooperation with Oregon Center for Educational Equity, OSBA also offers workshops to help boards expand their understanding of equity issues.

As boards deal with the challenges of educating diverse populations and creating safe and fair environments for all students and staff, these training opportunities are particularly valuable for their impact on educational outcomes and for demonstrating the board's commitment to understanding cross-cultural communities.

Matching funds from the Oregon Department of Education are also available for districts wishing to participate in the *Oregon Lighthouse Project* – a long-term professional development opportunity for boards and administrators.

For information on equity training, scholarship assistance or joining the Oregon Lighthouse Project, contact Joe Wehrli, associate executive director, Board Development and Policy Services, jwehrli@osba.org, 800-578-6722 or 503-588-2800.

Think ahead about how to respond

As board members, you are likely to face questions and situations that may challenge your natural inclination to express yourself, share information or tackle problems head on. Consider the following scenarios. A few minutes spent thinking ahead now can spare you from inadvertently causing damage to both the district and your own reputation for good governance.

When a staff member or citizen bypasses the chain of command and brings a school problem directly to you, your response should be:

"This problem could end up requiring board action. If I am involved in the situation at the ground level, I will be unable to act on it as a member of the board because it could be a violation of due process. You really need to go through the proper channels. Let me show you where to find a copy of the district's complaint policy and explain the steps to you."

When you've lost a hard-fought battle and disagree with the board's decision, your response should be:

"Although the final vote of the board does not reflect my position on this issue,

I respect the outcome of the vote. I will not undermine the credibility of the board by criticizing the decision of the majority. This is my responsibility and commitment to the democratic governance process."

When you are tempted to share what was discussed in an executive session, your response should be:

"I have promised to protect the confidentiality of executive sessions. I cannot divulge information discussed during executive sessions or share materials received in those meetings. As a board member, I have a duty to ensure information and issues discussed in executive session are handled in accordance with the criteria defined by state law. This is my responsibility as a trustee for the district."

For information on how to handle difficult situations or to arrange for in-district training for your board on boardsmanship, ethics and other aspects of good governance, contact Betsy Miller-Jones, associate director, Board Development and Policy Services, bmillerjones@osba.org, or Steve Lamb, slamb@osba.org, board development and policy specialist, or call 503-588-2800 or 800-578-6722.

OSBA 2011 annual convention

David Beeson, OSBA president, Silver Falls SD
"I'm hoping that local board members around the state stand up and do their part to shape and guide the education reform we have underway. It is critical work."



Governor John Kitzhaber
"In times of limited resources, where we invest matters. In the past 10 years you have regularly been asked to cut your school budgets. But you have also

invested in new programs and practices that work for kids....
"You have carved out resources for efforts that are working. You may not call it outcomes-based investment, but that is what it is, and that is the direction we are trying to move our entire system. We have islands of excellence – now we need to create a culture of excellence across the system...."
"We are applying for a waiver to NCLB and look forward to establishing school
Continued on page 6



Kris Howatt, OSBA president-elect, Gresham-Barlow SD
"It's a great time to be in education. This is an opportunity right now that we have to change education, to make it better. We can make it better and we will make it better."



Linda Brown, OSBA board member, Lake Oswego SD
"The keynote speakers gave me my heart back. We are in need if change, but we are doing the right things for kids."

Learning



Inspiration



Networking



& new friends





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Kitzhaber excerpts – *from page 5*
accountability based on meaningful information about student progress that will deliver appropriate support for our schools and students. ... The outcome measures we adopt – and the achievement compacts we develop between the OEIB and each of Oregon’s education institutions – will use assessments to diagnose ills and prescribe solutions, student-by-student.

“... This is a sea change for our state and in our relationship. I see these

achievement compacts as living documents, signaling a new partnership between the state and each of your boards...

“Your role as local boards is more important than ever as we develop supports targeted to lift up the entire system. ...

“This is a remarkable point in time. We have the opportunity to do something profoundly important for our children, for our state and for our future.”

The entire text of the governor’s remarks is online at www.osba.org/AC.

NCESD gets distance learning grant from USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded a \$312,285 grant to the North Central Education Service District to support distance learning opportunities in Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler counties.

NCESD’s existing program serves more than 700 children and 100 adults with a network of 11 distance learning conferencing sites and one mobile unit. This grant, along with \$200,000 in district funding, will allow for increased Internet capacity, updated wireless access points, advanced teleconferencing equipment and updates to hardware and software. There will also be additional courses and new platforms for student learning, and professional development and mentoring to help teachers fully utilize the technology.

NCESD Superintendent Mike Carroll says the program “fosters one-to-one interaction with instructors so students can show their work and prove they are learning.”

The USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program funded 100 projects across the country, including two others in Oregon. Administered by USDA Rural Development, the program is part of the Obama administration’s efforts to “improve the lives of rural Americans, put people back to work and build thriving economies in rural communities.”

Link to the [USDA news release](#) from the the OSBA News Center, www.osba.org/News%20Center.

BEST PRACTICES: *Limiting liability*

Walk “defensively” to avoid slips, trips & falls



According to OSHA, slips, trips and falls cause about 15 percent of all accidents – nearly

75 percent of which occur while walking on common surfaces like floors, stairs and sidewalks. Winter months are particularly hazardous due to the presence of snow and ice. Hazards can be reduced by using grille-type flooring by entry-ways so snow

and water fall through, shoveling snow promptly, following the manufacturer’s directions in applying compounds to melt ice and snow and using door mats or rubber runners inside doorways to prevent slips.

Everyone can help reduce slips, trips and falls year-round by following these “defensive walking” tips:

- If you drop something, pick it up.
- If you spill something, clean it up.
- Walk, don’t run.
- Scan ahead for potential hazards.
- Wear appropriate shoes.
- Limit the load you are carrying so that you can see where you are going.
- Maintain three points of contact on stairs and ramps by using a handrail.
- Assist others.
- Exercise regularly to maintain strength, flexibility and balance.

Contact the PACE risk management team, losscontrol@sdao.com, for more safety tips.



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