



OSBA Events

Listening Session - Ashland
June 25, 2012

OSBA Board and Committee Meetings
June 29-July 1, 2012

Summer Board Conference
July 13-15, 2012

OSBA Board and Committee Meetings
September 21-22, 2012

66th Annual Convention
November 8-11, 2012

www.osba.org

President's Post

When I returned from the 72nd Annual National School Boards Association conference in Boston, people asked me, "How was Boston?"

"It has a lovely convention center," I replied, "with many subterranean windowless conference rooms." Because I attended 11 sessions in three days, I didn't really see much of the city. Fortunately the sessions were worth all the time spent indoors. Three sessions, however, were especially noteworthy.

Khan Academy

In my view, the best presentation came from Sal Khan, founder of Khan Academy. The blurb in the program mentioned "on-line learning," which aroused my skepticism. Was this just another proposal for computer-based learning that costs a lot and isolates students from

the classroom setting? I could not have been more wrong!

The online resources of the Khan Academy are available to anyone, regardless of whether you are a student, teacher, home-schooler, principal, adult returning to the classroom after 20 years, or friendly interstellar alien boning up on earthly biology. Even better, the Khan Academy's materials and resources are completely free of charge.

The academy's purpose is not to replace interaction with a teacher, but to supplement the lesson. Whether it is to fill in a gap, increase understanding, move forward in a lesson, or review what you've just learned, the Khan Academy is an amazing learning resource that you must experience to believe. Learn more at <http://www.khanacademy.org>.



Kris Howatt
2012 President
Gresham-Barlow SD

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OSBA Legal Assistance Trust extends lower dues rates

On May 9, the OSBA Legal Assistance Trust Committee voted to extend the reduced dues rates for another year.

"Knowing the financial challenges facing school districts, community colleges and ESDs, the Legal Assistance Trust voted to reduce the cost of dues by 10 percent last year and will keep that rate reduction in place again this year," said Betsy Miller-Jones, OSBA interim executive director.

The renewed dues structure takes effect on July 1 of this year and ends on June 30, 2013, Miller-Jones said. The trust bases dues on average daily membership as reported to the Oregon Department of Education.

A history of helping districts defray legal costs

Since it began 21 years ago, OSBA's Legal Assistance Trust has defrayed more than a million dollars in legal expenses for

school districts, education service districts and community colleges throughout Oregon. Among these are the costs of lawsuits arising from changes to the Public Employees Retirement System in 2003.

In April 2010, the board approved \$10,000 for the Sisters School District and \$5,000 for the Woodburn School District to defray costs in two unrelated cases in the Oregon Court of Appeals. In the Sisters case, a taxpayer had challenged the school district's credit obligations, and the outcome affected the district's ability to finance capital improvements without bonds.

The Woodburn case involved the termination of a teacher, and its outcome affected future interpretation of laws that govern dismissal of teachers.

In yet another case, the trust contributed \$5,000 to help the Forest Grove School Dis-

trict pay for a case that involved reimbursement for private school tuition—a case that the U.S. Supreme Court heard in 2009.

By contributing more than \$868,000 to the Public Employers' Defense Alliance, the trust has played a meaningful role in protecting public education employers. The alliance defends public employers in cases that arise from changes the legislature made in 2003 to the state retirement system. Favorable court rulings in these cases have saved millions for public employers. Two recent rulings upheld the right of the Public Employees Retirement Board to correct retirement benefits and recoup losses from unlawful distribution of PERS earnings that had occurred earlier.

HB 4016: Mandatory Reporting Update

PACE (Property and Casualty Coverage for Education) is a valuable asset in managing risks associated with state requirements for mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect. Enactment of House Bill 4016 has underscored that value.

Oregon state law now requires all public school employees (and members of many other professions) to make reports to law enforcement or the Department of Human Services if they have reasonable cause to suspect abuse or neglect of a child.

House Bill 4016 expanded the categories of employees that are considered “mandatory reporters” of child abuse by adding the following:

- Employees of higher education institutions
- Employees of public or private organizations that provide child-related services or activities to youth groups or centers, scout groups or camps, summer or day camps, survival camps or groups
- Employees of centers or camps that operate under the guidance, supervision or auspices of religious, public or private educational systems or community service organizations
- Coaches, assistant coaches or trainers of amateur, semi-professional or professional athletes, if compensated, and if the athlete is a child

The bill does not make school volunteers mandatory reporters.

Morgan Smith, PACE Services attorney for OSBA, offered this observation: “Mandatory reporting is crucial to stop child abuse, but also to ameliorate other negative effects of that abuse. PACE can assist districts with training staff in all facets of reporting requirements and can even assist with investigations of misconduct related to child abuse.”



SafeSchools & SafeColleges offer courses

Two of the new courses meet the intent of House Bill 4016 which, among other things, requires districts to offer training on how to spot child abuse and sexual conduct to parents.

Districts who wish to take advantage of this PACE member benefit should contact Claire Hern at 800-434-0154 or chern@safeschools.com.

Call or email risk management staff to learn how to put PACE in your corner.

800-285-5461 or losscontrol@sdao.com

OSBA welcomes Tass Morrison to board of directors

Tass F. Morrison of Sublimity is the newest member of the Oregon School Boards Association board of directors, the association announced in May.

Morrison is the vice chair of the North Santiam School District, a seven-member board that serves 2,377 students in eastern Marion County, including the communities of Stayton, Sublimity, Lyons and Me-hama. She is also a past-chair of the board.

“We’re proud to have Tass Morrison among our association’s leadership,” said Betsy Miller-Jones, interim executive director of OSBA. “She brings a level of commitment and experience that will serve Oregon’s schools well.”

Among Morrison’s chief interests are strong, ongoing community engagement and building a sustainable budget that will fund a full school year with adequate curriculum and co-curricular opportunities for students.

“I also believe in doing everything possible to enable rural schools to thrive, because the majority of school districts in Oregon are rural,” Morrison said. “This

is especially important as we begin a new statewide discussion about upgrading our state’s commitment to public schools.”

Bringing school funding back to the forefront of Oregon’s investment priorities is a matter of high urgency for OSBA, Morrison added. “Our state’s economic future depends on making our public schools the best they can be,” she said.

Morrison is president of the Stayton Public Library Foundation, a fundraising organization that supports the local public library by funding critical literacy services for children. She also serves on the board of directors for the Stayton Sublimity Chamber of Commerce.

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

Our purpose is to listen

In the wake of our recent change in leadership at OSBA, now is a great time to evaluate who we are and what we do, what our members want, and what we can do better. For the past month, OSBA



Betsy Miller-Jones
Interim Executive
Director

Deputy Executive Director Jim Green and I have traveled the state to hold listening sessions with board members and administrators. Our purpose is not to talk at you, or to tell you what we think, but

rather to listen, to find out about your concerns and understand the issues you face. We want to learn what you want from OSBA, including any changes you consider necessary.

We have heard some common themes during these sessions, from the smallest districts of Grant County to the largest in Clackamas County.

Everyone has expressed intense interest in the achievement compacts the state recently distributed to districts. Many have voiced concern about any strings the state might attach to these compacts in the future. Many of you wonder why school boards don't have a seat on the Oregon Education Investment Board or greater repre-

sentation on the committees of the OEIB. You appreciate the need to free schools of the burdens imposed by NCLB, but you worry about replacing them with a new set of federal hoops to jump through.

We have heard your emphatic message that our regional meetings should be less PowerPoint and lecture and more conversation about issues. Next fall, you will see the difference.

Overall funding is a huge issue for board members, but we've learned during the listening sessions that we must do more than address the revenue side of the equation. Board members recognize that PERS is an impossible cost driver that we cannot keep up with simply by reducing other costs. You have notified us that something must be done soon, and that only a statewide coalition of organizations can do it by taking strong positions and making creative changes in the PERS system. OSBA will lead that effort. We will work for change that provides fiscal relief, while doing our best to protect those who need the system to work well.

Board members want and need the services OSBA provides, but they want the assurance that we'll provide those services in the most cost-effective way possible, and that we share the tough decisions

made by local districts. This year our salary budget will be level, which means we must make some reductions, just as a school district would. Our board of directors has decided that in view of the tough economic circumstances districts face, now is not the time for OSBA to raise rates or reduce services.

We need to do more, in fact, to help all of our members. The board has directed the staff to prepare a budget for next year that draws on our reserves to meet our members' needs. That budget will go to the board of directors for approval at our June meeting.

Jim and I are still on the road with our listening sessions. Please join us, if you can. Bring your ideas, your questions and your concerns. Help us all work together to improve education in Oregon, because that's the only way we can really make a difference. OSBA is your association; we need to hear from you.

Listening tour stops

- April 5: Grant ESD
- April 30: Medford SD
- May 3: Clackamas ESD
- May 14: McMinnville SD
- May 16: Springfield SD
- May 30: Linn Benton Lincoln ESD
- May 31: La Grande SD
- June 4: High Desert ESD
- June 25: Ashland SD

Summer Board Conference July 13-15, 2012

LEAD THE  the
future
starts
NOW

Summer Board pre-conference workshop focuses on Common Core State Standards

The Common Core State Standards Initiative has addressed a clear and pressing need to ensure that all students are ready for college or careers. Begun in the spring of 2009, this effort has resulted in a set of standards that will help students achieve readiness in literacy and mathematics no later than the end of high school.

Exactly one year ago, then-OSBA President David Beeson wrote about the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in *School Leader News*: “As board members, we need to work hard and diligently to adapt our districts to this new reality.”

OSBA’s Summer Board Conference will feature an important pre-conference workshop on the Common Core State

Standards, emphasizing the roles of school district, ESD and community college boards in making the standards work. Board members’ involvement is critically important to the process—and to the schools and institutions they serve—since assessment of student proficiency will begin in the spring of 2015, only three short years away. The workshop will clarify the demands boards face in preparing their schools, districts and institutions to meet the challenge.

Oregon’s involvement

The Oregon Department of Education has contributed to CCSS development from the beginning. Department staff have reviewed every version of the standards and provided feedback throughout the development process. A statewide panel of math educators conducted a rigorous analysis of the CCSS in relation to Oregon’s own recently adopted math standards. The panel’s work will serve as a foundation for implementation of the Common Core mathematics standards.

Have you registered?

www.osba.org/sb

The CCSS pre-conference workshop is Friday, July 13. A separate registration fee is applicable.

Hotel room rates are guaranteed if reserved before June 19. Make reservations online, www.riverhouse.com or call 800-547-3928.

Oregon is one of 26 lead states in the development of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)—a set of rigorous, national science standards aligned with college- and career-ready expectations. These new standards will be rich in content. Based on the National Research Council’s “Framework for K-12 Science Education,” the NGSS will provide an internationally benchmarked science education to all students. To find out more about NGSS, visit <http://www.nextgenscience.org>.

The Oregon Department of Education has published a useful description of the

The Riverhouse, Bend

“Common Core,” which relates directly to the issues board members face:

- **Increase global competitiveness.** The Common Core aligns to international standards in countries whose achievement levels are the highest, enabling Oregon’s public schools to prepare students to compete both nationally and internationally.
- **Provide consistency across the country.** Common standards mean that Oregon students will learn the same content and skills as students throughout the nation, ensuring that Oregonians find a level playing field when they go to college or embark on careers.
- **Support the Oregon Diploma.** The Common Core offers rigorous K-12 standards that integrate the essential

skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening and mathematical practice. The emphasis these standards place on reading informational technical texts will “prepare each student for success in college, work and citizenship.”

- **Build on what works in Oregon schools.** The Common Core State Standards are not simply “one more thing” for districts to do. The real-life standards of the CCSS practices can support those already effectively implemented in many Oregon districts, such as Proficiency-based Teaching and Learning, the Oregon Literacy Framework, Response to Intervention (OrRTI), and Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports.
- **Support high-quality instruction by teachers.** Common standards make

creating, aligning, finding and sharing lessons, strategies and assessments within grade levels, schools and districts easier for teachers, allowing them to focus on high-quality instruction. Teachers from different districts and states may also share effective practices efficiently.

- **Offer 21st century skills for 21st century jobs.** The CCSS reach beyond English and Math. They integrate literacy into subjects such as Science, Social Studies and Technical Subjects to better prepare all students for college and career success in the rapidly changing workplace.

Implementation time line

Over the next few years the Common Core State Standards will replace Oregon’s current standards in English language arts and math. The goal is to establish a base line of skills that are fewer in number, clearer in focus and higher with respect to student expectations and outcomes. In addition, the Common Core State Standards will become an integral part of the Oregon Education Investment Board’s achievement compact agreements with Oregon’s education entities.

Last year, Oregon’s districts entered a transition period to begin making changes in course content—a period that will end in 2014. Full implementation of the standards will occur in the spring of that year. A statewide assessment of the implementation will occur in the spring of 2015.

The Oregon Department of Education website also offers an “Implementation Toolkit” that zeroes in on the respective roles of teachers, parents, administrators, students, the business community and others in making the standards work. In addition, the toolkit provides useful information about communication, assessment, resources and contacts.

To learn more about the toolkit, visit <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3430>.

Pre-conference workshop will also address ‘Smarter Balanced’ and Achievement Compacts

In addition to the Common Core State Standards, OSBA’s Summer Board Conference pre-conference workshop on student achievement will address the “Smarter Balanced” assessments of student achievement and Oregon’s Achievement Compacts.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced) is a state-led consortium that works to develop next-generation assessments of student progress toward readiness for college and careers. The goal is to create assessments that align with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) by the 2014-15 school year, when Oregon will administer the Smarter Balanced Common Assessments for English Language Arts and Mathematics (based on the Common Core State Standards).

To appreciate the magnitude of the shift in mathematics content from the 2007-2009 Oregon Mathematics Content Standards to the Common Core State Standards, and the heightened rigor of the Smarter Balanced Common Assessment, see <http://www.ode.state.or.us/wma/teachlearn/commoncore/transition-from-oaks-to-smarter.pdf>

Achievement compacts are still at the forefront of OSBA members’ concerns. The pre-conference workshop will address the present status of the process the Oregon Education Investment Board has initiated and examine the realities of making that process work from the standpoint of school district, ESD and community college boards.

Bilingual ed conference happens June 22-23

The Oregon Association of Bilingual Education's Summer Conference takes place in Woodburn on Friday and Saturday, June 22-23. The conference will provide educators and community members with knowledge, skills, techniques and networking opportunities to support the academic success of English language learners.

Teachers, parents, administrators and anyone else who works with ELL students—as well as anyone who cares about supporting their academic success—should definitely attend the conference.

Session topics

- Sheltering academic content
- Bi-literacy and equity
- Parent involvement
- Bilingual program development
- Culturally and linguistically responsive practices
- And more!

Register online

<http://www.edequityoregon.com/oabe-registration/>

Location

Valor Middle School
450 Parr Rd
Woodburn, OR 97071

Leadership Institute update

The OSBA Leadership Institute program was created in 2004 to recognize individual school board members and whole boards for their participation in training programs. In addition to the many hours volunteer board members contribute to their districts, charter schools and colleges, the Institute acknowledges the additional effort devoted to reinforcing their critical governance role.

Pres Post continued

Google

Most of the sessions that I attended centered on various aspects of technology, all of which were free or low-cost to implement or use. A packed house met Jim Spellos, prominent presenter of all things Google, <http://www.meeting-u.com/newsletter.htm>. This session focused on “Google-licious: How to find anything on the Internet.”

Spellos highlighted the following operations:

- iGoogle, <http://www.google.com/ig>, allows you to customize your own homepage of information
- Chrome extensions: Check out Awesome Screenshots, Note Anywhere, Session Manager and Related
- translate.google.com: A quick and easy language translator
- Google microphone: If you are using the Chrome web browser, you can search the web by saying your search term, instead of typing it. It's convenient if you speak faster than you type, or if you're not sure how to spell your search term. <http://support.google.com/chrome/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=1331723>
- Goggles: Searches the Internet by taking a picture with the Google app on your phone. Identify plants, locations and more without words. <http://www.google.com/mobile/goggles/#text>

Using the technology you have

These days, many students own computing devices that are superior to those owned by their schools. Yet we often deny students the opportunity to use those tools. More and more school districts have begun to incorporate students' personal devices into their teaching programs (e.g., smart phones, tablets, e-readers), and have started to look closely at policies that allow appropriate classroom functions with students' own devices. This requires keeping an eye on the issues of equity and access while enabling the district to supplement its technology when needed. Resources are also available to provide Internet access to students in their homes, <http://www.internetessentials.com/default.aspx>.

NSBA information

Because of limitations of time and money, you may not be able to attend a national convention. While the interaction with other board members from across the country is invaluable, there is plenty of information available free of charge on the NSBA website, <http://ww3.aievolution.com/nsb1201/index.cfm?do=cnt.page&pg=1004>

So far, thirty-four board members have qualified for recognition at the 2012 Annual Convention:

- 26 Bronze Level recipients
- 4 Silver Level recipients
- 3 Gold Level recipients
- 1 Platinum Level recipient

It's not too late to be on the list. Board members have until August 31 to complete training. Fifty-five board members only need one more course for Bronze and 148 need two courses.

Board members can check their current Institute status online by logging onto their MyOSBA account.

The 2012 Summer Board Conference features all five of the courses required for the Bronze Level and another six qualifying sessions. In addition, ten qualifying courses are available online at <http://www.osba.org/olc>.

For more information, go to <http://www.osba.org/li> or contact Steve Lamb, 503-485-4809 or slamb@osba.org.

Focusing on Service

Executive Search service will help you find the right chief exec

Whenever a district loses its chief executive, the board of directors faces the stressful—and sometimes harrowing—job of finding the right person to fill the vacancy. Fortunately, OSBA is here to help.

OSBA maintains a highly expert and specialized team that can ease the stress of the process and ensure a thorough and productive search. The Executive Search team customizes every search to meet the specific needs of a board and the community it serves. Even better, the team has recently upgraded its techniques and tools to make the process more efficient and less costly.

Innovations and upgrades

To help recruit quality candidates, OSBA Executive Search will roll out a new service at the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators Annual Conference in June. Superintendents will be able to let OSBA know confidentially if they are interested in seeking a new position. By specifying the desired district, type, size and/or location, executive search staff can connect them with positions that match their interest.

Beginning this year, OSBA Executive Search offers a video option for interviewing candidates, www.GreenJobInterview.com. Three districts have used the option so far, and have reduced the cost of their executive searches while simplifying the process of conducting interviews. They

have reported that the video option provided a high-quality interview, and that it was very easy to use.

OSBA has also expanded the opportunity to post director-level positions on OSBA's website. This year alone, five school districts and one community college have posted positions.

A record of success

So far this year, the Executive Search team has conducted full superintendent searches for eight school districts, and has provided interim assistance to two school districts. The average number of candidates that each search generated was 22.5, though one district attracted 34! To develop a diverse applicant pool, OSBA advertises opportunities on the websites of the National Alliance of Black School Educators and Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents.

Over the past four years, OSBA's Executive Search team has conducted 45 searches. Today, 34 of the recruited superintendents are still on the job, while two have resigned for medical reasons. Four retired and five others have since accepted new positions somewhere in the state. This high retention rate testifies to the quality of OSBA's Executive Search service.

Since 1984, OSBA has helped boards hire nearly 500 executives for Oregon school districts, education service districts, community colleges and other agencies. OSBA's Executive Search service is the most comprehensive, experienced and successful in Oregon.

Satisfied clients

Craig Hudson, Amity School Board chair, lauded the service that OSBA's Executive Search team provided. "Donna Herren [OSBA executive search specialist] was a great resource to keep us informed, on track and prepared throughout the search. OSBA helped organize community input sessions and guided the board in their adoption. The selection process without OSBA would have been a struggle to execute, both in terms of schedule and in preparation. The Amity board does not hesitate to recommend OSBA for your superintendent search."

Melinda Van Bossuyt, board chair of the Newburg School District, offered a similar assessment: "OSBA provided us with an organized, professional process. Our consultant guided us to a successful superintendent hire while meeting our accelerated search schedule."

Joe Lewis, chair of the Scappoose School Board, praised the results of OSBA's executive search, and recommends it to other districts. "Our district has found the Executive Search services of the OSBA to be extremely helpful in progressing through the necessary steps to finding a new superintendent," Lewis said. "We have used them on several occasions with great results."

To find out more about OSBA's Executive Search service, go to http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Executive_Search/Executive_Search-About.aspx



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Legislative Update

OEIB, NCLB Waiver and Oregon's Economic Outlook

Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB)

At its meeting on May 31, the OEIB confirmed Governor John Kitzhaber's choice to serve as Oregon's Chief Education Officer. Dr. Rudy Crew, 61, is currently an education professor at the University of Southern California. He brings significant experience as the superintendent of public schools in New York City, Miami, Sacramento and Tacoma.

Dr. Crew will be responsible for guiding the OEIB's work to transform Oregon's public education system from early childhood services through K-12 and post-secondary education.

No Child Left Behind Act waiver

Last fall, the U.S. Department of Education announced that states could apply for waivers from certain provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). To

date, 19 states have received approval for waivers. Oregon is one of 17 states with a pending request.

If approved, the waiver would take effect at the beginning of the 2012-13 school year, and would waive 10 separate provisions of NCLB, including the requirement that 100 percent of students meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) by 2014 and Title I funding set-asides for outside tutoring and academic programs.

Oregon officials have expressed confidence that the federal government will grant the waiver. Expect an announcement within the next few weeks.

Oregon's economic outlook

The Oregon Office of Economic Analysis released the state's latest economic and revenue forecast on May 22. It showed that funds available for the 2011-13 biennium increased about \$115 million from

the March 2012 forecast. State economist Mark McMullen noted that the increased revenue projections resulted from the legislature's budget rebalance during the February session and income from lawsuit settlements with the Attorney General's office. Without these actions, state revenues would have dipped slightly.

McMullen sounded a positive outlook for economic growth in Oregon, noting that he expects continued slow, steady growth and a return to statewide pre-recession job levels sometime in 2014. At this time, school board members and education advocates should feel some guarded optimism that the worst effects of the recession are over.

For additional information, contact OSBA Legislative Specialist Morgan Allen, mallen@osba.org or 503-588-2800.