

June 2015

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[facebook.com/osba.org](https://facebook.com/osba.org)

503-588-2800

800-578-6722

[info@osba.org](mailto:info@osba.org)

## New bill will dissolve Oregon Education Investment Board

The Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) and the chief education officer were established during the 2011 legislative session as part of then-Gov. Kitzhaber's package of education reforms. Four years later, the board is on the verge of being dissolved.

The OEIB was charged with creating a seamless system of public education from pre-kindergarten through post-secondary education. The original legislation established a "sunset" date that would repeal the OEIB and chief education officer position on March 15, 2016.

Knowing the board's future would be a topic of serious discussion during the 2015 session, OSBA's Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) considered the question of whether to support the continuation of the OEIB.

OSBA members agreed with the LPC that several conditions would have to be met before the association would support a removal of OEIB's sunset. But then things changed. The February resignation of Gov. Kitzhaber meant the OEIB no longer had a champion. And it was quite clear that many legislators in both parties were frustrated with the board's work and the failed tenure of Oregon's first chief education officer, Rudy Crew.



*Four years after establishing the OEIB, the Oregon Legislature is expected to approve dissolving it.*

Sen. Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay), chairman of the Senate Education Committee, was charged with convening a work group to consider the board's future. A large group of stakeholders met over the course of two months and came to consensus on a list of recommendations contained in **Senate Bill 215**, including:

- Dissolving the Oregon Education Investment Board.
- Eliminating the "achievement compacts."
- Retaining the chief education officer position (now held by Nancy Golden), but changing the name of that office from the OEIB to the "Chief Education Office."
- Adding a new sunset date for the position of chief education officer: June 30, 2019.
- Changing the role of the chief education officer to focus on coordinating between education stakeholders and public education agencies to "bust barriers" for planning and collaboration purposes.



*Nancy Golden,  
Oregon's chief  
education officer*

Sen. Roblan's work group will continue to meet during the interim period and bring additional recommendations to the 2016 legislative session regarding the role of the chief education officer, as well as suggest desired structure and education outcomes for the current P-20 system.

SB 215 passed the Senate on a 27-2 vote and now awaits a hearing in the House Rules Committee. It is expected to pass the House easily and be sent to Gov. Kate Brown for approval.

The interim work group held its first meeting June 16; OSBA Board Member **Betty Reynolds** and OSBA Legislative Specialist Morgan Allen are attending the meetings. Contact Allen at [mallen@osba.org](mailto:mallen@osba.org) for more information.

The full text of SB 215 can be viewed at [www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?key=SB\\_02150&ptadd=-%20SB\\_02150%20Details](http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?key=SB_02150&ptadd=-%20SB_02150%20Details).

## ‘Promise’ campaign plans next phase for this fall

OSBA is making plans to continue “The Promise of Oregon” ([www.promiseoregon.org/](http://www.promiseoregon.org/)) campaign into the fall and 2016.

The public education advocacy campaign, which debuted last November, helped galvanize support for increased education funding during this legislative session. More than 6,800 individuals signed a petition to legislators urging higher K-12 education funding, and more than 125 OSBA member boards passed resolutions in support of the campaign.

Later this week, the OSBA Board of Directors will consider a proposal to spend \$145,000 in 2015-16 for a new round of photos and videos to provide content for the campaign website, as well as paying for web and social media support. The photo and video sites and subjects have not been determined, but in early June OSBA asked districts and individuals statewide to consider nominating programs for consideration that “are engaging students, boosting student achievement and making a difference in their future.”

OSBA has issued a request for proposals and expects to select a contractor to perform the new work later this month.

OSBA Board members will also receive an update at their June 19-21 meeting about “The Promise of Oregon Challenge,” which is awarding them modest prizes based on a point system for engaging in the campaign.

A number of school districts statewide have created their own Promise-themed content such as photos or videos. The most recent example, a video by the Tigard-Tualatin School District, can be seen at <https://vimeo.com/130145376>.

Betsy Miller-Jones, OSBA’s executive director, said she is excited to see the campaign’s reach spreading.



Videographers are expected to again be traveling the state to collect images for the next phase of the “Promise” campaign.

“Every time we see another photo, another video, another expression of a young Oregonian’s aspirations, that helps remind the public of the importance of public education in this state,” she said. “I’m so thankful to all of those people who are working together to make ‘the Promise’ a reality.”

Show your support for fully funding Oregon’s public schools - Sign the petition!

*the Promise*  
OF OREGON

**6839 SIGNATURES**

In the Loop

## School boards of today need more than passion to be successful

The May election demonstrated a disturbing trend in the school board ranks: fewer candidates for governing board seats, and higher turnover. The 817 candidates represented the lowest number in a decade.

This comes at a time when Oregon is faced with a clear need to focus with laser-like precision on vital educational issues such as student achievement, graduation rates, closing the achievement gap and preparing our students to be college- and career-ready.



Betsy Miller-Jones  
Executive Director

We are seeing more negative headlines regarding board conflict, dysfunction, disregard for public meeting laws and unacceptable behavior inside and outside of board meetings. Communities are expressing their displeasure, creating a cycle of what has been called the dissatisfaction method of governance.

What is the future of school boards in Oregon? What must we do to find a new direction?

The school board of 20 years ago, able to maintain the status quo and talk only about those issues brought to them by the superintendent, is clearly not the school board we need today. Board members making decisions in isolation from their communities are unlikely to stay in office very long.

It is not enough to be passionate about education. Today’s successful school board member must be fully engaged and knowledgeable about current teaching methods, curriculum and assessment data. Effective board members must be informed about practices and outcomes, knowledgeable about the data available and able to make use of those data in decisions that will drive district accountability for increased student achievement.

Successful boards use the results of achievement tests, discuss research data, shape and lead with district goals and measure progress at every board meeting.



Boards must become change agents and leaders for reform, governing beyond the status quo. Accepting the status quo puts boards at risk of becoming increasingly irrelevant, while our students fall behind.

At the same time, boards must engage with the community in the discussion of these topics. They have to listen as well, and remain involved and up-to-date on community issues. They must be great communicators.

Transparency, credibility and trustworthiness are other key attributes of today's effective school board. Too many headlines focus on boards that fail to follow their own policies and disregard laws governing public meetings and ethics practices. In the end, the very people elected to uphold community values lose the trust of those who elected them to office.

Engaged, well-trained boards that understand the need for constant transparency and community connections can give us hope for a positive future.

As your association, the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) strives to provide you with the tools, information and resources you need as individual leaders and boards. Utilize the online resources, the in-district training and opportunities to learn at our OSBA Summer Board Conference in July, and the Annual Convention in November. Make sure that you are relevant, ready to lead, engaged and informed for the future.

## 'Summer Camp' offers chance for Leadership Institute credits

Time is running out to register for "Summer Camp for School Boards," coming up July 17-19 at the scenic Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center in Bend.

Besides the opportunity to learn more about critical issues facing Oregon's schools, the conference offers certification at the Leadership Institute's bronze, silver and gold levels. OSBA's Leadership Institute recognizes board members who have advanced through a series of courses offered online and at workshops and conferences, and those who complete new levels are recognized at OSBA's Annual Convention in November.

The keynote address on "Breaking the Unwritten Rules" will come from motivational speaker Mike Weber of Southwestern Consulting. Weber has spoken to groups across the country about honing leadership skills and adapting to rapidly changing environments. Workshop offerings range from Common Core/Smarter Balanced to school finance to superintendent evaluation.

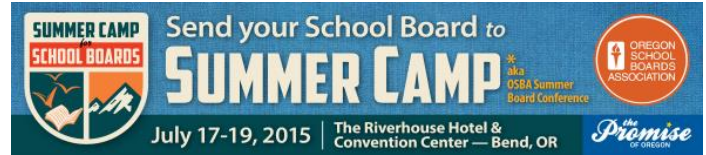
Attend the pre-conference July 17 and you can learn more about school trust lands from Margaret Bird of the Children's Land Alliance Supporting Schools. You'll also hear how to run great meetings using parliamentary procedure from Ann Macfarlane of Jurassic Parliament.

Administrative professionals' (Board secretaries') workshops will also be held on July 17. Once again the

conference will offer a no-host networking reception for attendees and a guest, at 4 p.m. July 17.

For a complete agenda and to register, visit [www.osba.org/Calendar/Events/Summer\\_board\\_conference-2015.aspx](http://www.osba.org/Calendar/Events/Summer_board_conference-2015.aspx).

Find out more about Leadership Institute at [www.osba.org/li](http://www.osba.org/li).



## PACE offers ways to help members address new marijuana law

Oregon Ballot Measure 91 passed with 56 percent of the vote in November 2014, and takes effect July 1, 2015. The measure legalized recreational marijuana for those 21 and older, allowing adults to possess up to 8 ounces of "dried" marijuana and up to four plants. It also introduced mandatory regulation of the industry, which is still being debated in the Legislature.

Marijuana is still unlawful based on federal statute and is listed as a Schedule I drug (Title 21 CFR §1308.11(d)), meaning it has a high potential for abuse, no currently accepted medicinal purpose and a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision (21 USC §812(b)).

To receive federal funds, school districts and community colleges must adhere to federal laws. This includes maintaining a drug-free workplace. Even though state law allows persons 21 and over to carry up to 1 ounce in public, they cannot possess or use marijuana on campus.

Given this clash of state and federal laws, it is important for school entities in Oregon to understand their roles and responsibilities. With studies in Colorado (<http://bit.ly/1Gt6QD9>) and Connecticut (<http://nyti.ms/1QE dj64>) indicating that nearly 40 percent of high school students have used marijuana, schools need to be prepared to handle this complex and challenging issue.

Here are three ways PACE can help:

- 1) **Understand your policies and update if needed.**

School districts must be certain to

have drug policies in place. Additionally, OSBA is updating its sample policies to include language pertaining to marijuana use in e-cigarettes and vaporizers. Marijuana is not to be allowed on campus in any form, given districts' tie to federal funding regulations. These policies are especially



important for community colleges, now that recreational marijuana use is legal for persons 21 and older. Districts and community colleges may implement prevention programs at school for students, but also consider early intervention initiatives to help those students who are feeling trapped in the early stages of an addiction.

- 2) **Know your responsibilities as an employer.** The Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (<http://1.usa.gov/1KZFWpG>) gives employers the responsibility to enforce policies with their employees. This means that although an employee may use marijuana off campus, he/she is still subject to drug testing at any time.
- 3) **Attend our informational workshop.** For an in-depth look at this topic, make sure to register ([www.osba.org/Members/MyDistrict/MyCart.aspx](http://www.osba.org/Members/MyDistrict/MyCart.aspx)) for OSBA's Summer Camp for School Boards. OSBA's Spencer Lewis and Peggy Stock will hold a workshop, entitled "Up in Smoke: Marijuana in Schools, and Other Current Issues," on Sunday, July 19, at 11 a.m.

**Additional resources:**

- Oregon Ballot Measure 91 text: <http://1.usa.gov/1G3SEhq>
- Marijuana FAQ: <http://1.usa.gov/1u2H6qV>

**Please note that recreational marijuana use is still not legal in Oregon until July 1, 2015.**

## OSBA Events

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*OSBA Board of Directors meeting*

June 19-21, 2015

*NSBA 2015 Pacific Region Summer Meeting*

June 26-28, 2015

*Summer Board Conference*

July 17-19, 2015