

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2022**

Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront – Mt. Hood Room  
1401 SW Naito Pkwy, Portland, OR 97201  
and Zoom Video Conference

*Committee officers in attendance at the start of the meeting:* Chair Emily Smith, Patti Norris, Chris Cronin

*OSBA staff in attendance at meeting start:* Executive Director Jim Green, Communications and News Specialist Jake Arnold, Communications Specialist, Marketing and Digital Media Rachel Baker, Legislative Services Analyst La’Nell Trissel

*Guests in attendance at meeting start:* Chrissy Reitz - Hood River County SD, Katy Nelson - Grant ESD, Jill Conant - Malheur ESD, Carrie Oldright - Reedsport SD, Robert Brown - Port Orford-Langlois, Katrina Doughty - Multnomah ESD, Nichole Schott - Condon SD, Susan Fischer-Maki - Three Rivers/Josephine SD, Scott Nine - Assistant Superintendent, Office of Education Innovation and Improvement at Oregon Department of Education

*Committee officers not in attendance:* Scott Rogers, Dawn Watson

I. Welcome

Chair Emily Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and led attendee introductions.

**Chair Emily Smith called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.**

II. Review meeting summary

Emily Smith displayed the September 15, 2022, meeting summary on the screen and gave a brief overview.

III. Subcommittee reports

Emily Smith introduced the subcommittees chairs and invited them to provide a brief update.

Chris Cronin, Bylaws Subcommittee Chair, gave an overview of the subcommittee’s goal to draft the bylaws that will be used by the Oregon Rural School Board Members Caucus, a plan of action for completing that work, and recognized the work of the Color Caucus which is providing the model and examples of how the bylaws subcommittee will proceed. Chris noted that the drafted bylaws will be presented to the full advisory committee for approval, then be included in the documents that will be submitted to the OSBA board for consideration as part of the caucus’s approval process. Chris noted that the subcommittee intends to use the color caucus bylaws as a foundation for their work and that the subcommittee meetings will be held via Zoom.

Emily added that the anticipated timeframe for completion is ten months. This will allow for the application for a rural caucus to be voted on by the OSBA Board of Directors and included on the November ballot as a resolution to the membership.

It was noted during a brief question and answer period that the committee would attempt to schedule its meetings with the intent to avoid conflict with other OSBA board, committee, or caucus meetings.

Patti Norris, Budget Subcommittee Chair, gave an overview of the subcommittee's goal to draft the budget that will be used by the Oregon Rural School Board Members Caucus, a plan of action for completing that work, and recognized the work of the Color Caucus which is providing the model and examples of how the subcommittee will proceed. Patti noted that the mission and goals of the Oregon Rural School Board Members Caucus will need to be developed prior to developing a budget and, once those have been established, the subcommittee will use the color caucus budget as a starting point for budget development. Patti also noted that the drafted budget will be presented to the full advisory committee for approval, then be included in the documents that will be submitted to the OSBA board for consideration as part of the caucus's approval process and inclusion as part of the OSBA budget. The budget subcommittee meetings will also be held via Zoom.

Emily Smith noted that Dawn Watson, who was not able to attend the meeting, will be chairing the Goals Subcommittee which will draft the mission and goals that will be used by the Oregon Rural School Board Members Caucus.

V. Legislative Roadshow feedback

Emily Smith indicated that concern was raised during the Legislative Roadshow meetings that allowing any school district with a population density of less than 200 per square mile or a school district population of less than 20,000 eligibility to join, which encompasses about two thirds of the school districts in the state, was too broad.

Emily displayed a spreadsheet containing population density and enrollment numbers provided by Portland State University and Oregon Small School Association on the screen.

Discussion followed concerning: the similarities and differences of rural school districts across the state; an acknowledgement that any criteria will not make everyone happy and that no group will have all the same issues but the group will have many common issues; other criteria examples like time spent in transit to and from school, distance to a health care provider, distance to a grocery store, or economies of scale; the intentional involvement of tribal communities and the potential of government to government agreements; and the concession that the eligibility criteria is meant to establish a benchmark and that members will join or leave as they see fit.

It was noted that every ESD will qualify for eligibility based the proposed criteria and that it is the intent of the committee to generate a robust application appeal process. It was also noted that the Color Caucus chose to be broad in its eligibility requirements and to subcategorizes or initiates subcommittees as needed. Clarification was given that the committee has the potential for one voting member on OSBA Board and one voting member on the Legislative Policy Committee.

It was noted that the committee's goal is to give voice to school districts that are not feeling heard; to create affinity groups for shared experience, networking, and peer problem solving; and to use the resulting caucus to create two-way resource channels and communication streams between Oregon's rural school districts and OSBA.

**Consensus was reached to move forward with the current proposed eligibility requirements of any school district with a population density of less than 200 per square mile or a school district population of less than 20,000.**

- VI. Additional members who want to be added/invites to others across the state for broader representation

Emily gave an update for the committee's current membership and its plans for expansion. The committee and subcommittee chairs and are on the OSBA Board of Directors. The chairs have since reached out to include members from every geographic region. This core group will provide the initial work of developing the committee's mission and goals, bylaws, and budget. Once that work is underway, the committee will recruit from all the school districts in Oregon that meet the eligibility requirements.

- VII. Close

Emily will send an email to the current committee members to request volunteers to complete the work of the subcommittees.

Scott Nine spoke to the one-time ESSER funds that have been distributed to ESDs for staffing resources dedicated to reducing the administrative burden to small districts and the potential for making it a sustainable resource.

The subcommittee chairs issued a personal invitation to the individuals in the room to join in the work of each subcommittee.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.**