

Oregon Rural School Board Members Caucus

Leadership Assembly Meeting

March 18, 2025, 6 p.m. Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83909705884> [Meeting ID: 839 0970 5884]

Members Attending: Nichole Schott, Condon, President; Mary Anne Crandall, Pinehurst, Secretary/Treasurer; Will Cahill, Amy Charette, Kris Lachenmier, Dayna Wynn-Elledge, Dale Keene, Greg Kintz, Karen Patton, Ali Lanega, Addie Hutchison, Janece Payne

Guests: Lori Sattenspiel, Stacy Michaelson, Chris Cronin

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

I. Welcome

Nichole Schott, President welcomed all participants to the meeting

II. Approval of the Agenda

Dale Keene made a motion to approve the Leadership Assembly agenda

Will Cahill seconded the motion

Vote: Unanimous approval

III. Approval of Minutes

a. February 24, 2025 Leadership Meeting

Dale Keene made a motion to approve the Leadership Assembly minutes of February 24, 2025

Will Cahill seconded the motion

Vote: Unanimous approval

IV. March 4, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the March 4, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting were presented

V. Old Business

A. Membership Update

There are now 80 members in the Rural Caucus

VI. New Business

A. Legislative Update

Stacy Michaelson provided a thorough update of the bills that are of interest.

The bills discussed:

HB 3014 and HB 3360- Facilities Funding

HB 3014 is a bill to increase the funding for facilities via lottery funds to make a certain portion of the funds available to districts without matching funds which is currently required. HB 3014 establishes the School District Facility Equity Fund with two types of funding – 1 Grant is for facility replacement or maintenance for health and safety issues – these funds are not conditional on matching funds and are limited to \$2.5 million. 2 Grant is for construction or remodeling which is limited to \$10 million and requires matching funds.

HB3360 – Facility Bill

This bill appropriates excess income to the School Facility Improvement Fund. The measure requires that grants can only be awarded to school districts that have submitted general obligation bonds during the last three years that have failed, and it includes any bonds that have not passed in the last 10 years. The district cannot have more than 8% of the district budget in reserves.

There was a lively discussion by the various participants about the pros and cons for rural districts. It was mentioned that rural districts do not have CFOs to do the type of planning needed for bonding and it seems overwhelming for small districts.

HB 3881 – Contractors Bill

This bill would require that a minimum of 15% of the total hours on a project must be done by apprentices. This would not benefit rural communities who may have limited choices in the area for construction projects and force rural districts to go outside of the area to meet the criteria.

SB0978 – Accountability for Legal Costs

This bill is attempting to increase transparency by requiring districts to account for each individual cost such as legal, SPED, etc. This bill would negatively impact rural districts by requiring excessive paperwork and oversight. Rural schools lack the resources and funding to implement this type of detail.

Lore Sattenspiel updated the Rural Caucus leadership on accountability. There was testimony by OSBA and Rep Emily McIntyre (testimonial 150713) that can be accessed. There needs to be more flexibility in accountability. There are currently 5 metrics that districts must meet within 2 years and 3 more metrics are being added.

Shared accountability was mentioned by leadership members as to what is being done at the ODE level to lighten the load for districts.

HB- 4082 - Summer Learning

This is confusing. The governor has a bill, and the legislature has a bill and they are not in line with each other. – Stacy Michaelson asked the rural caucus to stand by on this one. However, stories from the past year's summer learning experience and its impact are needed from members who had programs- Please send to Lori Sattenspiel.

Budget Hearing dates:

March 26, 2025, for Grants and Aid

March 27, 2025, for State School Fund

Ways and Means Road Show - various dates throughout the state.

The board member stipend bill is on hold pending legal review. Board members need to submit the SEI filing.

OSBA Lobby Day – April 24, 2025

Anyone interested in attending the lobby day in Salem is welcome and must register. Amy Charette volunteered to represent the Rural Caucus and Will Cahill also volunteered to be there. There will be training through OSBA on how to present prior to the meeting.

VII. April Meeting – April 15, 2025

The next meeting is currently scheduled for April 15, 2025

VIII. Good of the Order

None

IX. Meeting Adjourned at 7:03PM