OREGON SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
OSBA Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, March 3, 2025, 4:00 PM

Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

OSBA board members in attendance at meeting start: President Chris Cronin; President-elect Emily Smith; Vice President Dawn Watson; Kraig Albright; Jackie Crook; Katrina Doughty; José Gamero-Georgeson; Karina Guzmán Ortiz; Linda Hamilton; Kris Howatt; Tristan Irvin; Greg Kintz; Kristy Kottkey; Steve Lowell; Nichole Schott; Randy Shaw; Past President Sami Al-Abdrabbuh (ex-officio); Anna Ali (ex-officio); Jennifer Scurlock (ex-officio)

OSBA staff in attendance at meeting start: Executive Director Emielle Nischik; Chief Legal Officer and Interim Deputy Executive Director Haley Percell; Director of Finance and Member Services Jaime Conder; PACE Administrator Dave Harvey; Director of Policy Services Spencer Lewis; Director of Government Relations and Communication Services Stacy Michaelson; Director of Board Development Kristen Miles; Events Specialist Charissa Geib; Executive Assistant La'Nell Trissel

Guests in attendance at meeting start: Bob Steringer, Harrang Long P.C.

OSBA board members not in attendance at meeting start: Laurie Danzuka; David Jaimes; Alonso Oliveros; Chrissy Reitz; Nancy Thomas; Glenn Wachter; Luhui Whitebear

President Cronin called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

I. Welcome, introductions, roll call

President Cronin welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided open remarks focusing directors on the value of public education. OSBA swag will be going out in the next couple of weeks. OSBA issued emails are available. The legally required public meeting training is available on the board resources section of the member portal. Please submit a response to the executive director's evaluation survey being released April 1 and closing April 30. The March 5 special board meeting is mandatory for those who were unable to attend the January 13 board meeting and the March 6 special board meeting is for the entire Board. Haley will send additional information regarding the March 6 meeting soon. The next regular board meeting is on June 2 via Zoom. If you have any questions, please contact La'Nell. Chris further identified the meeting contribution framework for the meeting.

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

II. Approve agenda

Jackie Crook moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Greg Kintz.

There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimoulsy.

Kraig Albright: Yea
Chris Cronin: Yea
Jackie Crook: Yea
Laurie Danzuka: Absent
Katrina Doughty: Yea
José Gamero-Georgeson: Yea
Karina Guzmán Ortiz: Yea
Linda Hamilton: Yea
Kris Howatt: Yea
Tristan Irvin: Yea
David Jaimes: Absent
Greg Kintz: Yea
Kristy Kottkey: Yea
Steve Lowell: Yea
Alonso Oliveros: Absent
Chrissy Reitz: Absent
Nichole Schott: Yea
Randy Shaw: Yea
Emily Smith: Yea
Nancy Thomas: Absent
Glenn Wachter: Absent
Dawn Watson: Yea
Luhui Whitebear: Absent

III. Consent agenda

Approval of minutes
January 24-25, 2025, Board of Directors meeting
III.A.2. OSBA Executive Committee meeting minutes
February 11, 2025, Executive Committee meeting
III.A.3. Board member written reports
NSBA Advocacy and Equity Institute Report
NSBA Board update
III.A.4. Adopt update to PACE Investment Guidelines
III.B. Accept final audit results

Kris Howatt moved to approve the consent agenda with the removal of item 3.C. for further information. Seconded by Jackie Crook.

There being no votes in opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Kraig Albright: Yea
Chris Cronin: Yea
Jackie Crook: Yea
Laurie Danzuka: Absent
Katrina Doughty: Yea
José Gamero-Georgeson: Yea
Karina Guzmán Ortiz: Yea
Linda Hamilton: Yea
Kris Howatt: Yea
Tristan Irvin: Yea
David Jaimes: Absent
Greg Kintz: Yea
Kristy Kottkey: Yea
Steve Lowell: Yea
Alonso Oliveros: Absent
Chrissy Reitz: Absent
Nichole Schott: Yea
Randy Shaw: Yea
Emily Smith: Yea
Nancy Thomas: Absent
Glenn Wachter: Absent
Dawn Watson: Yea
Luhui Whitebear: Absent

President Cronin opened agenda item III. C. Board member written reports - NSBA Advocacy and Equity Institute Report and NSBA Board update, then yielded the floor to Director Howatt for further discussion. Howatt noted that the NSBA Advocacy and Equity Institute report was incomplete and requested a more robust report.

Kris Howatt moved to accept an enhanced written report regarding the NSBA Advocacy and Equity Institute at a future meeting. Seconded by Randy Shaw.

Further discussion took place regarding the intent behind trying to consolidate information to increase the ability for Board members to read the packet fully, the report was kept to one page as the packet was already over 170 pages, the importance of the event, and an invitation that any director may contact the President to receive additional information about any event.

A vote by voice was taken. There being one vote in opposition, the motion passed with the majority.

Kraig Albright: Yea
Chris Cronin: Yea
Jackie Crook: Yea
Laurie Danzuka: Absent
Katrina Doughty: Yea
José Gamero-Georgeson: Yea
Karina Guzmán Ortiz: Yea
Linda Hamilton: Yea
Kris Howatt: Yea
Tristan Irvin: Yea
David Jaimes: Absent
Greg Kintz: Yea
Kristy Kottkey: Nay
Steve Lowell: Yea
Alonso Oliveros: Absent
Chrissy Reitz: Absent
Nichole Schott: Yea
Randy Shaw: Yea
Emily Smith: Yea
Nancy Thomas: Absent
Glenn Wachter: Absent
Dawn Watson: Yea
Luhui Whitebear: Absent

Point of order: State law requires school districts to list each vote by name. Does that include OSBA? Chief Legal Counsel Percell confirmed that the law applies to OSBA. President Cronin asked Executive Assistant La'Nell Trissel if she received adequate information to record the vote in the minutes accurately and in compliance with the law. Trissel noted that Kristy Kottkey voted in opposition and that all other members present voted in the affirmative.

*** Luhui Whitebear joined the meeting at 4:19 p.m. ***
*** David James joined the meeting at 4:26 p.m. ***

IV. To consider attorney-client privileged information or records that are otherwise exempt by law from public inspection regarding legal advice and to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions

*** All OSBA Staff, guests, and members of the public stayed in the meeting room while all Board members and invited guests Bob Steringer, Emielle Nischik, Haley Percell, Jaime Conder, La'Nell Trissel, Sami Al-Abdrabbuh moved to a breakout room at 4:28 p.m.***

President Cronin led the Board into executive session at 4:28 p.m.

Executive Session - ORS 192.660(2)(e) "To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions," ORS 192.660(2)(f) "To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection", ORS 192.355(9), and ORS 40.225.

President Cronin adjourned executive session at 4:45 p.m.

*** All OSBA Staff, guests, and members of the public returned to the meeting at 4:45 p.m.***

V. **ACTION**

Kris Howatt moved to authorize Emielle Nischik to proceed with the property transaction as we discussed in executive session. Seconded by José Gamero-Georgeson.

A vote by voice was taken. There being no votes in opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Kraig Albright: Yea
Chris Cronin: Yea
Jackie Crook: Yea
Laurie Danzuka: Absent
Katrina Doughty: Yea
José Gamero-Georgeson: Yea
Karina Guzmán Ortiz: Yea
Linda Hamilton: Yea
Kris Howatt: Yea
Tristan Irvin: Yea
David Jaimes: Yea
Greg Kintz: Yea
Kristy Kottkey: Yea
Steve Lowell: Yea
Alonso Oliveros: Absent
Chrissy Reitz: Absent
Nichole Schott: Yea
Randy Shaw: Yea
Emily Smith: Yea
Nancy Thomas: Absent
Glenn Wachter: Absent
Dawn Watson: Yea
Luhui Whitebear: Yea

VI. **DISCUSSION/ACTION**

Luhui Whitebear moved for legal counsel to work with caucus leadership to review all caucus bylaws for compliance with OSBA bylaw updates and legal compliance. Seconded by Kris Howatt.

Further discussion took place regarding who will direct the review, who will be involved in the review, what will be reviewed, who will have input into the report, impact on current advisory committes, and clarification that draft bylaws submitted by an advisory committee undergo legal review as part of the process for being presented to the membership for vote. Understanding was reached that the executive staff would direct the review, that legal counsel would seek input from caucus leadership as necessary to complete the review, and that any legal opinion provided to OSBA would be presented to the Board and be applicable to any future caucuses.

A vote by voice was taken. There being no votes in opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Kraig Albright: Yea
Chris Cronin: Yea
Jackie Crook: Yea
Laurie Danzuka: Absent
Katrina Doughty: Yea
José Gamero-Georgeson: Yea
Karina Guzmán Ortiz: Yea
Linda Hamilton: Yea
Kris Howatt: Yea
Tristan Irvin: Yea
David Jaimes: Yea
Greg Kintz: Yea
Kristy Kottkey: Yea
Steve Lowell: Yea
Alonso Oliveros: Absent
Chrissy Reitz: Absent
Nichole Schott: Yea
Randy Shaw: Yea
Emily Smith: Yea
Nancy Thomas: Absent
Glenn Wachter: Absent
Dawn Watson: Yea
Luhui Whitebear: Yea

VII. Finance Committee update including Committee review of the Investment Guideline

President Cronin recessed the meeting at 5:28 p.m.
President Cronin reconvened the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

*** Brent Peterson joined the meeting at 5:36 p.m.***

President Cronin introduced the agenda item and yielded the floor to Director of Finance and Member Services Jaime Conder. Conder noted there were no substantive changes to the draft audits that were presented at the last meeting and the final audits were included in this meeting consent agenda, provided highlights from the Finance Committee meeting including a review of the OSBA Investment Guideline, the Committee is not recommending changes at this time as the Committee is still monitoring the changes that were implemented in 2024, the Committee will review the investment guidelines again in 2026, and the Committee is reviewing the impact of the dues increase that was made last year and will work with staff for the responsible allocation of those funds.

VIII. OSBA investment report

President Cronin introduced the OSBA investment report and yielded the floor to guest Brent Peterson with D.A. Davidson. Peterson provided a review of the performance report updated through February.

*** Brent Peterson left the meeting ***

IX. Fee structure for association services

President Cronin introduced the association fee structure and yielded the floor to Executive Director Emielle Nischik. Nischik reviewed the Fee Structure presented in the meeting packet highlighting a Cola of 3.7% percent rounded to the nearest $5 was applied to most fees, new services that have been introduced as part of the Coraggio work to meet member needs have been underlined, acknowledgement of the typo for asynchronous training, and while the document is a public record it is not a public-facing document.

There was a request for a redline version in the future.

Kris Howatt moved to approve the fee structure for services for 2025-2026 with a correction under the board development multi-session workshop. Seconded by David Jaimes.

A vote by voice was taken. There being no votes in opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Kraig Albright: Yea
Chris Cronin: Yea
Jackie Crook: Yea
Laurie Danzuka: Absent
Katrina Doughty: Yea
José Gamero-Georgeson: Yea
Karina Guzmán Ortiz: Yea
Linda Hamilton: Yea
Kris Howatt: Yea
Tristan Irvin: Yea
David Jaimes: Yea
Greg Kintz: Yea
Kristy Kottkey: Yea
Steve Lowell: Yea
Alonso Oliveros: Absent
Chrissy Reitz: Absent
Nichole Schott: Yea
Randy Shaw: Yea
Emily Smith: Yea
Nancy Thomas: Absent
Glenn Wachter: Absent
Dawn Watson: Yea
Luhui Whitebear: Yea

X. Executive Director update

President Cronin introduced the Executive Director update and thanked Nischik for all her hard work, then yielded the floor to Executive Director Emielle Nischik. Nischik updated the Board on items that were not included in the report, including staff work to decipher what is happening at a federal level, the work with education partners and the Governor's office to discuss federal impacts and create consistent and accurate messaging, several OSBA communications have been published to update the membership, and an overview of the meeting with Attorney General Dan Rayfield to ensure protecting public education is a priority.

Nischik thanked Chief Legal Officer Percell, the legal team, and Government Relations Counsel Adrienne Anderson for all their work to make these things happen; and requested that Board members continue to reach out to the Legislative and Executive teams to provide feedback on the things that are going on in their regions.

Further discussion took place regarding the OSBA membership communications and how they are available on the OSBA website and the state employee refresher on Oregon's sanctuary laws.

A request was made for the past year's Executive Director reports be provided as a resource with the Executive Director Evaluation survey.

XI. Approval of OSBA's revised Vision, Mission, Values, and Goals

President Cronin highlighted the work that has been done on OSBA's vision, mission, values, and goals, since 2022.

Kris Howatt moved the Board adopt the revisions to the OSBA Vision, Mission, Values and Goals as presented. Seconded by Luhui Whitebear.

A vote by voice was taken. There being no votes in opposition, the motion passed unanimously

Kraig Albright: Yea
Chris Cronin: Yea
Jackie Crook: Yea
Laurie Danzuka: Absent
Katrina Doughty: Yea
José Gamero-Georgeson: Yea
Karina Guzmán Ortiz: Yea
Linda Hamilton: Yea
Kris Howatt: Yea
Tristan Irvin: Yea
David Jaimes: Yea
Greg Kintz: Yea
Kristy Kottkey: Yea
Steve Lowell: Yea
Alonso Oliveros: Absent
Chrissy Reitz: Absent
Nichole Schott: Yea
Randy Shaw: Yea
Emily Smith: Yea
Nancy Thomas: Absent
Glenn Wachter: Absent
Dawn Watson: Yea
Luhui Whitebear: Yea

XII. Summer Board Conference and Annual Convention planning report

President Cronin introduced the Summer Board Conference and Annual Convention planning report, then yielded the floor to Director of Board Development Kristen Miles. Miles updated the Board on the work being done to plan the Summer Board Conference, noting the Bronze level preconference and a more comprehensive legislative update during one of the morning programing options. Miles also noted some of the preliminary work for planning the Annual Convention.

XIII. Legislative update

President Cronin introduced the Legislative Update, then yielded the floor to Director of Government Relations and Communications Stacy Michaelson. Michaelson provided an overview of the Teams work this session highlighting that of the 3,317 introduced bills, 785 of those have been included in the tracking system for monitoring; that of the 212 hearings that have been held in the last eight weeks on bills that are being tracked, OSBA has submitted written or oral testimony either individually or in conjunction with other education partners on 42 bills; provided an update on the Educnomics presentation and the more recent American Institutes for Research report on Oregon's education spending presentation made in the Joint Education Committees and the impacts of their conflicting information; the work in the building to explain the difference in the two presentations, what accountability could look like, justification towards increased investment, and reasons why Oregon's data does not correspond with other states; provided an update on the Current Service Level and special education investment bills and their progression through the legislature; highlighted the upcoming deadlines and hearings; and discussed how federal changes may effects the state landscape. Michaelson also thanked Emielle and Haley for their work at the Federal level and the OSBA's Board for their shared communication with Legislators in their respective regions.

Further discussion took place on the impacts on district budgeting discussions.

XIV. OSBA Policy 3200: Executive Committee

President Cronin introduced OSBA Policy 3200: Executive Committee, then yielded the floor to Director of Policy Services Spencer Lewis. Lewis provided a high-level overview of the proposed changes to the policy including additional communication requirements for the Executive Committee to the Board when the Executive Committee takes action on non-complaint issues, highlighting the bracketed language surrounding timing.

Additional discussion took place regarding mirroring the language in the Bylaws, the impact of the 5 day requirement on staff, clarification was made regarding the complaint process identified in Policy 7750 and Policy 3200 which pertains to all other action, and clarification on the intent behind the timeline.

Kris Howatt moved to accept the recommendations to update Policy 3200: Executive Committee, using the two weeks as the timeline for the initial report to be made to the Board. Seconded by Linda Hamilton.

A vote by voice was taken. There being no votes in opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Kraig Albright: Yea
Chris Cronin: Yea
Jackie Crook: Yea
Laurie Danzuka: Absent
Katrina Doughty: Yea
José Gamero-Georgeson: Yea
Karina Guzmán Ortiz: Yea
Linda Hamilton: Yea
Kris Howatt: Yea
Tristan Irvin: Yea
David Jaimes: Yea
Greg Kintz: Yea
Kristy Kottkey: Yea
Steve Lowell: Yea
Alonso Oliveros: Absent
Chrissy Reitz: Absent
Nichole Schott: Yea
Randy Shaw: Yea
Emily Smith: Yea
Nancy Thomas: Absent
Glenn Wachter: Absent
Dawn Watson: Yea
Luhui Whitebear: Yea

XV. Meeting adjourns

President Cronin invited Ex-Officio Jennifer Scurlock to introduce herself, then provided closing comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.