



OREGON SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, January 23, 2026, 5:30 PM

Salem Convention Center, 200 Commercial Street SE, Salem, OR 97301

Meeting Minutes

OSBA board members in attendance at meeting start: President Dawn Watson; President-elect José Gamero-Georgeson; Vice President Nancy Thomas; Secretary-treasurer Chrissy Reitz; Past President Chris Cronin (Zoom); Tracy Adevai; Kraig Albright; Jay Chick; Jackie Crook; Katrina Doughty; Karina Guzmán Ortiz (Zoom); Greg Kintz; Steve Lowell; Maureen Miltenberger; Clinton Nelson; Alonso Oliveros; Brenda Rivas; Clyde Rood; Nichole Schott (Zoom); Michael Selvaggio; Randy Shaw; Luhui Whitebear

OSBA staff in attendance at meeting start: Executive Director Emielle Nischik; Chief Legal Officer and Deputy Executive Director Haley Percell; Director of Finance and Member Services Jaime Conder; Director of Government Relations and Communications Stacy Michaelson; Director of Board Development Kristen Miles; Interim Director of Legal Services Michael Miller; PACE Administrator Dave Harvey; Communications and News Specialist Jake Arnold; Event Manager Charissa Geib; Information Technology Analyst Henry van Vuuren; Membership Database and Administrative Coordinator Meghan Peterson; Executive Assistant La’Nell Trissel

Guest in attendance at meeting start: Fritz Duncan, Jones & Roth, P.C.

OSBA board members not in attendance at meeting start: Laurie Danzuka; Tristan Irvin

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

I. Welcome and roll call

President Watson welcomed everyone to the meeting, then provided opening remarks covering meeting logistics, OSBA issued emails, new board member mentorship program, and new board member introductions.

Roll call was taken, a quorum was present.

II. Approve agenda

Motion: Kraig Albright moved to approve the agenda as presented. Chrissy Reitz seconded.

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

Tracy Adevai: Yea

Kraig Albright: Yea

Jay Chick: Yea

Chris Cronin: Yea

Jackie Crook: Yea

Laurie Danzuka: Absent

Katrina Doughty: Yea

José Gamero-Georgeson: Yea

Karina Guzmán Ortiz: Yea

Tristan Irvin: Absent

Greg Kintz: Yea

Steve Lowell: Yea

Maureen Miltenberger: Yea

Clinton Nelson: Yea

Alonso Oliveros: Yea

Chrissy Reitz: Yea

Brenda Rivas: Yea

Clyde Rood: Yea

Nichole Schott: Yea

Michael Selvaggio: Yea

Randy Shaw: Yea

Nancy Thomas: Yea

Dawn Watson: Yea

Luhui Whitebear: Yea

III. Consent agenda

- III.A. Approval of minutes - ADOPT
 - November 9, 2025, Board of Directors meeting
 - January 6, 2026, Board of Directors special meeting
- III.B. Acceptance of minutes - INFORMATION
 - December 9, 2025, OSBA Executive Committee meeting
 - January 13, 2026, OSBA Executive Committee meeting
 - November 8, 2025 OSBA Annual Membership meeting
- III.C. Ex-officio written reports - INFORMATION
 - COSA Report to the OSBA Board
 - NSBA Report to the OSBA Board
- III.D. Updated OSBA Board Processes - INFORMATION
 - Instructions - Directory of Governance Documents (included for reference)
 - Instruction - Email My Region (updated)
 - PROCESS: National School Board Association and Pacific Region (updated)
 - PROCESS: OSBA Officer Duties (updated)
- III.E. Mid-year department reports - INFORMATION
 - Board Development Mid-year Report
 - Government Relations and Communication Services Mid-year Report
 - Legal Services Mid-year Report
 - Operations and Finance Mid-year Report
 - PACE Administration Mid-year Report
 - Policy Services Mid-year Report
- III.F. 2026 OSBA Board of Directors Calendar of Events - ADOPT
- III.G. OSBA Elections - INFORMATION/ADOPT
 - 2025 OSBA Election Results - information
 - 2026 OSBA Elections Calendar - adopt
- III.H. 2025 Fall Regional Meetings - INFORMATION
- III.I. Approve Appointments - ADOPT
 - Policy Committee
 - Chris Cronin, Grant ESD, Effective 1/24/26, One-year Term Ending 12/31/26
 - Kraig Albright, Dayton 8, Effective 1/24/26, Two-year Term Ending 12/31/27
- III.J. Appointment - ADOPT
 - PACE Trustee (three-year term starting July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029) Olivia Meyers Buch, Executive Director, Lane ESD
 - PACE Trustee (three-year term starting July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029) David Kruse, Executive Director of Operations, North Clackamas SD
 - PACE Trustee (three-year term starting July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029) Sean Taggart, Director of Risk Management & Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Rogue Community College
 - PACE Trustee (three-year term starting July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2029) Jordan Ely, Chief Financial Officer, Northwest Regional ESD

It was noted that there is a typo in the November 9, 2025, board of directors meeting minutes. The meeting ended at 10:52 a.m. not p.m.

Motion: Kraig Albright moved to approve of the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Katrina Doughty.

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

Tracy Adevai: Yea	Karina Guzmán Ortiz: Yea	Brenda Rivas: Yea
Kraig Albright: Yea	Tristan Irvin: Absent	Clyde Rood: Yea
Jay Chick: Yea	Greg Kintz: Yea	Nichole Schott: Yea
Chris Cronin: Yea	Steve Lowell: Yea	Michael Selvaggio: Yea
Jackie Crook: Yea	Maureen Miltenberger: Yea	Randy Shaw: Yea
Laurie Danzuka: Absent	Clinton Nelson: Yea	Nancy Thomas: Yea
Katrina Doughty: Yea	Alonso Oliveros: Yea	Dawn Watson: Yea
José Gamero-Georgeson: Yea	Chrissy Reitz: Yea	Luhui Whitebear: Yea

After the vote, President Watson encouraged Directors to review the consent agenda in detail and noted the following important inclusions:

- Mid-year department reports
- Staff Action Plan
- Board Calendar of Events adoption
- Appointments to the Policy Committee and PACE Trustee

IV. OSBA Finance Committee update

President Watson yielded the floor to Secretary-treasurer Chrissy Reitz, who provided an update on the OSBA Finance Committee meeting, which met just prior to the Board meeting, to hear from Brent Peterson with D.A. Davidson regarding OSBA's investment portfolio and Fritz Duncan with Jones & Roth regarding the annual audits. Reitz then provided a summary of OSBA's investment portfolio as performing solidly, with calendar-year results exceeding the benchmark and longer-term performance generally in line with expectations.

V. Audit results

Secretary-treasurer Chrissy Reitz then introduced the annual financial audits that are performed at the close of each fiscal year on OSBA finances, OSBA Legal Assistance Trust, and the Local Government Center Trust; explained that the board is reviewing draft audits and that completed audits will be included in the consent agenda of the March Board of Directors meeting for acceptance by the Board, noting that if necessary, a memo will accompany the document describing any substantive changes from the drafts being reviewed today. She then invited Fritz Duncan with Jones & Roth to review the draft audits. Duncan provided a general review of each audit, taking a moment to reflect on the positive audit summaries and each consolidated financial statements for all three entities.

Further discussion took place on the endowment and investment practices for all three entities.

VI. Signatory authorization for non-profit corporation

President Watson introduced the agenda item, signatory authorization, and requested the Board authorize OSBA President Dawn Watson and OSBA Executive Director Emielle Nischik to sign necessary non-profit corporation filings with the Secretary of State and IRS, noting that the authorization is required annually.

Motion: Steve Lowell moved the board authorize OSBA President Dawn Watson and OSBA Executive Director Emielle Nischik to sign necessary non-profit corporation filings with the Secretary of State and IRS. Seconded by Nancy Thomas.

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

Tracy Adevai: Yea	Karina Guzmán Ortiz: Yea	Brenda Rivas: Yea
Kraig Albright: Yea	Tristan Irvin: Absent	Clyde Rood: Yea
Jay Chick: Yea	Greg Kintz: Yea	Nichole Schott: Yea
Chris Cronin: Yea	Steve Lowell: Yea	Michael Selvaggio: Yea
Jackie Crook: Yea	Maureen Miltenberger: Yea	Randy Shaw: Yea
Laurie Danzuka: Absent	Clinton Nelson: Yea	Nancy Thomas: Yea
Katrina Doughty: Yea	Alonso Oliveros: Yea	Dawn Watson: Yea
José Gamero-Georgeson: Yea	Chrissy Reitz: Yea	Luhui Whitebear: Yea

VII. Executive Director's mid-year report

President Watson introduced the agenda item for the Executive Director's mid-year report and yielded the floor to Executive Director Emielle Nischik for her update. Nischik then referenced the report included in the meeting packet; provided additional information on OSBA's recent partnership with COSA to form the Oregon Network for Excellence (ONE), an initiative focused on bringing school board members, superintendents, and building level management together to provide best practices and ground-level information sharing in order to put together a cohesive system to create a vision for education for our state and a framework for advancements in educational excellence; noted that the membership dues for the year have been completed, there were no questions regarding the dues increase, and all previous members returned; then lastly brought attention to the department reports and staff action plan that were provided in the consent agenda, highlighting the final stage of implementation from the Coraggio Group initiatives and expressed appreciation for the Board Development department's work to provide increased training opportunities for board members and alternative conference structures.

VIII. Oregon School Board Members of Color Caucus update

Director Whitebear provided an update on the activities of the Oregon School Board Members of Color Caucus including completing the Engage to Change contract, completing a review of the Caucus's Bylaws, and filling vacancies on the Leadership Counsel.

IX. Oregon Rural School Board Members Caucus update

Director Adevai provided an update on the activities of the Oregon Rural School Board Members Caucus referencing the report included in the meeting packet, highlighting their legislative advocacy work for rural school districts, noting the training opportunities that were created through scholarship programs, and summarizing the advocacy workshop provided at the OSBA Annual Convention.

X. Oregon LGBTQIA2S+ School Board Members Advisory Committee update

Director Doughty provided an update on the activities of the Oregon LGBTQIA2S+ School Board Members Advisory Committee highlighting the legal review of the committee's charter and their excitement for the work in the next year which will now focus on the work as opposed to the structure of the committee.

XI. OSBA Governance Committee update

Chief Legal Officer and Deputy Executive Director Haley Percell provided timelines and work summaries for the responsibilities of the OSBA Governance Committee, including a review of the governance structure of the association, conducting the executive director evaluation, and shaping the Board's professional development.

The meeting recessed at 6:40 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

XII. Meet OSBA: Department Introductions

President Watson reminded everyone that the beginning of the year brings a new set of spam emails.

Each department director introduced themselves and gave an overview of the department's staff and the services the department provides to the membership.

XIII. Beyond Onboarding: Aligning for Purpose and Progress

Executive Director Nischik requested that board members watch the board orientation video, if they have not already done so, then continued with a deep-dive presentation based on the feedback received at the September Board Retreat around the difference between serving on the OSBA board and a local school board. Nischik provided an overview and appreciation of the extra responsibilities that are associated with the role of an OSBA board member; described the board's role to set and model the mission, vision, values, and goals of the association; then outlined the board's responsibility to claim ownership of OSBA's value and vision, and staff's responsibility to fulfill the mission and goals. Nischik reviewed OSBA's strategic focus and goals; then delved deeper into the Board's purpose to be stewards of the mission, providing strategic leadership, advocating for public education, and championing equity, by providing governance and oversight (governance committee), policy setting and adoption (policy committee), member engagement and representation (board), and advocacy leadership (legislative policy committee). Nischik finished the presentation by describing what an effective board looks like, outlining the importance and structure of strategic thinking, commitment to learning and staying informed, being prepared for meetings, and ethical stewardship.

Chief Legal Officer and Deputy Executive Director Haley Percell provided an introduction of herself and her current role at OSBA specifically noting what she can and cannot provide the board and its members as an attorney representing the association as a whole. Percell provided an overview of OSBA's legal status as a public benefit corporation pursuant to ORS Chapter 65 Nonprofit Corporation Statute and a public entity subject to Oregon public entity laws; talked about the difference between OSBA which is governed by Bylaws and local school boards which are governed by statute; described the legal duties of a director of the OSBA board being the duty of good faith, duty of due care, duty of loyalty, and briefly about board member personal liability; spoke about OSBA's outside legal council Bob Steringer, PACE, and the Legal Assistance Trust; and finish with a review of the board's responsibilities in terms of confidentiality, conflicts of interest, serial meetings, hiring and supervision of the executive director, and speaking on behalf of OSBA vs. speaking as an individual.

XIV. Meeting recesses until 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 24, 2026

President Watson provided closing comments.

The meeting recessed at 8:30 p.m.



OREGON SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, January 24, 2026, 9:00 AM

Salem Convention Center, 200 Commercial Street SE, Salem, OR 97301

Meeting Minutes

OSBA board members in attendance at meeting start: President Dawn Watson; President-elect José Gamero-Georgeson; Vice President Nancy Thomas; Secretary-treasurer Chrissy Reitz; Past President Chris Cronin (Zoom); Kraig Albright; Jay Chick; Jackie Crook; Katrina Doughty; Karina Guzmán Ortiz; Greg Kintz; Steve Lowell; Maureen Miltenberger; Clinton Nelson; Alonso Oliveros; Brenda Rivas; Clyde Rood; Nichole Schott (Zoom); Michael Selvaggio; Randy Shaw; Luhui Whitebear

OSBA staff in attendance at meeting start: Executive Director Emielle Nischik; Chief Legal Officer and Deputy Executive Director Haley Percell; Director of Finance and Member Services Jaime Conder; Director of Government Relations and Communications Stacy Michaelson; Director of Board Development Kristen Miles; Interim Director of Legal Services Michael Miller; PACE Administrator Dave Harvey; Communications and News Specialist Jake Arnold; Event Manager Charissa Geib; Information Technology Analyst Henry van Vuuren; Membership Database and Administrative Coordinator Meghan Peterson; Executive Assistant La’Nell Trissel

OSBA board members not in attendance at meeting start: Tracy Adevai; Laurie Danzuka; Tristan Irvin

The meeting reconvened at 9:06 a.m.

I. Welcome and roll call

President Watson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Roll call was taken, a quorum was present.

II. From Framework to Function: Review and Implement the Operating Agreements

Director of Board Development Kristen Miles introduced the purpose of the day's discussion to dig into the Operating Agreements and determine if the operating agreements guide how the board works, identify what's unclear or missing, draft language for improvement, and to collaborate in community.

Miles then facilitated a discussion to identify aspects that should be kept, fixed or added; prioritized items that needed revision; drafted replacement language for the top items; and provided preliminary feedback on drafts.

Miles will take the notes created during the meeting and propose draft changes at the next board meeting.

**** Nichole Shott left the meeting at 10:46 a.m. ****

The meeting recessed at 10:46 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

III. Board Impact & Performance Analysis

Director of Board Development Kristen Miles led board members through a facilitated discussion to review the purpose and importance of self-assessments; to identify any items on the survey where the wording might be unclear, ambiguous, or interpreted differently by different people; to find common understanding of identified items; to discuss how to make the results of the assessment useful; and reviewed the timeline for the assessment. The assessment survey will be conducted January 28 through February 11, with the results being reviewed by the Governance Committee to craft a recommendation for board professional development, and the recommendation being presented to the Board at its next meeting.

IV. Closing

President Watson provided closing comments thanking Miles for today's facilitation, thanked staff for all the work to host the board meeting, reminded everyone that the next board meeting is on March 15 at 5 p.m. via Zoom, and reviewed some additional logistics for the afternoon.

V. Meeting adjourns

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.