



OREGON SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION Governance Committee

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

OSBA committee members at meeting start: President Dawn Watson, President-elect José Gamero-Georgeson, Secretary-treasurer Chrissy Reitz, Past President Chris Cronin, Katrina Doughty

OSBA staff in attendance at meeting start: Executive Director Emielle Nischik, Chief Legal Officer and Deputy Executive Director Haley Percell, Executive Assistant La'Nell Trissel

Guests in attendance at meeting start: Sara Lechner and Jen Gray-O'Connor, Coraggio Group, LLC

OSBA committee members not in attendance at meeting start: Kraig Albright, Tristan Irvin, Luhui Whitebear

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 a.m.

I. Welcome and roll call

President Watson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

II. Approve agenda

Motion: Katrina Doughty moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Chris Cronin.

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

Kraig Albright: Absent

José Gamero-Georgeson: Yea

Dawn Watson: Yea

Chris Cronin: Yea

Tristan Irvin: Absent

Luhui Whitebear: Absent

Katrina Doughty: Yea

Chrissy Reitz: Yea

III. Approve minutes

Motion: Chris Cronin moved to approve the minutes of February 26 and 27 of the Governance Committee meeting as presented. Seconded by José Gamero-Georgeson.

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

Kraig Albright: Absent

José Gamero-Georgeson: Yea

Dawn Watson: Yea

Chris Cronin: Yea

Tristan Irvin: Absent

Luhui Whitebear: Absent

Katrina Doughty: Yea

Chrissy Reitz: Yea

**** Luhui Whitebear joined the meeting at 11:03 a.m. ****

IV. Project Background and Context

Jen Grey-O'Conner reviewed the day's agenda, led the group through an icebreaker and introduction activity, provided an overview of the planning session agreements, gathered

consensus for the use of an informal decision-making tool to quickly gather general feedback during conversations, identified where the group is currently in the project timeline/framework, and requested the committee's help in being positive advocates for the project.

Sarah Lechner then led the Committee through a process to set guiding principles that will inform the work of the project. Consensus was reached to establish the following principles:

- Effectiveness - Ensure governance structures enable the board to fulfill its core responsibilities: strategic oversight, policy governance, fiduciary accountability, and organizational leadership.
- Efficiency - Design structures that make purposeful use of staff resources and board member time. Every committee, caucus, and process should add clear value.
- Engagement - Ensure boards as entities have genuine opportunities to participate and inform decisions without creating administrative burden or unnecessary complexity.
- Representation - Balance representation between boards as fundamental units and districts serving larger student populations, ensuring all member voices carry appropriate weight while maintaining geographic practicality.

V. Organizational Chart and Responsibilities Table

VI. Lines of Authority and Decision-Making

VII. Pinch points and Opportunities

Lechner guided the Committee through an exercise to assess members' understanding of the current governance structure and to identify existing pinch points, framing the discussion through the lenses of effectiveness, efficiency, engagement, and representation.

Discussion topics included the roles and responsibilities of the board, its committees and caucuses; the current structural aspects of the board, its committees and caucuses; internal and external communication avenues; legislative advocacy; OSBA's elections calendar and board member terms; roles and responsibilities of ex officio advisors; impacts on staff; onboarding and offboarding processes; board demographics and representation; and board member accessibility, engagement, and accountability.

The meeting recessed at 12:36 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:56 p.m.

VIII. Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Lechner provided an overview on next steps for the "get clear" phase, including scheduling focus groups and interviews, participating in the survey, reviewing the insight report, and attending the Committee retreat scheduled for August 3.

IX. Meeting adjourns

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.