



OSBMCC General Meeting

April 30, 2022 (9 am to noon) a hybrid event.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

President
Sami Al-Abdrabbuh
Corvallis SD

Vice President
Neelam Gupta
Lake Oswego SD

Secretary
Helen Ying
Multnomah ESD

Treasurer
Sonja Mckenzie
Parkrose SD

REGIONAL MEMBERS

Erika Lopez
Hillsboro SD

Lori Theros
Klamath Falls City Schools

Michelle DePass
Portland PS

Luhui Whitebear
Corvallis SD

Kathy Wai
North Clackamas SD

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Jessica Arzate
Multnomah ESD

Narce Rodriguez
Forest Grove SD

In-Person Option: Bessie Coleman Elementary School

3838 NW Walnut Blvd, Corvallis, OR 97330

[Map of Bessie Coleman Elementary School](#)

Virtual Option: join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82756932251?pwd=ZzFoMDJzS1lTamkzckdVa1lyWlQvUT09>

Meeting ID: 827 5693 2251, Passcode: 032063

In attendance:

Members: Sami Al-Abdrabbuh, Bill Graupp, Helen Ying, Kathy Wai, Linda Hamilton, Neelam Gupta, Erika Lopez, Shauna Tominey, Sonja McKenzie, Satya Chandragiri, and Jessica Azarte

Friends and guests: Scott Rogers, Aaron Barrow, Richard Donovan, Betty Reynolds, and Shara MonDragon

Agenda and notes

1) 9:00 to 9:40 **Welcome, Introductions and Breakfast**

Sami welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared the renaming story of Bessie Coleman Elementary School. Bessie is the first black woman to fly and has been an inspiration for equity and access.

Shauna shared her story and memories. She also shared about how the new building was built with consideration of being trauma informed. A key focus was to elevate students in a new way.

A round of introductions of all in attendance was shared.

It's very exciting that our membership has grown. Two new board members of color recently joined the Eugene School Board.

2) 9:40 to 9:50 **Review [notes from the January 8, 2022 General Meeting](#)**

- Bill moved to adopt the Jan Caucus meeting notes. Sonja seconded.
- Kathy commented on her appreciation of the thorough notes.
- Sami commented that the information of the woman and color superintendents is very helpful and we should all pay close attention. He also shared the good news of more superintendents of color being added in the state.
- Meeting notes were approved.

3) 9:50 to 10:25 **Updates on action items from the Jan 8 general meeting**

a) **BIPOC Student Voice Project - Neelam (9:50 to 10:15)**

Neelam gave an update of the BIPOC Student Voice Project

See [Slides from Neelam](#) for background, purpose, design process and etc.

Current state of the project:

- We had low attendance at the first meeting in March
- We received feedback from students at the March session
 - promotion needs to be more student friendly.
- Understanding that students are dealing with a lot during this time of the many challenges.

Need feedback on how best to proceed:

In-person, virtual, regional, reschedule?

Suggestions:

- Recalibrate
- Early fall of 2022
- Plug into conferences already happening instead of a separate event?
- Bill - youth expressed that this is an adult problem and don't want to talk about it with the adults
- Sonja - need to send the message out in youth centered language. seek involvement from advisory groups. seek their assistance in promoting the event through social media. like Next up and its like
- Put together a group of youth to help with the planning and promotion
- Youth have the answers but they are feeling that their voices are not heard
- Go to where the students are and engage them in the planning

Shauna and Bill would like to join Neelam and Kathy in planning the next steps for the project.

b) Concerns of School board member candidate addresses being made public in the election process - Luhui and Rose (10:15 to 10:25)

Lu and Rose have been working on this project. Sami provided the updates. There are general concerns of safety of members of color safety serving on elected or seeking to serve on elected boards. Lu and Rose have collected information on the topic both from local and national practices. The legislators have also taken up the idea of address- redaction in discussion and they decided not to go forward with any legislative concept at this time regarding this topic. Sami indicated that there might be listening sessions about school board members safety early next year during the legislative session. Also a board members safety toolkit is being prepared and is expected to be released soon by OSBA in partnership with the Governor's office in response to the concerns the caucus members shared earlier last year.

OSBA has not been silent and has shared it with the Governor. OSBA funded a project - safety resource tool kit.

Discussion ensued:

- Continue to talk to advocates. Is working on drafting a bill. Need OSBMCC members to provide more specifics on what should be redacted.
 - Currently, it includes home address, work address, phone number to be private and less easy for people to access.
- Sonja recommends that we aim to work on a system that is consistent around the state instead of county by county.
- Bill reminded people that we should not have a false sense of security as there are many ways for people to track down an elected member's address.
- Satya agrees with Bill's point. We should look into a real solution for safety concerns and not a feel good solution.
- Linda echoed in agreement. Safety concerns are real. People are traumatized.
- Helen agrees with all the points and urges that we stay the course and recognize that it's one part of the changes needed to acknowledge safety concerns then add additional measures going forward.
- Kathy also acknowledged. Election worker protection bill makes it a misdemeanor that is passed. 2023 session is a good opportunity for us to testify

- Consider extending harassment concerns for local elected officials as well.
- Erika agrees that we need to spend time to continue the course. Safety measures for ourselves and look into improving the process and partners.
- Bill suggested that the League of Mayors would be a good partner.
- Sami recognized the good work that Lu and Rose are doing and asked for others who are interested in helping out to let him know.

4) 10:25 to 10:35 Updates of Caucus initiatives and accomplishments

a) NSBA Delegate Assembly and Statewide (Sami)

Sami was the minority delegate for Oregon. There were several constitutional amendments changes to NSBA including the addition of voting seats at the NSBA board for all Councils (the equivalent of Caucuses at NSBA). This will allow for a stronger voice for Urban, Black, Native American, and Hispanic Councils for the first time since NSBA's inception 80 years ago. The precedent of Oregon's Color Caucus having a seat on OSBA's board was highlighted in support of this change. Oregon and the Caucus were well represented at the NSBA convention. Attendees who were on the Caucus scholarship will be sharing their reports shortly. Color Caucus Members who would like to get involved with the rural caucus advisory committee may reach out to Color Caucus President Sami Al-Abdrabbuh sami@corvallis.k12.or.us

b) Regional (Caucus Leadership Representatives)

Rural Community Members Caucus - OSBA

Discussion ensued.

It's paramount that this caucus is representative of all voices and inclusive in raising opportunities and performance of students. Rural community board members will have an advisory group for a year with the potential of forming an official caucus in a year. The Caucus leadership will be available to support the advisory group especially with respect to the shared needs among rural communities and communities of color.

5) 10:35 to 11:20 Caucus Connections and Building Relationships

a) Building connections with the BIPOC communities and community leaders

i) Betty Reynolds, Past President, Oregon School Boards Association - Equity work at OSU Honors College (10:35 to 10:50)

Sami welcomed Betty and acknowledged Betty as a great advocate for the Caucus when she was the OSBA Board President.

Betty is excited to see the Caucus thriving. She stepped aside from a school board seat and is now supporting 3 members of color serving and leading. She currently serves on the OSU Honors College Board. Betty shared the key components of the OSU Honors College. Advancing diversity is a key component and has put goals in place to actualize that priority. She encourages students of color to apply for the OSU Honors College. Explanation could be provided if they do not meet the GPA, SAT/ACT score requirements. The applications could start now and encourage all to share the information with their school districts.

<https://share.icloud.com/photos/030rCpQ-DLM6XY3oDS32JGSrA>

Questions:

How to be proactive? Inform respective boards and superintendents and promote the opportunity.

Any connections for elementary and middle school students? STEM activism?
Betty will look into it and get back to us.

Betty thanked all for their service.

ii) Black Affairs Commissioner, Dr. Silky Booker (Founder of Oregon Black Chamber of Commerce) - he was unable to join us.

iii) Dr. Shara MonDragon, Licensure Barrier Reduction Specialist, Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission - Diversity Reimbursement Program (11:05 to 11:20)

Dr. MonDragon shared information about the [Diversity Reimbursement Program](#) with the group.

- Could this be a waiver instead of reimbursement?
 - Great question and will look into it.

- Feel free to email her if further questions come up, shara.mondragon@tspc.oregon.gov

6) 11:20 to 11:25 Caucus Leadership Council nominations

[See Article 6 of the OSBMCC bylaws](#)

[See notes from the 2020 General Meetings](#)

- a) The last nominating committee has been intentional in getting more new members to join the leadership council and representation from around the state.
- b) Kathy Wai will serve as the chair of the committee
 - Helen Ying will serve as a committee member
 - We need 3 more members to serve on the committee

Sami shared the background of the process. Erika provided more details. Jessica is able to help out until July.

Please reach out to Sami if interested to serve on the nominating committee or on the Caucus leadership council and officer positions.

7) 11:25 to 11:30 OSBA Summer Board Conference Workshop Topic

- a) Kathy Wai and Erika Lopez volunteered to help organize a workshop featuring the work, accomplishments, and initiatives of the Caucus and the vital role that the Caucus play in the Oregon schools.
 - How we came to be
 - Our goals
 - Our current work, accomplishments, and initiatives

Sami shared background for the workshop and asked board members present and those who were not able to attend today to share thoughts and ideas with Kathy and Erika and interests to participate.

Bill submitted a topic of local control for OSBA consideration. Short discussion ensued. Participants agree it's a relevant topic for OSBA members.

Others: Satya's request. Sami will check with LPC and the LC to see how best to proceed.

8) 11:30 to 11:35 **OSBA November Conference Workshop Topics**

9) [2022 Meeting Calendar](#)

10) 11:40 to 12:10 **Optional: School Tour**

11) 12:10 to 2:00 **Optional: Lunch social at Bier Garden**