



# OREGON SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

## OSBA Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

*Via Zoom*

### Meeting Minutes

*OSBA board members in attendance at meeting start:* President Sami Al-Abdrabbuh, President-elect Chris Cronin, Secretary-Treasurer Dawn Watson, Past-president Sonja Mckenzie

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

*Guests in attendance at meeting start:* Director Chrissy Reitz

*OSBA board members not in attendance at meeting start:* Emily Smith

#### **President-elect Cronin called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.**

##### I. Welcome and roll call

President-elect Cronin welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that President Al-Abdrabbuh will be joining shortly.

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

##### II. Approve agenda

**Motion: Dawn Watson moved the Committee to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Sonja McKenzie.**

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

##### III. OSBA Board of Directors meeting venue (in person vs. virtual)

President-elect Cronin introduced the subject of holding all Board of Director meetings in person, noting that the discussion is at the request of a Board member. Chief Legal Officer and Interim Deputy Executive Director Percell provided additional information about the request.

Further discussion took place regarding some shared frustration amongst some board members with technology; the lack of personal interaction; the expediency and efficiency of virtual meetings; the number of meetings OSBA holds; the monetary and staff resource cost involved with in-person meetings; the logistics and time availability of all Board members; the general increase in travel expense globally; connectivity issues and the potential to develop partnerships with local school boards or ESDs; the differences in effectiveness with in-person, hybrid, and virtual meetings; and the potential need for sharing data specifically around meeting logistics with the full Board.

The Committee reached consensus around what the calendar really is (regular meetings), that the Board is still meeting the same amount in person, that there is a need to be good stewards of

funds, that there may be a need to take measures that will increase the preparedness of Board members, that at this time the discussion does not need to elevate to the Board, and that there is a need for additional information to be presented to the Board.

The Committee requested that staff develop an information packet to be distributed to the Board, to include the Board calendar, a pro/con list, the average cost for in-person meetings, relative travel time for Board members, and the opportunity to provide feedback or submit further questions.

#### **IV. Receive feedback on previous Board meetings**

President Al-Abdrabbuh directed everyone to the survey results from the last Board meeting. Executive Director Nischik noted that the feedback was really positive and encouraged the Committee to review the data and consider the few concerns that were mentioned. Al-Abdrabbuh thanked the staff for all the work that went into making the meeting such a success.

#### **V. Legislative Roadshow - Update**

Executive Director Nischik provided an update on the Legislative Roadshow meetings, highlighting the increased effort to market OSBA services, the updated approach to gaining feedback and attendance lists for future follow-up and advocacy efforts, the increased personalization in the program development for each region, the increase in out-reach to the individual school districts in each region to capitalize on time and travel, an overview of the Willamette ESD meeting, and a preview of the upcoming meetings.

#### **VI. Review November Board of Directors meeting agenda**

President Al-Abdrabbuh and Executive Director Nischik provided an overview of the draft November Board meeting agenda.

The Committee requested staff look into holding the November Board meeting in a different room than what was used last year.

#### **VII. OSBA Board recognition at Annual Convention**

Executive Director Nischik brought a request from an OSBA Board member forward that the Board be recognized from the floor instead of from the stage to increase the connection with the audience, reduce staff workload, and in consideration of the length of this year's opening ceremony. The Committee discussed different ideas both for and against the current recognition process and determined that this was not the year to implement an additional change.

The request was made that staff work toward developing a plan for updating the practice in future years that includes a communication aspect.

#### **VIII. Evaluation of Caucuses Model**

Secretary-Treasurer Watson requested a history, intended purpose, and data that supports the effectiveness of the caucus model. Further discussion took place to clarify that an evaluation would need to include all caucus active at the time of the evaluation, that the caucus model has been the only model that has been placed before the Board for consideration and an evaluation of alternative models may produce a more effective or efficient way to accomplish the goals of the Association and each established caucus, that through any evaluation that takes place there will need to be a mindfulness for potential impacts to OSBA's equity work, that there may be a need for a pause in the acceptance of new caucuses to allow time for the criteria being proposed in the

bylaws amendments currently before the membership which adjust the caucus reporting requirements to take effect and have a full cycle to allow for results, that a communication plan may need to be developed if a pause is put in place for acceptance of new caucuses, and that any evaluation should include examples of working systems from other states.

The President will work with the Executive Director to develop a plan for review, education, and evaluation as necessary.

*\*\*Haley Percell left the meeting at 1:28 p.m.\*\**

**IX. President updates**

President Al-Abdrabbuh shared the outreach and appearances that he has engaged in over the last month.

**X. For the good of the order and requests for future Executive Committee agenda topics**

No issues were raised during this agenda item.

**XI. Meeting adjourns**

**The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.**