



OREGON SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION OSBA Executive Committee

Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 12:00 PM

Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

OSBA committee members in attendance at meeting start: President Chris Cronin; Vice President Dawn Watson; Secretary-treasurer Chrissy Reitz; Past President Sami Al-Abdrabbuh

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

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

President Cronin called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

I. Welcome and roll call

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

President Cronin welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Approve agenda

Motion: Sami Al-Abdrabbuh moved approval of the agenda as presented. Seconded by Dawn Watson.

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

Sami Al-Abdrabbuh: Yea

Chrissy Reitz: Yea

Dawn Watson: Yea

Chris Cronin: Yea

Emily Smith: Absent

III. Board mentorship program

President Cronin introduced the agenda item and yielded the floor to Executive Director Nischik. Nischik noted that there was a request to provide a mentorship program for new OSBA Board members made at the September Board meeting and asked if the committee members would like to move a mentorship program forward by directly partnering with one or two new board members. The Committee members were favorable to being matched with an incoming Board member to provide mentorship over the next year. Cronin and Nischik will facilitate the introductions.

IV. To consider attorney-client privileged information or records that are otherwise exempt by law from public inspection regarding legal advice

Past President Sami Al-Abdrabbuh declared a potential conflict of interest and recused himself from agenda items III. and IV.

All OSBA Staff, guests, and members of the public stayed in the meeting room while all Committee members, except Sami Al-Abdrabbuh, and invited staff and guests Emielle Nischik, Haley Percell, La'Nell Trissel, and Bob Steringer moved into a breakout room at 12:14 p.m.

***Emily Smith joined the meeting at 12:16 p.m.*

President Cronin led the Committee into executive session at 12:14 p.m.

Executive Session: 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; and ORS 192.660(2)(e)

President Cronin adjourned the executive session at 12:50 p.m.

All OSBA Staff, guests, and members of the public returned to the meeting room at 12:50 p.m.

V. Potential action item

Motion: Chrissy Reitz moved to recommend that the Board direct staff to work with legal counsel to hire an investigator to investigate complaintant allegations more thoroughly and to provide a report on their findings. Seconded by Emily Smith.

There being no votes in opposition and one abstention, the motion passed with the majority.

Sami Al-Abdrabbuh: Abstain

Chrissy Reitz: Yea

Dawn Watson: Yea

Chris Cronin: Yea

Emily Smith: Yea

*** Bob Steringer left the meeting at 12:57 p.m. ***

VI. Ex officio roles and responsibilities

President Cronin introduced the agenda item and yielded the floor to Executive Director Nischik. Nischik provided an overview of the recent amendments to the Bylaws pertaining to ex-officio members and highlighted the changes in their status. Ex-officio members are no longer automatically included in executive sessions of the Board, will not be included in privileged information, and will now be responsible for funding all costs associated with attending any OSBA meeting or event. Nischick noted that applicable updates to Policies as a result of the Bylaws amendments will be made as the Policy Committee continues its review of the manual. Al-Abdrabbuh provided additional information regarding his eligibility for expenses to be covered by OSBA for OSBA meetings and events as an officer, and that after his position as an officer has expired in 2026, he will request any subsequent reimbursement from NSBA.

VII. Governance structure review consideration

President Cronin introduced the agenda item and explained that there was a request by an OSBA Board member for a subcommittee review of the current governance structure of the association. Cronin further explained that the OSBA governance documents delegate review of the governance structure to the Governance Committee every three years. The last review took place in 2023, and the next review is scheduled for 2026. Further discussion took place regarding who should conduct the review and when the review should take place. A consideration of a review of the association's governance structure will be placed on the next Governance Committee agenda.

VIII. NSBA Advocacy and Equity Institute preparation

President Cronin led a discussion regarding the preparation meeting, homework, and logistics for the upcoming NSBA Advocacy & Equity Institute.

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

No issues were raised during this agenda item.

X. Meeting adjourns

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.