

OREGON SMALL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Seaside Convention Center Room Seaside B
June 16th, 2025 @ 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM PST

MINUTES

Dandy Stevens, Board Chair Open Board Position
Jim Helman, Vice-Chair Region 1 (Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook, Washington)
Eric Milburn, Past Board Chair
Open Board Member Region 2 (Clackamas, Marion, Polk, Yamhill)
Ginger Redlinger Region 3 (Benton, Lane, Lincoln, Linn)
Andy Boe, Board Member Region 4 (Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine)
Heidi Sipe, Board Member Region 5 (Gilliam, Hood River, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Wasco, Wheeler).
Gail Buermann, Board Member Region 6 (Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake)
Robert Medley, Board Member Region 7 (Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Union, Wallowa)
Krista Nieraeth, Open Board Position
Danielle Hudson, Open Board Position
Michael Carter, Executive Administrator: Lake County School District #7
Krista Parent, COSA – Executive Director of COSA
Morgan Allen, COSA – Deputy Executive Director of Policy & Advocacy
Raeshelle Meyer, COSA- Director of Professional Learning & Leading
Kyle Laier, Assist Education Services

In attendance: Dandy, Jim, Ginger ,Gail ,Andy, Krista N, Robert, Raeshelle, Krista P.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Chair: Dandy Stevens

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES of May 12th, 2025 Board Meeting (May need to wait until next meeting) First Ginger Second Jim passed 7-0 (On board member late)

3.0 Executive Report:

3.1

Executive Directors Report and Update: (15 Minutes)

a. NREA Pop Up Meeting report from Washington DC (Vouchers/SRS/Mental Health)
Michael discussed the current federal funding challenges and the group added a lot of insights. It is a challenging time and the SRS Bill is a major concern for many small districts in Oregon. In addition, Title Funding at all levels along with ELL funding, Food Services, and mental health supports just to name a few.

b. Superintendent awards Navy Sponsorship update 6/18/25.
The partnership is now official and the Navy will assist with sponsoring our administrative awards. The VIP project is moving forward but funding is still on hold but it could change anytime.

c. Membership and Dues discussion
The group discussed establishing and updating our fee schedules. A committee will be established and they will report back to the board by January 2026. The work group was formed committee was formed composing of Jim, Krista, Eric, and Michael

d. Summer Conference: August 4th and August 5th Eugene Oregon

Conference is at the Graduate Hotel with a focus on AI. Dandy and Danielle are presenting together and Michael also has a session.

e. Student Scholarships Update on Winners

Some scholarships have already been awarded to the various colleges/programs and we still have six that need to be awarded and these will happen this summer or early fall.

f. Miscellaneous: Conference Keynote Speaker Mistake, Vendors Reception is today 6/16/25 4:30 -6:00 p.m. Holiday Inn Express. OSSA board members are encouraged to help out and attend.

Michael reported that the Keynote speaking fee was over \$12,000 total, and that OSSA was responsible for \$5,000 which was missed and Michael apologized to the board for this major mistake requesting forgiveness.

4.0 REPORTS:

4.1 Budget Update and Membership Update: Raeshelle

Raeshelle provided a detailed budget update and there were no questions.

4.2 Legislative update: Krista Parent

Session has been a long one and a detailed report will be coming forward after the session is completed. There were a lot of bills and some of them didn't move forward which was good for education. The cell phone bill died, and so did some of the accountability bills, but there are a few that have made it through and that ODE will be writing new accountability standards and requirements for school districts to meet these new standards/requirements.

4.3 New superintendent support and process

At the Summer conference the new superintendents will be meeting together, and if any OSSA board members can attend, we will work to connect with our new colleagues and promote OSSA.

4.4 New Administrator(principal) Supports and Process. The group discussed how we can support the new principals and a lot of ideas were mentioned and discussed. In the future OSSA needs to design an action plan that could implement to support this important group.

4.5 Kyle Laird Assist Education Services: General Update

The board discussed the survey results and how or best use the input to assist in the development of the new steps to improve the OSSA performance and service levels. The board asked Kyle to renew the link to see if there would be more participation and offer another opportunity for members to provide feedback.

4.6 Board Chair Ideas for PD.(See attached List)

5.0 OLD BUSINESS:

5.1 Spring Conference Review and Final accounting - Raeshelle and Michael

The conference was a success and the survey results/feedback were very good, but with the current economic status of OSSA the conference costs too much, and OSSA needs to make adjustments. The discussion mentioned possibly having the conference every other year, combining and partnering with COSA's conferences and having special small school sessions(mini-conference within a conference). This new approach would be similar to what we currently do with the Law Conference and the OSBA breakfast at the board conference.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS:

6.1 Partnership proposal decision/guidance with Prism Investigations

The board discussed the PRISM proposal and they directed Michael to make a counter proposal with a yearly cap of \$5,000. Motion by Ginger Second Jim passed 7-0

6.2 Board member replacement Region 2, Regions 3(Ginger Moving On) and one Open Board Position with Krista Nieraeth going to SCSD
Krista N will remain in the open position since her new school district is also an OSSA member. Regions 2 and 3 will need to be filled.

6.3 Review and Modification of By-Laws
Chair Stevens provided a list of some suggestions for PD based on the survey results and the board indicated that the PD identified by Dandy has some great possibilities and value.

6.5 Executive Director's Position Discussion:
The board discussed the reorganization of OSSA governance. Is the Executive Director position needed and is there another way to provide leadership without the formal position? Dandy mentioned a change in By-Laws and having officers like the COSA Executive Board. Past Chair, Chair, Vice Chair, Future Chair, etc. Andy mentioned that he had talked with George Murdoc, one of the founders of OSSA and that George felt the position is needed to provide "The face" of the organization to the various state, federal and individual small school districts. After a larger discussion it was decided that more work needs to be done and Dandy, Jim, and Michael will review the By-Laws and design some proposed changes that reflect what the OSSA board has done in the past and what needs to be changed for the future. Evaluation of the Executive Director was discussed and Jim volunteered to work on this process and the consensus was made that he takes on the activity, and that he would report back at the next meeting. Dandy also wanted to be involved in the process and the next steps.

6.6 Report on committee budget meeting prior to today's meeting. Dandy, Jim, Raeshelle, and Michael met and OSSA is solid, but future funding concerns are very real. We need to have a work session and discuss our fee schedule, mini- add on conferences, paid positions, various contracted services, scholarships and other organizational expenses. Currently OSSA could not be as successful without the COSA partnership and support.

6.7 OSSA Superintendent of the year award will be presented on 6/18/25 at 8:00 a.m. in the Convention Center. Dandy and Michael will present the award.

6.8 Yearly Meeting Schedule
The board decided that OSSA will meet monthly on the third Monday at 2:00 p.m. PST. In the future the board will need to decide about meetings around the various state conferences like the COSA law Conference and the OSBA conference.

6.9 Good of the Order and Board Member Comments(Group communication and special support) Dandy asked that the website be updated and Michael will call Derrick at COSA and make the needed revisions, corrections and modifications.

7.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

7.1 Next Meeting date: COSA Summer Conference Monday August 4th in Eugene Graduate Hotel TBD with ZOOM link available.

7.2 Committee updates: Budget, Legislative, Budget

7.3 Summer Conference Eugene August 4th and 5th

7.4 Executive Director's Evaluation

8.0 ADJOURNMENT: Meeting ended at 1:50 p.m.

