

OREGON CITY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2015 EDITION

Message from The President

School visits to continue throughout year.

Hopefully your year is off to a great start. Our association depends on communication in order to make sure we are staying relevant to members. With this in mind, I will be in schools more often this year to accomplish my goal of strengthening this communication. So if you see me wandering around your building, please

know it is not because something is wrong, I am most often reaching out to touch base with members and visit classrooms and schools. I am excited to visit each building and hope to have opportunities to watch our colleagues in action, so perhaps we will see each other soon!

School Bd Work Sessions

Next planning meetings:

- Monday, Nov. 9th and 16th
- District office, downstairs conference room.

What is your vision for our future?

During a recent Board work session, I listened to the members as they focused on

their vision for what our schools will be like in 20 years. Hearing this, I wanted to pose some questions to all of you: "What is your vision of our schools in 20 years? What are your hopes and dreams for our students, staff, and community? What would you like the School Board to know in order to have an informed vision of the future?" I would love to pass along your thoughts to the Board, or better yet, sit with you at a School Board work session while our future is being discussed. So, please take a moment to think about your hopes and fears for this year and going forward, then share your thoughts with your building rep or me so we can advocate for your hopes and alleviate your fears.

Looking forward to hearing from you & thanks again for all you do,

-[Cindy Williams](#)

Forms Due!

HAVE YOU SIGNED AND RETURNED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FORM?

If you were employed with OCSD last year, you should have received a membership form with your name, address, etc. from your building rep. Please update your personal info, sign it, and return it to Brent Leong, OCHS. If you are unsure if you are a member, please sign up again. Let us know if you need a membership application and we will get one to you. If you are a new employee in OCSD, you need to sign a new membership application. Many of you did that at the Aug. 26 meeting. However, we still need to hear from several of you. Ask your building rep for the form.

Have you registered to vote?

To exercise your right to vote and sign petitions in Oregon, you must first register to vote. If you have changed addresses since the last election, you need to register again!

Paying More Than Your Fair Share? Ballot Initiative Launched: Get Involved

How can we get the schools our students deserve? Start with large corporations paying their fair share!

Calling all educators: the Better Oregon petition signing campaign has begun! This is our state's best chance for a stable funding source for education and senior care and our best chance for sustainable funding for our school district. OCEA is asking everyone to collect 10 signatures of registered voters to get this "big-business only" tax measure on the ballot for November 2016. Please talk to your building rep (outside of school hours), and make sure to attend meetings they hold to receive your signature sheet and learn more information about the campaign.

Oregon is currently 50th in the nation for corporate income tax rates. 50th! This bill would move us to 42nd. In short: for every \$100 dollars a corporation earns on sales in Oregon over \$25 million, they would pay \$2.50. Not exactly breaking the bank. Wal-Mart, McDonalds, and Starbucks aren't leaving Oregon over this. With no hope for more money from the legislature, local levies, or, gasp, a sales tax, this really is our best chance to create a stable funding source for education and seniors. And it's fair: your taxes have gone up in the last 30 plus years-- why shouldn't large corporations pay up too? "

How Can You Help?

Look for your building rep after contract hours or during lunch and ask to become a signature collector (we only need you to get nine other people to sign!). The first round of signatures are due on 11/4.

Visit [THIS LINK](#) to get the latest info!

Help us build the schools our students deserve.

Greater investment in our schools means that Oregon will no longer have:

- > the 3rd largest class sizes in the nation
- > the 2nd shortest school year in the nation, so Oregon students receive 1 year less instructional time than the national average
- > deep cuts to important programs like art, library services, P.E., and music
- > limited access to vocational training programs and community college tuition that is out of reach for many
- > cuts to academic programs and student support services at community colleges

Join us in standing up for the schools Oregon's students deserve.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- 1. Spread the Word** Talk to your colleagues about the Better Oregon campaign. We're standing up for the revenue that Oregon needs to thrive and grow.
- 2. Stay Informed** Join the conversation by liking the Oregon Education Association on Facebook, and sign up for updates at www.oregoned.org/betteroregon.
- 3. Sign the Petition** Look for the revenue petition this Fall and sign on the dotted line! Get involved and help gather signatures by talking to your building rep or local president.



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WWW.OREGONED.ORG

OCEA Officers

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OCEA Chairs

Communication- [Mike Haliski](#) Phone: 8381

Contract Maint.- [Cindy Williams](#)

Insurance- [Heidi Dahlin](#) Phone: 8300

Membership/Soc.- [Brent Leong](#) Phone: 8900

Political Action- [Alex Foz](#) & [Dillon Daniel-Hoffman](#)

Contract Maintenance Committee

Allan Brown, Cindy Williams, Karen Jenkins & Brent Leong, (Three seats vacant).

Getting Involved in Your Association A Primer

1. Read the OCEA newsletter, bldg bulletin boards, communiqués etc.
2. Familiarize yourself w/ the collective bargaining agreement & by-laws.
3. Contact your Building Rep. or a member of the Exec Team at the beginning of an issue so it can be resolved more efficiently.
4. Stay on top of OCEA & ed issues at local, state & national levels.
5. To the extent possible, always maintain cordial & fraternal relations w/ colleagues, admin(s) & assist in building trust & teamwork. Participate in association campaigns both formal and informal i.e., signature gathering and/or phone banks.
6. Support the efforts of the leadership team and colleagues that are working for all of us, even when you don't necessarily agree with everything. It is not easy & their effort is worthy of appreciation.

Great Ideas & Funding to Match!

Barb Drennan Promising Practices Grants:

Do you have a plan that could enhance your classroom skills or boost student achievement but need some funding to see if it works? Do you have an idea for a site-based professional development activity that could build partnerships but need some financing to get it going? If so, you need to apply for one of the BARB DRENNAN PROMISING PRACTICES GRANTS!

Barb worked as an elementary school teacher at Mulino Elementary for 36 years. Barb became active in the union early in her teaching career and served as President in her local association, President of the Willamette Falls UniServ Council, and as the OEA Board of Director for the UniServ Council. When Barb retired in 2008, she continued to play an active role in the UniServ Council by serving as the retiree liaison for the UniServ Council.

During her leadership in the Willamette Falls UniServ Council, Barb took pride to ensure the Council participated in the OEA Promising Practices Grant Program each year. It was her dedication to offering promising practices grants to members in the UniServ Council that gave rise to the notion that the Program should be named after her. Thanks to the efforts of the Willamette Falls UniServ Council leadership in attendance at the OEA RA in April 2015, the Program is now named the BARB DRENNAN PROMISING PRACTICES GRANTS! All applications need to be turned in to Karen Spies OEA Consultant, at the Willamette Falls UniServ office, 8800 SE Sunnyside Road, Suite 121S, Clackamas, OR, 97015, 503-659-2394 by Feb. 1, 2016.

To see other grants and get an application go to:

<http://www.oregoned.org/whats-new/explore-these-grant-opportunities>

Act Fast, Important Info Sessions Coming Soon

- **Licensure Workshop:** Teresa Ferrar (Consultant, OEA) returns for this popular session on changes impacting licensure (new rules were adopted in August!).
 - **October 29**, 4-5:45, Jackson Campus Rm A104 (old 17).
 - CPD's provided for attending.
 - Q & A session to follow presentation.
 - **R.S.V.P to [Cindy Williams](#) ASAP.**
- **Student Loan Forgiveness for Educators:** The Clackamas office of OEA in partnership with NEA's Member Benefits will be presenting an information session where you can learn more about the options available.
 - November 19th, 5:30-7pm.
 - Athey Creek Middle School, 2900 SW Borland Rd. Tualatin, 97602
 - REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 12th
 - How to Register: Email or call our local OEA office:
 - Willamette Falls: (503) 659-2394

FALL CONTRACT TRIVIA

Despite some well thought out answers to our last question, no one gave the one we were looking for. If a teacher let's their certificate expire, they will be removed from the classroom until they have a valid license. This also means they will also have to pay late fees, etc., an arduous process that is entirely avoidable. Check your license expiration date today!

Here is the Question for this month: "What are your attendance requirements for events held outside of the contract day that do not include parent/teacher conferences?"

Be the first to [email Cindy Williams](mailto:cindy.williams@orecity.k12.or.us) with the correct answer and you could win a prize!