OSBA Summer Conference Board Reports

2023 OSBA Summer conference

Pre-Conference, 8/11, Sessions Attended

- Board Superintendent roles and responsibilities
- Public Meeting and Ethics
- Educational equity and the role of the board
- The Board's role in school finance
- Board policy basics

I didn't expect to receive an award, but everyone that attended all sessions received a Bronze Award from OBSA Leadership Institute.

Day two, 8/12, Sessions Attended

- Welcoming and opening remarks
- Region Roundtables
- Board culture the impact of self-assessment and professional development
- Board leadership and the role of the chair
- General Session – Keynote speaker – Be the one, Dr. John W. Hodge
- Oregon School Board Members of the Color Caucus membership meeting

Day Three, 8/13, Sessions attended –

- Board leadership and essential parliamentary procedures for school boards
- Legislative advocacy and the role of the board

Overall, the conference gave me more insight as I entered my role as Chair and the sessions attended provided me with additional knowledge and Essential Motions for School Boards.

I was proud to see Sonja giving the opening remarks and glad that Eva Jeannette and Paul Tabron was able to attend and hopefully in November Elizabeth can be with us as well 😊

-Chair Rivas

Over the weekend of August 12, myself and four other members of the Parkrose School board had the privilege of attending the Oregon School Board Association conference. This conference proved to be a valuable opportunity for us to gather information and connect with fellow board members from districts across Oregon.

Among the various breakout sessions we attended, one particular session stood out as the most impactful. This session focused on how board members can effectively engage with their communities. During this session, there was an open and transparent discussion about the importance of being present and accessible to the community. I had the privilege of speaking during this session and sharing insights about the unique dynamics of the Parkrose community, emphasizing the significance of community engagement in our district.

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Following the session, I had the opportunity to connect with board members from other districts. We engaged in meaningful conversations, sharing experiences, and exchanging contact information. This networking aspect of the conference allowed us to establish connections and build relationships with other education leaders who face similar challenges and opportunities in their respective districts.

Attending this conference not only provided us with valuable information and insights, but it also reinforced the importance of community engagement in our role as board members. The discussions and connections made during the conference will undoubtedly inform our future decisions and actions as we continue to serve the Parkrose community.

In conclusion, the Oregon School Board Association conference was a rewarding experience for me and my fellow Parkrose School board members. The session on community engagement proved to be particularly impactful, and the opportunity to connect with board members from other districts was invaluable. We are grateful for the knowledge gained and the connections made, and we look forward to applying these insights to better serve the Parkrose community.

-Paul Tabron Jr.

Takeaways from the board conference:

- Board culture is created by all of us. Conflict isn't scary - it's combat that's scary.
- We model the way we communicate
- Boards impact student achievement
- Ongoing participation impacts the lives of our kids
- Questions to ask ourselves:
- 1. what do we want for our kids?
- 2. How are we doing with community engagement?
- 3. Use the data to help us reach our goals - but it's not the be all end all
- 4. Are we being culturally responsive?
- 5. Do we see ourselves as a learning org?
- 6. Are we being innovative and creative?
- 7. How are we doing re budget accountability?

The keynote speaker took my breath away as he took us on his journey from child-hood to today. It showed how the impact of ONE adult can change the whole trajectory of a child's life. It made me really aware that we have the power to change things. We can change the future when we come together and impact children's lives.

-Eva Jeanette Rawlins

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