

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF PUPIL SERVICES ADMINISTRATORS

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2015

The following is a summary of the various activities of the OAPSA Executive Director from the beginning of the school year. Further detail is available upon request.

The tri-fold brochure was updated to reflect changes in officers and meeting dates. A one-page flyer was designed to be used in place of the brochure, especially when used as an attachment to emails.

On September 22, 2015 I attended both the Ohio Coalition (OCECD) Executive Board and Governing Board meetings in Columbus. I am serving as Secretary on those Boards. I also attended meetings of both Boards on November 17, 2015. Reports on those meetings are given separately.

On September 29 through October 1, 2015, I attended the OEC Leadership Conference in Columbus. Although some of the aspects of the conference were disrupted (no food served, some sessions seriously overcrowded), there was good attendance. I spent the entire time at the OAPSA booth in the exhibit hall. This year, Wayne Fausnaught was also there because of the NAPSA conference to be held in Columbus in November. I talked with dozens of people and handed out OAPSA brochures and membership applications.

On October 20, 2015, I participated in a conference call set up by Brenda George to talk about some issues related to OT services in the schools. Brenda had received input from several members of her organization about concerns they hoped could be addressed. We agreed to meet at a later time.

Ashland University graduate credit was available for OAPSA members attending conferences last year and our intent was to offer it again this year. In addition, because NAPSA would be holding its national conference in Columbus in November, there was a request that Ashland University graduate credit be available for that conference as well. This involves filling out a several-page proposal to be submitted to Ashland University. I completed and submitted proposals for both OAPSA and NAPSA and both were approved.

On November 5th, I attended a meeting of an informal workgroup that had been set up by Ann Brennan, OSPA Executive Director. Ann and I had been talking since the middle of the summer about the number of school districts in Ohio that have open positions for school psychologists. The workgroup consists of representatives from OSPA, OAPSA, SSTs, ESCs, and university school psych programs. We will be looking at identifying action steps to address short-term and long-term factors related to the current shortage. I submitted a summary of notes from that meeting.

On November 6th, I attended a meeting in Columbus organized by Brenda George with a focus on OT issues in school settings. Attending were Brenda from the OT Association, I represented OAPSA, Craig Burford from OESCA, and representatives from the Elementary Principals Association and the Secondary Principals Association. A number of issues were identified that warrant further study.

I attended the NAPSA conference in Columbus starting at Noon on Sunday, November 15th primarily to be available to sign up attendees for Ashland University graduate credit. There was no way to predict the number of attendees who would sign up for graduate credit but the number who did was below what we had hoped; only three people signed up.

On December 4th I attended the Committee of Practitioners (CoP) meeting in Columbus. The meeting was timely in that there was recent action on the reauthorization of the NCLB Act. The House had agreed to revisions in what is now being known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Senate was scheduled to vote on the amended bill on December 9th. One area of concern is that the ESSA still contains measures on the percentage of students graduating in four years (and also in five years). This is in direct conflict with IDEA's requirement that a student may remain on an IEP to work on needed goals and objectives until he/she turns age 21. School districts are actually penalized when IEP

students do not graduate from high school in four or five years despite the fact they are following IDEA mandates. It is my recommendation that OAPSA takes action to support the resolution of this conflict in ESSA.

It is important to remember that OAPSA's Executive Board is extremely active and engaged working on behalf of all OAPSA members. There are literally hundreds of emails that go back and forth among the Executive Board and also emails are sent to others such as OEC leadership and consultants. It is my responsibility to be able to stay on top of these developments and to be a resource to the Executive Board either in terms of seeking out and providing needed information or in terms of fulfilling various assignments as directed.

Submitted by Dr. John Opperman
OAPSA Executive Director