

# OHIO ASSOCIATION OF PUPIL SERVICES ADMINISTRATORS

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 9, 2016

The following is a summary of the various activities of the OAPSA Executive Director since our late-September conference. Further detail is available upon request.

On September 30, 2016, I participated in a Committee of Practitioners (CoP) phone conference call. Dr. Karen Hall also participated in that conference call. There was a second conference call in late October and there will be another conference call on December 9<sup>th</sup> (same day as our OAPSA conference so I will not participate). Dr. Hall is planning on participating in that meeting. Over the past few months, there have been a total of 11 webinars presented on the various key elements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Along with the seminars, ODE published a discussion guide for each. I have reviewed those discussion guides and have used that information to participate and provide input to the CoP process that is helping to develop an outline for a draft ESSA plan to submit to the U.S. Department of Education. The ODE Office for Federal Programs also distributed a comprehensive ESSA survey which included a total of 35 items on which the Office of Federal Programs is requesting input. In early December, the final regulations for state plans, accountability and reporting requirements were issued by the U.S. Department of Education. The regulations provide a time extension for states to submit their ESSA state plans. For that reason, the 12/9 CoP meeting agenda was modified to only include a discussion of the CoP bylaws which have not been revised for many years and a discussion of the results of the ESSA survey that was distributed. An on-site CoP meeting is expected to be scheduled in January to focus on submission of Ohio's ESSA state plan under the extended timetable.

In early October I mailed a packet containing a dozen OAPSA flyers to each of the 16 SSTs with a request that the flyers be shared with new student services / special education administrators in the region.

On November 15, 2016, I attended both the Executive Board and the Governing Board meetings of the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) in Columbus. Based on the re-issuance of an RFP for the long-delayed annual grant from the Office for Exceptional Children (OEC), the Coalition submitted a bid for the grant. The parameters of the project and the grant process are somewhat different from the former grant. It is likely to be late December or January before the outcome of the grant award will be known. The Coalition continues to implement actions to reduce costs because of the significant drop in funding experienced this past year. The main feature of the Governing Board meeting was a presentation given by Dr. Sue Zake, Director of the OEC, which provided updates on a number of important topics. I took detailed notes of her remarks which were distributed to our members so they will not be repeated in this report.

In November, the final report of a workgroup that had been set up by Ann Brennan, OSPA Executive Director, to address the shortage of school psychologists in Ohio was issued. A survey of these shortages and a preliminary report was shared with the workgroup members last May. Members of this workgroup represent some of the nine university school psychology programs in Ohio as well as administrators and school psychologists from school districts and ESCs. There was also representation from OEC and a few statewide organizations. I was a member of that workgroup from the beginning. After summarizing the issues and the results of the survey, the report issues several recommendations. These recommendations are directed to local policy makers (school boards, ESCs, etc.), state policy makers (university training programs, Ohio Board of Regents, ODE, etc.) and also include a variety of individual recommendations.

Ashland University graduate credit is again being made available to OAPSA members this year. Because we will be having five conference days (two-day February conference) this year, there is an option to register for

two graduate credits for those members attending all five days. Otherwise, members can register for one graduate credit. The process of setting up OAPSA being able to facilitate Ashland credit involves filling out a several-page proposal to be submitted to Ashland University for approval, tracking registrant participation during the year, evaluating the “reflection papers” submitted by the participants and then submitting grades to Ashland U. Last year, only four OAPSA members signed up for graduate credit, but this year we will have at least 10 members registered.

Over the past two months I have remained in touch with ODE/OEC, OSPA, OCECD, CoP and other groups and representatives. There are several key current issues and areas of concern and OAPSA maintains a level of participation in each.

Submitted by Dr. John Opperman  
OAPSA Executive Director