



Report on Ohio Coalition for Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD)

September 28,2018

I attended, as a guest, along with Dr. John Opperman, the OCECD Executive Committee Meeting and the OCECD Governing Board Meeting on September 25, 2018. Due to procedures that are in place at OCECD, I am still in process of transitioning into these particular roles which Dr. Opperman held. John and I started this process in spring of 2018. The “state-wide organization position” on OCECD Executive Committee is open again. OAPSA had been in the particular position for years but gave it up when Dr. Opperman became Secretary for that Executive Committee. The individual who had held that state wide organization position in recent years has become an officer now for that Executive Committee and so that state-wide organization position is open again. It’s anticipated that I will be elected to fill that state-wide organization position as a representative of OAPSA at the upcoming November OCECD Executive Committee meeting. OAPSA Executive Board has designated me as the representative for the OCECD Governing Board.

OCECD thanked Dr. John Opperman for his years of service to the Coalition. It’s noteworthy to explain that John first started with Coalition back in 1972-73 when the Coalition was just a concept. He served as Secretary back in 1973 and again returned to that role in recent years. Now as John, retires from that role as Secretary he has come full cycle.

The OCECD sent flowers on behalf of the Exec Board to Margaret upon the recent, sudden and unexpected death of her husband.

Information for Parent Mentors and their District Reps to note:

- Orientation new Parent Mentors coming up on October 3.
- Spring conference for Parent Mentors and District Reps will be March 20 at Xenos in Columbus – so save that date.

Also, Ohio Coalition is offering webinars now. First one was held last week for Parent Mentor and District Reps. It went well and is archived now for future viewing.

Walter Burley Award – Burley Award is new and is in honor of Margaret Burley who retired as Executive Director from OCECD on July 1, 2018. It has been added to Franklin B. Walter Award. Burley Award is one award given to an exceptional parent annually. Details are still being worked out.

OCECD was very pleased with the surprise retirement party for Margaret Burley and it was really a special day. A beautiful proclamation was read. All agreed it was a wonderful celebration of Margaret's career and are very thankful that it was a great day and that Bill, Margaret's husband who just recently passed away, was there with Margaret on that special day.

Brenda George from OOTA reported that she did 7 trainings this summer along with John McGee (OEC) at all of them and SST 13 reps also helped to present. This was first time they had success from OEC in regard to help. 280 OT practitioners attended. I explained to group that I attended the training in July and I commended Brenda for doing an outstanding job of explaining about the new IEP's and ETR's. Districts have contacted Brenda to come in and repeat that training. Brenda George also reported that Representative Tim Shaffer organized an Interested Party meeting held in August 2018. They are working through problem areas with MSP billing so there's not a professional conflict.

HB 115 – New Law - Communication Disability Self Identification - Verification

This passed in May and was effective August 1. Officers approaching a vehicle will be notified that there may be someone with a communication disability in the vehicle prior to approaching in order to reduce any potential misunderstandings or communication problem. Officer won't know what the disability is but person can self-disclose. Discussion revolved about how to get word out about this new law.

OCECD is in process of revising Constitution and Bylaws - They really did deep dive into research on their Constitution. So, all members on Governing Board need to read/review and be ready for discussion at November meeting.

Annual Report for 2017 was distributed and will also be emailed. This is based on 2017 data.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Stelzer

OAPSA Executive Director