



## Report on Ohio Coalition for Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) for Dec. 4, 2020 OAPSA Business Meeting

I serve as the Representative for OAPSA on the Governing Board of OCECD which has 31 Member Organizations. I also serve as the Statewide Organization Representative on the OCECD Executive Committee which has 11 Members. I participated in virtual meetings with the OCECD's full Governing Board on Sept. 23, 2020 and again on Nov. 17, 2020.

Highlights from those OCECD meetings included:

- Awarded PTI grant for next 5 years – thanks to all who helped!
- Submitted bid for Parent Mentor project from OEC (due Nov.4)
- Received a mini grant extension to ensure no gap in services of Parent Mentors (for Nov. – Dec. 2020)
- PACER subcontracted with OCECD again and was awarded grant which ensures that Project Launch (transition work) continues
- Reviewed job descriptions and salary structure with goal being to have more transparent, cohesive, and competitive salary schedule
- OCECD has been hosting virtual platforms for other agencies but always have a disclaimer that indicated ***“The view and opinions expressed by the presenter are not necessarily those of the Coalition.”***
- OCECD held the new parent mentor orientation virtually and they redesigned the experience. OCECD, OEC, OCALI, OSU Family Engagement, OOD and SST's and more created videos that were posted before the Friday October 2 session for attendees to watch whenever they were able to do so. Then the Friday event was a panel of parent mentors with breakout sessions after. They had lots of positive feedback about the structure, information and learning that occurred.
- Governing Board approved the final Annual Report (which was sent to OAPSA members in November following that November meeting).

I'm excited to report that Greg Browning visited with us during our November meeting. Some of you may recall that Greg Browning was very instrumental in working with the Ohio Coalition to get the funding formula to six weights in 2001. The Ohio Coalition has contracted with him again to facilitate the OCECD's re-entry into advocacy. Greg Browning, along with Howard Fleeter, updated us at our November meeting about House Bill 305 which includes school funding policy reforms that may

eventually become law. It's also cosponsored by House Speaker Bob Cupp. However, according to Greg Browning, significant special education funding reform is not included in that House Bill 305. So, our OCECD's Governing Board decided to spend dollars to contract with Greg and Howard to do an analysis comparing Ohio's special education funding to other states' special education funding. That will likely result in a white paper completed by January 15, 2021. This would be the first stage of an attempt to accurately describe the state of special education funding in Ohio and would be first steps for Special Education reform in Ohio in a way that will provide OCECD with sound special education funding policies that could be advanced within the context of the introduction of a new FY 2022-2023 state operating budget in early 2021.

We also voted to contract with Columbiana County ESC to help us develop a strategic plan (pending positive references) and to discuss with Courtney Salzer, who works with nonprofit boards, assisting us with board functionality. We will also get her advice as to whether that's better to do before or after development of our new strategic plan.

Also, I wanted to mention to you that Dr. Lisa Hickman, along with Marbella Caceres, did a joint presentation with OAPSA President Sarah Walker and former Executive Board Member Paul Kidd at OCALICON. The title of their presentation was ***Successfully Navigating Special Education Team Meetings for Parents and District Staff*** and they did an excellent job.

So, overall, there's a lot of excitement happening at OCECD right now and I'm excited to hear Dr. Lisa Hickman, Executive Director of OCECD talk with us at this December OAPSA conference so all of you can get to know her better. The next meeting for OCECD Governing Board is March 23, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Donna Stelzer*

Executive Director of OAPSA