

Meeting Notes Summary

OCASA Representative Board Meeting
with Superintendent Vasquez and Deputy Superintendent Armbruster
September 18, 2025 (4:30-6:30 pm) at Armando's Restaurant

Attendance: Dr. Marie Vasquez, Dr. Michael Armbruster, Dr. Anna Diaz, Dr. Amy McHale, Dr. Karena Chunoo, Dr. Guy Swenson, Teresa Saffold-Washington, Sanjay Brown, Joni Casamento, Adriene Anderson, Nathan Hay, John Miller, Rebecca Watson, and Scott Weidl

Legislative Updates & IDEA Funding

- IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) funding is at risk; Congress cut ~15% despite promises.
- Rep. McLean (R-MI) is co-sponsoring IDEA legislation (Senate Bill 1277 / House Bill 2598).
- Florida delegation influences due to presidential ties; need to mobilize parents locally.
- Legislative Committee (23–25 members) will meet on Monday to strategize.
- Urban Five districts (Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Hillsborough) will meet virtually on Sept 30 to discuss IDEA and FBFT (funding redistribution).

Scholarship Golf Tournament

- Planned for March 5.
- OB will lead the event for high school scholarships.
- Discussion on whether scholarships should be for members' children or future educators.
- Criteria and application process to be finalized.

School Board Engagement

- Encourage diverse board member participation at school events.
- Board members mentioned: Stephanie Vanos (highly engaged), Anne Douglas (increasing engagement), Vicki Felder (District 5), and Angie Gallo (running for chair).
- Suggest inviting the chair to events due to the lack of assigned schools.

Transportation Issues

- Ongoing bus delays, especially for self-contained classrooms.
- Friday routes are more punctual due to high school football incentives.
- Need better communication between transportation and schools.
- Suggest tracking and reporting late buses to board members.

After-School Pickup Challenges

- Catalina Elementary is facing late pickups (up to 11 hours/day).
- DCF involvement delayed; discounted after-school programs underutilized.
- Need strategies to incentivize timely parent pickups.

Teacher & Staff Concerns

- Teachers are overwhelmed with IEP/504 input forms.
- Suggestion: provide substitute coverage for form completion.
- Lack of IDEA funding impacts general education resources and raises.

Professional Standards & Support

- Three administrators successfully supported through professional standards.
- Emphasizes the value of OCASA membership.

Upcoming Events & Trainings

- General Membership Meeting: Wednesday (date TBD).
- Agenda: Officer reports, committee updates, bylaws, PLC promotion.
- Legislative Training: Monday, 4–6 PM at ELC, Conference Room A5.

Membership Development Series:

- Oct 8: ParentSquare training with Shari Bobinski & Jason Stokes.
- Follow-up session with Dr. Leanne Blackmore & Dr. Smith on contract understanding.

OCASA Day:

- Social media blitz to promote membership and engagement.
- Canva templates and suggested captions provided.

Membership & Cadre Updates

- Push for 100% membership drive.
- Clarify roles: Representative Board, Executive Board, Cadre Leads.
- Need an updated list of cadre leaders for scholarship and event planning.

Contract Book Discussion

- Interest in reprinting the physical contract book.
- Consider including MOUs if still valid.
- Suggest weekly “hot topic” highlights in newsletters.

CTE & National Representation

- Desire to have OCASA representation in national associations (e.g., CTE).
- Scott or Teresa may represent in national CTE discussions.