Members present:
Janet Brunecz President
Rob Kubick President Elect
Lew Sarr Past President
Krista Hickman Secretary
Lynn Brumfield Treasurer
Ann Brennan Director of Legislative Services & Professional Relations
Cheryl VanDenBerge Business Manager
George Csanyi Nominations and Elections Co-Chair
Chuck Archer Proxy for Linda Seekatz, East Central Rep.
Laura Gabel Public Relations CoChair
Juliette Madigan Cleveland Representative, NASP Liaison
Debra Liddy North Central Representative
Valorie Wolcott-Mendelson AFFIC Liaison
Elaine Semper Elyria/Lorain Representative, Spring Conference Co-Chair
Kristine Quallich Kent/Akron Representative, TOSP Newsletter Editor
Susan Johnston Fall Conference Co-Chair
Erich Merkle Technology Chair
Jay Bahnsen Central Representative, Fall Conference Co-Chair
Kristie Prough Kent/Akron Representative, Awards Chair
Kathy McNamara Professional Ethics Chair, IUC Liaison
Julie Thomas Guest, Intern
Denise Eslinger Guest, returning to school psych
Mary Ann Teitelbaum Cleveland Representative, OPA Liaison
Nina Andrews Public Relations Co-Chair
Barbara Scholl Legislative Co-Chair
Jill Payne Northwest Representative

Call to Order  10:07

Approval of Agenda
Add to Committee reports:
Nominations and Elections TOSP

Motion Passed

Approval of Minutes of November meeting

Motion: Kristine Prough
Second: Susan Johnston
Passed

President's Report  Janet Brunecz

All Hazards Advisory Committee has met twice since out last meeting. There was a lot of talk about Hurricane Katrina. The major problem has been that kids have mental health needs that are not being addressed. Janet provided the committee with the NASP website and the resources there.
Community Emergency Response Training – if you want to be on the list as a first responder, you have to be trained by the Ohio Citizens Corps.

www.serveohio.org
www.ohiopublicsafety.com

Janet went to the NASP regional meeting and presented to the group. OSPA is the oldest state school psych organization. The other states have different issues than we do.

Ohio Alliance of Pupil Services Organizations – is just getting organized – Ann Brennan is the one who is putting this together. OSPA is not officially sponsoring it. It doesn't need to be a line item in the budget.

NASP – Julie and Janet will be attending the “School Crisis Prevention and Intervention Curriculum” meetings (March 28-April 1). The deadline to register is past. There are two slots per state, some of the states aren’t using their slots, anyone interested has to let us know ASAP.

NASP would like OSPA to sponsor the 5K run again for $150. Our name goes on the T shirt.

Motion to approve: Lew Sarr
Second – Elaine Semper
Passed

Someone e-mailed Janet and asked where our logo came from. Kathy McNamara said the logo was changed in the 1960’s and was cleaned up a little in 1989. The lamp is for education and the Psi is for Psychology and the “other thing” is Ohio. We used to be School Psychologists of Ohio – SPO. At the time of the name change in the ’60’s the logo changed.

Treasurer's Report

2005-2006 Second Quarter Report

- Intern Conference shows a deficit. This will clean up.
  - ODE never told us how to turn back unused money from last year. We returned that in December.
  - ODE changed the policy this year. We spend the money first and they reimburse us. We have not been reimbursed yet.
  - Interns who want to be reimbursed for rooms need to send documentation ASAP. We are closing out the books. Deadline would be Feb 21.
- Minority Scholarship -$ 2523.50 was generated by the raffle, we will send a flat $3000.
- Fall Conference was extremely successful. Record success! Fiscally successful.

Motion to approve the second quarter report: Juliette Madigan
Second: Jay Bahnsen
Passed

FAC - OSPA will be using credit cards, put card number on the conference registration form, VISA and MasterCard only at first. There is a $38.75 yearly fee for point of sale plus per transaction fees. It will cost OSPA $1500 a year to allow point of sale credit card use. Credit card registration will not be available on the Internet because it has become very expensive. We will be able to use credit cards for conference registration, PR at conferences, starting at Spring conference this year.
Indiana has asked for information about our office. What we have, who we pay, parameters of what we do. Our region starts in Ohio and heads west to Oklahoma and Iowa. They are always interested in what OSPA does, what our office does. We are sooo blessed. There are many states where everything resides in the president's basement and gets hauled from one place to another yearly. No secretarial help or maybe a temp during conference time. In some states the president is responsible for running the conference each year. Lynn will send some generic information. Helping them develop a professional office is something we can do.

Hotel Contracts – FAC needs to have oversight on the contracts.

The conference chairs are telling us that the nicer hotels don’t want to bid our conference because of what we are willing to pay. The hotels know that we expect the workshop rooms to be free, this limits our options. Spring 2006 at the Netherlands – meeting rooms are free, parking is expensive, hospitality and other rooms we use will cost us instead of being free.

- Going to the same place gives us negotiation advantages.
- Needing a larger ball room moves us into more expensive places.
- OSPA conferences are really cheap compared to other flyers we get for less impressive speakers.
- When we tell the hotel the # of rooms we want, we have to pay for 80% of them, even if we don’t book them.
- The hotels agree to not charge for ball room rental if we get enough rooms.
- This fall only two hotels offered bids – the hotel where we were last year and the Marriott in Dublin.
- So many people don’t understand that the deadlines are the deadlines. The room rates are gone and the rooms may be gone.

**Business Manager’s Report**

Cheryl VanDenBerg

Membership chairs could not come. We need to approve the new members.

**Motion to approve new members:** Lynn Brumfield

**Second:** Kristie Prough

Passed

**Director of Legislative Services and Professional Relations Report**

Ann Brennan.

Lots of problematic stuff going on at the statehouse! Lots of action on education bills

**HB 115 – ODE is endorsing it, the ESC bill, it will probably pass.** It is organized around SERRC districts. There will be councils among stakeholders to determine who will serve whom, RFPs for being fiscal agent, multi layers of councils to determine how regions will be organized.

**HB 276 – the anti bullying bill – passed the house this week.** Looks like this will go through. Requires school boards to adopt an anti bullying policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation and bullying of any student on school property or school activity and must comply with the definition of bullying in the bill. An intentional written, verbal or physical act that one student has done to another student more than once….abusive, threatening or intimidating… An amendment on the floor would require local school boards to be fully informed of bullying incidents. There is also a bill out that has the EMIS reporting in it. The senate companion bill would require it to be on the district report card.

Policy must include:

- Procedure for reporting prohibited incidents to the school principal or other administrator.
- Parents or guardians be notified
- Procedures for investigating reports of bullying
- Procedures for protecting the victim from retaliation
- Procedures for discipline for the perpetrator
- Must be in student handbooks
- Districts could adopt ODE’s model policy, at least at first

Reporting Mechanism – district administration must notify president of the board in writing of each incident.

Immunity from civil liability clause for school district employees, volunteers, and students for reporting bullying if in compliance with the board policy – no individual liability as long as follow policy!

Training – to the extent that state or federal funds are appropriated for these purposes, each school district SHALL provide training for employees and volunteers and the training shall count toward professional development requirements.

HB 256 – passed house education committee this week…the bill that requires a set number of hours per year of school, rather than days.  Have to make changes by board approval.  Under this bill we would no longer have calamity days, just allows them to extend the number of hours to make up missed days.  Ann says it would give districts the possibility of going to four day weeks, and other changes that are not allowable now.  Has the flexibility to have reform initiatives too – doesn't pin you down to the current day, high school class periods.

The worry is that budget crises could lead to reduced school week.  The only restriction is that you can't include Saturdays and Sundays.

HB 431 – special ed voucher bill – BAD bill, dangerous.  Ann passes out position statements – one from league of women voters and one from council of administrators of special education (from IDEA re-authorization).  She plans to pull from these for her testimony.  There is also a whole ton of info on Google – the Florida voucher program.

The bill allows any child who is identified and has an IEP to have a voucher (scholarship) that goes to the parent of the child to take to any private program (not necessarily a school) for the amount that the local school district spends in state and local money for that child or the tuition where the kid goes, whatever is less.

Pretty much mirrors Florida law, which doesn’t require these programs to comply with any state or federal laws – depends on parent satisfaction.  Does say ODE would have to approve any programs that the parent wants to use the voucher for.

Must meet minimum BOE standards – doesn’t cite operating standards
Criminal records checks for employees
Credentialing for teaching, non teaching professionals – have to meet BOE requirements, but doesn't cite licensing standards.

Doesn’t specifically require IDEIA compliance!  When parents take this voucher, they sign off on the district’s provision of FAPE.  If the school isn’t taking federal funds, they may not have to comply with IDEIA.

Florida has had special education schools pop up in the 2 years their voucher law has been in place – 70% or more of the students at these schools have IEPs.  Parent satisfaction is high, but student outcomes have not been substantiated.

There is a good chance of the bill passing.  Legislature likes vouchers.

Parent satisfaction is often high, but has no relationship to student outcomes.  Studies often show high parent satisfaction with programs, even with programs with documented negative outcome.

John Peterson from Delaware is the sponsor of the bill.  He has an autistic child.

There are a number of private organizations coming into the state.
White Hat, Life Skills…

A number of these don’t report truancy,

Under the bill a community school is not considered a child’s district of residence, therefore, an IEP developed by a community school does not count for a voucher.  The bill doesn’t allow community schools to receive vouchers.

Potential benefit of vouchers: a board member gives an example of an area that had a number of private schools open as soon as the autism voucher came in.  The area public
schools had not been providing much other than home instruction at the time. Now in response, public schools have a great program for autism kids.

Ann fears the Powers That Be will see this as a way to improve public school services, without looking at the reduced capacity of the public schools.

OSPA needs a major legislative effort to educate the legislature about the issues we have.

HB 473 – first hearing in committee – moving slowly – she doesn’t think it will pass, but…

Creates a career ladder – merit pay. Requires that a teacher’s salary be based:
50% on a traditional collective bargaining
10% on students’ performance in classroom compared to prior year
10% on peer review
10% on parental and student evaluation (except problem student)
10% based on school district goal improvement
10% based on building goal improvement
Higher pay for math and science teachers

Committee Reports

Spring Conference Committee Sal Karanouh-Schuler and Elaine Semper
The hotel is charging us extra for everything – hospitality room, ethics room – won’t let us bring our own food and drink in. SWOSPA was not happy about having to buy hotel wine and beer. There will be no hospitality room. They are looking at other locations. Across the street there is another place – they will set up tables there and have information about places to go in Cincinnati. The younger members find OSPA hospitality boring and want to know where the hot spots in town are. There will be raffle tickets (free to people coming to the “hospitality”) for meals at restaurants around town.

2006  Cincinnati, Netherlands Hotel
Janet Graden  Response to Intervention
Malinda Baird  Legal Updates

2007  Cleveland, Beechwood Hilton
Dawn Flanagan  Cross Battery Assessment

NASP Update Juliette Madigan
Juliette brought the Ohio donations for the NASP children’s fund auction for us to see:
Two dolls, including a preemie and a little boy; jewelry donated by the designer.
Is there a cut off for the silent auction?
There is a cut off to be listed in the book, which is past. No cut off for bringing stuff.
Regions can bring items to auction separate from OSPA.

The NASP blueprint was posted last night on the NASP members’ only website. You can comment on it now.

NASP members – don’t forget to vote! Voting starts in March.
Two wonderful people are running for NASP president

OPA Update Mary Ann Teitelbaum
APA has diversity as a goal. OPA took it upon themselves to try to create a more diverse board and organization. They won an APA award for diversity. They have had training, recruited members, etc.

Ethics chair for OPA contacted Mary Ann and wanted to know if OSPA could increase collaboration with our ethics committees.
OPA is struggling with what is the role of the psychologist. With competition from social workers and counselors, OPA is pursuing allowing psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medications.

There is a bill in the legislature that would reduce the requirements for a Psychologist’s license. Not major changes, but the State Board of Psychology doesn’t like it. There was a discussion of the cost of maintaining a State Board of Psych license for those who do not use it often. It was suggested that such psychologists work under somebody else’s license and supervision when or if they want to.

Nominations and Elections

The nominations at fall conference worked very well – lots of nominations, from around the state. They put the nominations into a data base, and designed two letters, one for nominees who are members of OSPA, one for nominees who were not OSPA members. The OSPA operations manual requires committee members to be OSPA members, requires officers to be OSPA members, but does not require candidates to be members. This seems a little inconsistent.

Jay Bahnsen made a Motion to amend the OSPA Operations Manual to state:

Candidates for association offices must be current members of the association.

Second: Krista Hickman
Discussion: none
Passed

Candidates must have vitas in by the middle of February.

George just got the numbers of joint members (regions & OSPA). He’ll be in touch with who needs to nominate a representative.

NE region – some question as to whether they had adequate notice to let OSPA know their joint members. George will contact Stacey Direnzo.

Motion to approve the candidates for state association officers: Elaine Semper
Second Juliette Madigan
Passed

TOSP

Janet Brunecz (for Kris Quallich who had to leave)
If you have any university connections, remind them we’d like articles.
Send articles, Send Articles, SEND ARTICLES!!!!
Send comments on changes in TOSP to TOSP@ospaonline.org

Unfinished Business
NONE

New Business

Revision of Constitution

Rob Kubick & Janet Brunecz
Cheryl made copies of the committee information and distributed it to the committee chairs.

- Any changes need to go to Rob by March 17, 2006.
- We revisit the constitution every 5 years.
- Proposed amendments all involve the operations manual / bylaws.
• We will need a vote at the spring meeting to amend the constitution to read “operations manual” rather than “bylaws”.
• Rob needs some help with the language of the proposed amendments.

Issues:
Research requests for mailing labels –
We have always been protective of our members’ information. We need some kind of policy for access to the information, research could be part of that policy. Some idea of the standards we use to determine whether the merits are good. Shouldn’t we have some criteria for commercial requests, someone to review to be sure it is consistent with our mission? We need to be thinking about electronic information – asking OSPA to send out the information – posted on the website, sent out on the list serve, etc. Right now Erich monitors that. We need to create a consistent stream of decision making, so that it doesn’t become personal.
Rob has been working on a proposed policy:
- Executive board will put the “kibosh” on excessive requests
- Requests go directly to the OSPA office.
- Put a statement of OSPA’s policy about members’ data in the manual.

Research and Technology will be the new title of the committee

New regional organization – none of the regions are in the operations manual now.
- Do we want to put them in?
- Leave them all out?
- Map of Ohio showing the counties and regions they encompass?
- Rob has a map, showing all but the new ones.

Rob will get us a draft of the constitution for approval at the next meeting.
When we update at the business meeting we will have to change the website too.

60 day Limit for MFE’s
Scott Gill
Scott isn’t here but Ann poses his question
Question: How is 60 days defined?
Answer: Calendar days until Ohio changes rules.
ODE has been taking the stance that the 60 day limit doesn’t really change current Ohio rules, just subdivides the time frame in a slightly different way. ODE feels that we still have 90 days from parent permission – just instead of 90 days that covers everything; we now have 60 days for the MFE and 30 for the IEP.

Mt. Gilead Model
Debra Liddy
There is a situation in Morrow County. Mt. Gilead schools used to buy Psychological services through the MidOhio ESC. They decided to go out and get Psychological services on their own. They couldn’t find a psychologist, so they trained a guidance counselor to give IQ and Achievement tests. The protocols are sent to a local clinical psychologist to read the protocols and write a report. Cost to the district is minimal. Now an additional school district (Cardington) has notified the ESC that they are going to use the Mt. Gilead model. The ESC has been told that it is not illegal.
Discussion:
How ethical is this for the clinical psychologist?
- He never sees the student. The only info he gets is from the protocols
What about the team meetings, who can interpret the report?
- They just read the report aloud
ODE told them that nothing is in violation!
Is this Ok with the State Board of Psychology?
- The counselor administers the test; the clinician interprets it and writes a report
Is the counselor trained to administer it?
   The person who was doing it was, but she’s not there anymore.
There needs to be a supervisory capacity for the State Board of Psychology to get involved.
Someone would need to register a complaint with the State Board of Psychology.
Any consumer can register a complaint.

Motion to adjourn:  2:51
Motion:           Krista Hickman
Second:          Debbie Liddy
Passed

Change in date!!!!!

*Next Executive Board meeting will be Thursday, March 23 in the GYM at COSERRC.*