Ohio School Psychologists Association
Executive Board Meeting
March 30, 2001

Members in Attendance:

Pete Tolan  Office for Exceptional Children
Susan Johnston  Spring Conf. Co-chair
Brenda Stevens  Professional Development
Janet Brunecz  KAASP Reg. Rep./Fall Conf.
Mary Ann Teitelbaum  OPA/OSPA Liason
Chuck Archer  East Central Rep.
Reuben Mosidi  MVSPA Rep./Nominations and Elections Co-chair

Stephanie Stollar  Southwest Rep.
Ann Brennan  OSPA/Director of Leg. Affairs
Juliette Madigan  Proxy: Gail Fadel, Past Pres.
Sharon Rieke  President/OSPA

Pat Lehman  Treasurer/OSPA
Barb Scholl  Legislative Chair
Louise Cardenzana  Awards Chair
Caven Mcloughlin  Research/Technology
Paul Soska  Multicultural/Diversity Chair
MVSPA Rep.
Mary M. Link  Secretary/OSPA/Central Reg. Rep.

President Sharon Rieke called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. The following proxies were introduced: Juliette Madigan for Gail Fadel, Pat Hurley for Valerie Lee and Sue Johnston for Jay Bahnsen.

Sharon reviewed the agenda for the meeting and asked if there were any additions. Under New Business, several additions were added to the agenda: Private Practice chair, School Psychologist Day, Science Day and E-policy. A motion was made to approve the agenda with the additions.
Motion: Sue Johnston  
Second: Juliette Madigan  
Motion: Passed

The minutes of the January 26th Executive Board Meeting were reviewed. A correction was made under the NASP report which should have included Michelle DelValle and not Sharon Rieke as attending the Public Policy Institute in Washington D.C. Also, under the Professional Relations report, Ann stated that SB1 and SB 2 should be interchanged in paragraph one. And in the second paragraph, instead of the Final Report of the Joint Committe being listed, it should have been the OCECD Report which outlines the special education finances in Ohio. A motion was made to approve the minutes with these corrections.

Motion: Daniel Bender  
Second: Pat Lehman  
Motion: Passed

Treasurer’s Report - Pat Lehman

Pat reported that the FAC committe met prior to the Board Meeting and approved $ 2500.00 in the budget to be allocated for technology. A printer is needed for the OSPA office, as well as a basic laptop. The committee will need to meet with Caven to discuss what we have in the OSPA office and what we will need for future use. Pat reported a balance of approximately $80,000 which is a carryover as we had last year. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer’s report.

Motion: Sharon Rieke  
Second: Lew Sarr  
Motion: Passed

Business Manager’s Report - Ann Brennan

Ann Brennan reported for Cheryl, who was absent due to a death in her family. Ann reviewed Cheryl’s report and answered any questions.

NASP Liason
President’s Report - Sharon Rieke

Sharon reported that she will be meeting with the Governor’s Commission on Student Success regarding diagnostic testing and the linking of it to intervention. She will be proposing a curriculum based model approach, such as CBM or DIBELS. She hopes to heighten their awareness of what intervention means.

Two areas of concern were expressed by Sharon; namely, regional areas and committees. According to Sharon, the North Central region has a very limited number of members with limited participation. The potential membership in that region is 30. There are 16 members of North Central who are members of OSPA. Lew Sarr reported that many psychologists in that region state that OSPA has no relevance to their lives. Sharon stated that perhaps doing things the way we’ve always done them isn’t working anymore for OSPA. A second concern centered around committee membership. Many committee members are saying that they are not getting notified about meetings. Sharon felt that our upcoming Planning Conference in June may need to focus on “Who is OSPA and Who are we representing?” It was felt that we need some younger members to get involved in OSPA and the Executive Board. Reuben stated that it’s a commitment issue to give of your time to OSPA and that we need to confront those people to get involved. The areas of discussion that were expounded upon at length by many Board members included: 1) time commitment/involvement, 2) professional development, 3) the structure of OSPA, 4) committees, and 5) technological capabilities of the organization to stay on the forefront and continue to exist. Sharon recommended that these issues be the agenda for the June Planning Conference.

Spring Conference Update - Sue Johnston

Sue reported that we have 25 people registered thus far for the Spring Conference. On Wednesday, after the Executive Board Mtg., dinner is being planned as a group. The hospitality suite will be Maumee Valley’s responsibility to supply refreshments. Spring Conference is scheduled for May 2, 3 and 4th at the Holiday Inn French Quarter in Toledo.

Fall Conference - Janet Brunecz

Janet reported that the following hotels have been secured for the upcoming fall conferences: University Plaza Hotel for the 2002 Fall Conference and the Mariott North for the 2003 Fall Conference.

Public Relations - Sharon Rieke
Sharon reported that May 11th has been tentatively set aside as our School Psychologist Day. Each year, we must ask the Governor for a day, and we are currently waiting for his decision. The Governor always makes the Proclamation and it must be proclaimed every year.

Nominations and Elections - Reuben Mosidi

Reuben reported the following slate of officers for this year’s election:

   Secretary: Mary M. Link
   Cynthia Lindberg

   Pres.-Elect: Chuck Archer

   Clev. region: needs one nomination

Awards Committee - Louise Cardenzana

Louise reported that there is no Honorary Life Membership Award this year. For Best Practices, Carolyn Vandamur of Fairfield City Schools has been nominated for her DIBELS program. A motion was made to accept this nomination for the Best Practices Award.

Motion: Stephanie Stollar
Second: Pat Lehman
Motion: Passed

Louise reported that Janie Groh of Medina City Schools has also been nominated for her Parenting Education support groups of difficult children. A motion was made to accept this nomination for a Best Practices Award.

Motion: Daniel Bender
Second: Janet Brunecz
Motion: Passed

For the Bartlett Award, Elizabeth Bard of the Akron City Schools has been nominated. A motion was made to accept her nomination for the Bartlett Award.

Motion: Lew Sarr
Second: Daniel Bender  
Motion: Passed  

Louise expressed her concern regarding the limited involvement in people nominating individuals for awards. She said she is having difficulty getting help from the regions to make nominations. Ann Brennan expressed that she felt we need to be promoting ourselves more as an organization, via the Newsletter and Website. Perhaps we need to be more clear on what OSPA does as an organization. Louise said that nominations are needed for the Ohio School Psychologist of the Year Award and that these must come from the regions. The deadline for submission of nominations is the end of July.

Ann asked the Board if we should honor John Herner who has retired from the Director of the Office for Exceptional Children. OSPA has available a Presidential Award and a Certificate of Appreciation Award that could be used to honor him. A motion was made to present a Certificate of Appreciation Award to John Herner at the Spring Conference.

Motion: Chuck Archer  
Second: Juliette Madigan  
Motion: Passed  

Technology/Research Update - Cavin McLoughlin  

Caven stated that what he was about to say was not meant to be personal in any way, nor to attack anyone on the Board. He said that OSPA is a professional learned society whose sole reason for being is the Gathering and Disseminating Information to its members. That is what happens at conferences, through the Newsletter, the work of the Professional Relations Manager, the website and that is why the Executive Board meets today. He went on to say that we are in a New World when it comes to information retrieval and sharing, and that is where a technology focus for OSPA comes in. Caven said that he had two basic points to make. First, the nature of OSPA’s relationship with its membership in light of the changing characteristics of that membership, and second, it is his belief that some of the ways that OSPA has served its membership (and done so very well, in the past) may become non-feasible in the future due to rising costs, and may also become ineffective due to the power of the competition. Caven addressed these two issues to the Board in depth. He said that OSPA needs to tune its approach in ways that reflects the world that these new entrants to the profession know well. Having an OSPA office that uses state of the art systems for gathering and sharing information is one way to tune the organization. He felt the OSPA Newsletter must be brought back into the fold. That means, for example, having announcements about future content on the OSPA website and listserv, solicitations to prospective authors via e-mail, and an online archive of past issues so that it is more than a digest of other states’ publications. As far as conference advertising, Caven said that different and exciting marketing tools are needed to get our school psychologists attention. The OSPA conference look and means of getting the information out has not changed in the last two decades. He went on to say that
OSPA has a vibrant webpage that attracts a thousand visits a month. About two-thirds of them are from within Ohio, and of those about half are repeat visitors. That’s an impressive and cost-effective service for its essentially a free service to the Association. He said we have a listserve that can instantly message over 300 OSPA members. Yet, on that free service we get no updates on the Executive Board Meetings, Committee reports, Officer reports, News about upcoming Conferences and speaker information, nothing about the Newsletter, no teasers about future OSPA activities, etc. etc. Caven said the bottom line is if OSPA is to attract and retain as members the folks he earlier characterized as the MTV generation, then we will need to use the information technology that today is fast-paced and highly demanding professionals use. That is all they know. That is their norm. Anything less and this organization gambles with being viewed as an irrelevant dinosaur. Caven said to achieve this state we need to re-tool OSPA. We need to insist that the membership can access information electronically; we need to build an expectation among OSPA Headquarters staff, Exec. Bd folk, and Committee Chairs, about the need for timely/prompt information exchange, and generally maintain an image as a vibrant professional forum for generating and disseminating information. Caven concluded his report with saying that there are many technology alternatives for OSPA’s information gathering and sharing role, and if we don’t invest in them NOW then we may continue to have a shrinking constituency of new entrants to the profession who choose to affiliate with OSPA.

Sharon suggested that the Board members continue to discuss these issues presented by Caven over lunch. An Action Plan is needed which would have a commitment on how to use the technology we have available to us.

**OPA Update - Mary Ann Teitelbaum**

Mary Ann spoke about a law on insurance parity that mental health issues are deemed less important. There is also a law being discussed regarding sexual misconduct with clients. There has been a short discussion on opening up the psychology law and if revisited, our former definition of school psychology would be readvocated for.

**Office for Exceptional Children - Pete Tolan**

Pete reported that a SIR Monitoring meeting was going on today at CO-SERRC. He said that they are working on reshaping SIR to be closer to the Self Improvement Model. It assures compliance with minimum regulations and moves towards encouraging people to set goals for themselves for self-improvement. Pete said that the Office for Exceptional Children has moved downtown and that a new Director may be hired next month. At the present time, Ed Kapel is acting Interim Director. In regards to Model Policies and Procedures, they are disseminating the first round of questions. A first draft including questions/answers will become available and possibly show up as a Web document. Pete thanked those Board members who helped with the Intern conference this year. He said next year’s class of interns will increase to around 95, while this year’s was 80. There are 78 interns going into the
job market. On the Rules Revision, Pete said there is an advisory panel of 25 members who will review the proposed language. It will take 3 or 4 work groups to get the language ready, but they are beginning to look at where they left off. This fall, the advisory panel will hopefully make recommendations to the State Board.

**Director of Legislative Services and Professional Relations- Ann Brennan**

Ann reported that an historical perspective on budget proposals can be found on OSPA’s Legislative Update. The General Assembly will reconvene after spring break on April 21. Ann passed out the Legislative Analysis and reviewed it for all Board members. On page 29, Ann suggested we look at the section on “the use of diagnostic assessments” and on page 10, she referred to the section on “the development of diagnostic assessments”. These were the main issues Ann reported on to the Board. Ann also reviewed the Ohio Coalition booklets. Lastly, Ann spoke about the liability insurance to private practitioners: e-Policy and passed out a letter to all Board members from Taylor Smith, Director of Association Sales. It was suggested that FAC meet prior to the next May Board Meeting to discuss this Affinity Relationship Program in more detail.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business to be reported.

**New Business**

Caven reported on the State Board of Psychology ruling. He said that school psychologists employed by school districts are exempt from supervision. However, third party employees are subject to supervision by the State Board of Psychology. An opinion has been asked of the Attorney General if psychologists are restricted to work as independent contractors in schools without the supervision of the State Board. There is the possibility of allowing psychologists to work as independent contractors in districts and individuals to independently contract with schools.

Paul Weingartner resigned after our last Board meeting from the Private Practice committee. Thus, a chair is needed for the Private Practice committee.

The State Science Day is coming up on April 28th. It will be held at Ohio Wesleyan campus. Sharon suggested we donate money from our organization. Individual donations are encouraged, as well as individuals are needed who can judge projects. Grades 7-12 have an interest in the behavioral sciences.
A motion was made to adjourn at 2:41 p.m.

Motion:  Lew Sarr
Second:  Paul Soska
Motion:  Passed