The OEA Board of Directors met on Saturday, September 21, 2013. The Board accepted the financial reports for July 31, 2013, set the 2013-14 internet rate of reimbursement of the Board of Directors at $25 per month, approved funding up to $50,000 out of contingency fund to fight the Cincinnati Retirement System ballot initiative, and approved an amendment to the Union Defined Contribution Pension Plan.

After an Executive Session, the Board approved the employment of Sheryl Mathis as OEA Executive Director, effective December 1, 2013. Ms. Mathis is currently the Executive Director in Arizona. She has a long history of Association work in Oklahoma, Colorado, and Kansas as well as Arizona. Ms. Mathis was chosen from a group of outstanding candidates after an extensive search process. She will be replacing Larry Wicks when he retires on December 31, 2013.

The Board also approved the 2013-14 Core Function Committee charges. Jeff Rhodes was elected as a Board of Directors representative on the FCPE state council and Becky Miller and Sandra Lewis were elected as alternates to Jeff Rhodes and Janifer Trowles, respectively.

President Higgins outlined her expectations for the Board and the Officers and the great opportunity to form teams. There has been a strategic start of the Association. There is much to learn about each other. She has set aside ten days in October and November as a "District Day". In an effort to be more visible to members, she will work in a local in each OEA district. The President to President email will focus on Common Core and how it is impacting teachers' lives. One of her goals is to celebrate the good news and good works of Association members.

Vice President DiMauro outlined the agenda for the legislature when they return in October. These include:

- Medicare expansion
- Voter suppression
- School safety
- Common Core and
- Constitutional modernization

The implementation of GASB rules will force school districts to show their retirement liability in 2015. STRS service credit purchases must be made by the end of the year. We are part of OhioNOW, a broad coalition fighting the concept of blind adherence to tax cuts for the purpose of tax cuts.

Mr. DiMauro also outlined the Straight A Fund. This is a $25 million fund of competitive grants funded through lottery proceeds. Members need to work with their administration to create a sustainable program. Scorers are needed; there is one day of training and a stipend of $100 per application scored. October 4 is the deadline for applications for scorers; October 25 is the deadline for grant applications.

We are supporting the Service Employees International Union in Columbus in a display of union solidarity. Their members' average salary is $18, 000 per year.

Secretary-Treasurer Myers presented information on the OEA Affiliate Grant process. Applications are due by January 22, 2014. For the Fiscal Fitness Award a new criterion has been added; proper tax return

documents must be completed and submitted for the Award. He also discussed the OEA Expense Form and the proper submission of expenses.

Executive Director Wicks gave a report on the OEA Representative Assemblies. We will be a Veterans Memorial in December 2013 and May 2014; however, that facility is scheduled to be torn down and replaced with a park. Other sites for the RA's are being investigated and a plan through 2016 is being investigated. He also introduced David Williams who will manage Communications and Governmental Relations through February 2014.

Ms. Trowles gave the NEA Directors' Report; they meet in Washington this coming weekend.

Mr. Myers gave a report on STRS; the current valuation of investments is $69 billion; Apple, Inc. is the top holding.

Mr. Oberhaus presented a report on the Educator Standards Board.

There was an Executive Session to discuss manager salaries.