

BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



Boards should choose delegates for annual business meeting

Boards of education are entitled to send a delegate to the Annual Business Meeting of the OSBA Delegate Assembly, held Monday, Nov. 13, at the Capital Conference. Add this task to your next meeting agenda to ensure your district is represented. Your board's selected delegate and alternate should be indicated on your district's OSBA roster. Visit <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/delegates> for instructions on appointing a delegate and indicating them on your roster.

1997 OSBA president, current SE regional manager Paul D. Mock dies at 70

Paul D. Mock, OSBA southeast regional manager and 1997 president, died Aug. 21. He was 70. Mock served as a school board member at **Perry-Hocking ESC**, **Logan-Hocking Local (Hocking)** and **Tri-County Career Center** for 16 years. He also served on numerous OSBA region and state committees. After retiring from board service, Mock served for 24 years as southeast regional manager. "He visited countless school districts and served as the face of OSBA to the Southeast Region," said Chief Executive Officer Dr. **Kathy McFarland**. "His dedication to his family, OSBA, school board members and public education was unparalleled."

Showcase student art and programming at the Student Achievement Fair

OSBA invites you to submit your district's most unique and innovative student accomplishments for display in the Student Achievement Fair at the 2023 Capital Conference. The fair provides a chance to share the accomplishments your students are most proud of with educators from all over the state. OSBA is accepting nominations for the digital art show and for student program booths, which can showcase anything from science projects to service learning groups. Districts may submit as many programs as they wish, but space is limited, so be sure to prioritize your best and brightest. Nominations close Oct. 27. The conference will be held Nov. 12-14, with the Student Achievement Fair taking place Monday, Nov. 13. For details and to submit nominations, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SAF23>.

Be informed about upcoming changes to the Ohio Department of Education

With the passing of House Bill 33 during the most recent Ohio General Assembly, the role of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) will change significantly in October. The legislation creates a cabinet-level agency, the Department of Education and Workforce, which will take over most ODE and State Board of Education functions. As the school year begins, districts can orient themselves to the changes by staying informed. Preliminary details about the new department structure and transition are available at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/ODE-DEW-changeover>.

Aug. 28, 2023

Volume 55 Issue 16

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Route workshop information to:

- Administrators
- Principals
- Communication specialists
- Transportation supervisors

OSBA's Media Honor Roll nominations due Sept. 15

School districts spotlight high-quality coverage of education issues by nominating local journalists for the Media Honor Roll. Created to foster respect and constructive dialogue between educators and the media, the Media Honor Roll is a great way to show appreciation for the reporters, journalists and local television and radio stations who keep the public informed about your school district. Details on the nomination process have been emailed to superintendents and communications directors, and are posted at www.ohioschoolboards.org/osba-media-honor-roll. The deadline is Sept. 15.

Register soon for Capital Conference special events

Seating for the OSBA Black Caucus Dinner and Monday Conference Luncheon during the

Bay Village student spruces up elementary school

Students at **Bay Village City's** Normandy Elementary School are in for a unique surprise when they return to class.

Senior **Archer Williams**, a Boy Scout working on his Eagle award, refurbished an overgrown path on the grounds of the elementary school, which he attended.

"(The path) is relatively close to the school, in a kind of wooded area," he told a local newspaper, "And I thought it was in disrepair, with a bunch of puddles and standing water for about a year. And some parts of the old path were overgrown with weeds and grass."

The path connects a butterfly garden and an outdoor classroom, which Archer's friend and troop mate **Nicholas Lucak** created for his Eagle Scout service project.

Source: cleveland.com

2023 OSBA Capital Conference is filling up fast. All conference attendees are invited to purchase a ticket for this year's Black Caucus Dinner, which will feature a student panel discussion, The Future of Education: A Story in Their Words, as well as networking, conversation and

recognitions. The Monday Luncheon will feature an uplifting keynote from motivational speaker **Sam Glenn**, whose presentation, Attitude Changes Everything, helps audiences learn how attitude works and how to use it. Tickets for these always-popular events are limited, so don't wait — register for the 2023 Capital Conference now at conference.ohioschoolboards.org.

OSBA online

● www.ohioschoolboards.org

As districts prepare for the new school year, legal, policy and management questions frequently arise. What can I expect as a new board member? What are the up-to-date best practices for onboarding new teachers? Find answers at www.ohioschoolboards.org/resources-topic, a one-stop shop of quick law references for school district leaders compiled by OSBA's legal department.



Briefcase

Ohio School Boards Association
8050 North High Street, Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43235-6481
(614) 540-4000 ● (800) 589-OSBA
www.ohioschoolboards.org

OSBA President: **Christine Varwig, Toledo City**

OSBA Chief Executive Officer: **Dr. Kathy McFarland**

Editor: **Katherine Gregor**, editorial manager

Layout and design: **Jennifer Rowe**, communication design manager

Assistant editor: **Scott Gerfen**, senior communication manager

A one-year subscription to Briefcase is \$150 for up to 15 subscribers. Briefcase also is available electronically by email. For more information, contact Susie Cinadr at the address or fax number above or email scinadr@ohioschoolboards.org. Briefcase is published semimonthly by the Ohio School Boards Association. Postage paid at Columbus, Ohio. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Briefcase, Attn.: Data Operations Center, Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 N. High St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235-6481.

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Leading the way as the respected voice of Ohio public education.



BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, senior administrative assistant of communication services

Other searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Assistant treasurer	Liberty Union-Thurston Local (Fairfield)	Until filled	April L. Bolyard , treasurer, Liberty Union-Thurston Local (Fairfield), (740) 862-4171

National searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Abbeville, South Carolina	Sept. 1	Judy LeGrand , executive assistant to the executive director and superintendent search coordinator, South Carolina School Boards Association, jlegrand@scsba.org

Administrative changes

Superintendents

Manchester Local (Summit) hired Dr. **James Robinson** as interim superintendent effective immediately. He replaced **Shaun Morgan**, who retired Aug. 3. Robinson was previously the district superintendent. ••• **McComb Local (Hancock)** Superintendent **Tony Fenstermaker** announced his resignation effective Sept. 30. He took the director of finance position at **North Baltimore Local (Wood)**.

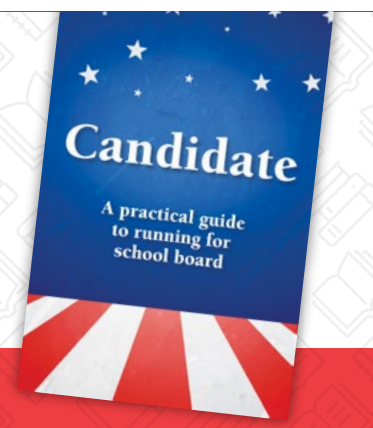
Sympathies

Former **Columbus City** Board of Education member **Leon L. Troy Sr.** died July 30. He was 97. ••• Former **New Bremen Local (Auglaize)** Board of Education member **Emma “Rita” Heitkamp** died July 31. She was 86. ••• Former **Northmont City** Board of Education member **Edward L. Doria** died July 30. He was 94. ••• Former **West Carrollton City** Board of Education member **Florence “Sue” Lowry Webster** died July 31. She was 86.

CANDIDATE

A practical guide to running for school board

This OSBA publication answers commonly asked questions related to getting started as a candidate. Topics covered include management of the campaign committee, financial reporting and ethical issues.



Purchase this and other publications at: www.ohioschoolboards.org/catalog



COMMUNICATIONS

by Candace Wilson, communications consultant

School-readiness tips to reengage for a new school year

As students begin learning in a new year, they need to reengage their brains after a long summer break. Summer can be a time of significant learning loss for students of every age, and teachers spend class time bringing them back up to speed before introducing new materials.

Some parents don't know this, or they don't know how to address this. Schools can help parents jump-start the learning process with at-home practice — not formal homework but rather activities that help kids get back up to speed academically.

Schools can share learning tips at the start of the new school year. Teachers may have their own suggestions for at-home activities as well. Here are some suggestions to share with parents.

Suggested activities

Math

- Use car rides to review math facts and quiz age-appropriate computations.
- Find online math activities and games for students and help your children find the areas appropriate for their level. Check Khan Academy or Scholastic to get started. Offer

small rewards as they make progress.

- Provide math workbooks and puzzles for car trips and idle times.
- Download learning apps on your phone. View a list of recommendations at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/94557>.

Reading

- Encourage recreational reading. Visit the library to find interesting and age-appropriate books. Ask your child's teacher for reading-level recommendations. Books that are too easy or hard won't help. Model reading by checking out books for yourself.
- Talk about books. Let your children read to you at bedtime. Ask them to tell you about what they have read. Ask if there is anything they did not understand.
- Start family book journals. Include the book title, reading dates, author and a brief description of the book. Set weekly reading goals.

Writing and spelling

- Encourage your child to keep a notebook of new words. Help your child look up the definition and write it in the

notebook. Ask your child to spell the word.

- Use car trips to practice spelling.
- Encourage your child to begin a diary or journal and write an entry every day.

Establish home routines

For many families, the start of the school year is hectic. Schedules are busier and children may be involved in multiple activities. It can be a challenge to create consistency and calm. Set routines at the beginning and end of the day to help children build healthy habits and give them a sense of security.

Starting the day right

- Help your children pack their backpacks for school the night before.
- Make lunches, sign field trip permission slips and review other school materials in the evening.
- Lay out tomorrow's clothes before bed.
- Agree on the details of your schedule as a family, and post it where all members can see it. Include chores, homework, activities and bedtime.

Continued on page 13



Board Candidate Workshops

Why attend

Running for a school board may sound easy. But understanding the board's role, as well as the legal and ethical frameworks for running a campaign and managing the work once elected, often is misunderstood. This workshop will guide you through this process and answer any questions you might have.

Workshop participants will receive a Board Candidate Kit, which includes "Candidate: A practical guide to running for school board" book; a subscription to the OSBA Journal, the premier bimonthly magazine for school board members; and a subscription to Briefcase, a semimonthly newsletter.

Scan the QR code for more information about all of the Board Candidate Workshops and to register.



WORKSHOP DATES

SEPT.

7

Southern Region Workshop
Warren County ESC, Lebanon
5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

SEPT.

8

Northern Region Workshop
Wayne County Schools Career Center,
Smithville
5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

SEPT.

9

Central Region Workshop
OSBA Office, Columbus
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
GETONBOARDOHIO.ORG

Central Region Fall Conference



Wednesday, Sept. 20

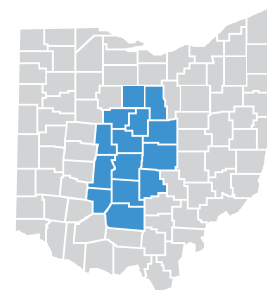
5 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

Location: Villa Milano | Columbus

Cost: \$45

Agenda:

- 5 p.m. Networking**
- 6 p.m. Welcome and introductions**
Dr. **Tina D. Pierce**,
Central Region president;
board member, **Columbus City**
- Legislative update**
Nicole Piscitani,
OSBA deputy director of legislative services
- 6:15 p.m. Dinner**
Columbus Alternative High School
Jazz and Chorale
- 7 p.m. Program**
OSBA update
Christine Varwig,
OSBA president; board member, **Toledo City**
OSBA comments
Dr. **Kathy McFarland**,
OSBA chief executive officer
Keynote speaker
Dr. **David Harrison**,
president, Columbus State Community College
Recognitions
- 8:30 p.m. Adjourn**



Register by Sept. 11 at:
www.ohioschoolboards.org/events

Join the Ohio School Boards Association for our 2023 Central Region Fall Conference. This is an outstanding professional development opportunity for board members and district leaders as well as an excellent chance to celebrate regional achievements.

This engaging event features updates from OSBA, awards presentations, entertainment and a keynote speaker.

For questions about registration, contact **Melanie Price**, OSBA senior administrative assistant of communication services, at mprice@ohioschoolboards.org or (800) 589-OSBA.



**OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION**

Southeast Region Fall Conference

Thursday, Sept. 28

5:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

Location: Alexander High School | Albany

Cost: \$40

Agenda:

5:30 p.m. Registration and networking

6:15 p.m. Program

Mary Pat Hanson,

Southeast Region president;
board member, **Morgan Local (Morgan)**

Dinner

Entertainment

Update and greetings from OSBA

Christine Varwig,

OSBA president; board member, **Toledo City**

Dr. Kathy McFarland,

OSBA chief executive officer

Advocate of Education Hall of Fame Award

Region recognition programs

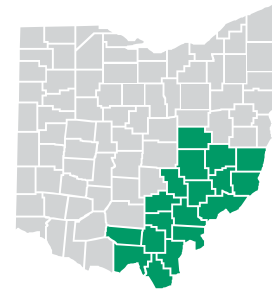
Recognitions

Program

Jennifer Hogue,

OSBA director of legislative services

8:30 p.m. Adjourn



Register by Sept. 18 at:

www.ohioschoolboards.org/events

Join the Ohio School Boards Association for our 2023 Southeast Region Fall Conference. This is an outstanding professional development opportunity for board members and district leaders as well as an excellent chance to celebrate regional achievements.

This engaging event features updates from OSBA, awards presentations and student entertainment.

For questions about registration, contact **Melanie Price**, OSBA senior administrative assistant of communication services, at mprice@ohioschoolboards.org or (800) 589-OSBA.



**OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION**

Northeast Region Fall Conference

Wednesday, Oct. 4

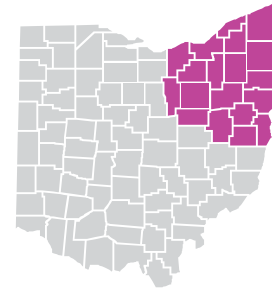
5 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

Location: Galaxy Restaurant, Wadsworth | **Cost:** \$45

Agenda:

- 5 p.m. Networking**
- 5:45 p.m. Welcome and introductions**
Doug G. Stuart,
Northeast Region president; board member,
Rittman EV and **Wayne County Schools**
Career Center
- 6 p.m. Dinner**
- 6:15 p.m. OSBA update**
Christine Varwig,
OSBA president; board member, **Toledo City**
- 6:45 p.m. Legislative update**
Jennifer Hogue,
OSBA director of legislative services
- 7 p.m. Program**
OSBA comments
Dr. Kathy McFarland,
OSBA chief executive officer

Legal update
Kevin J. Locke, Esq., Pepple & Waggoner Ltd.
Recognitions
2024 regional elections
- 8:30 p.m. Adjourn**



Register by Sept. 29 at:
www.ohioschoolboards.org/events

Join the Ohio School Boards Association for our 2023 Northeast Region Fall Conference. This is an outstanding professional development opportunity for board members and district leaders as well as an excellent chance to celebrate regional achievements.

This engaging event features updates from OSBA, awards presentations and student entertainment.

For questions about registration, contact **Melanie Price**, OSBA senior administrative assistant of communication services, at mprice@ohioschoolboards.org or (800) 589-OSBA.



**OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION**

Southwest Region Fall Conference

Thursday, Oct. 12

5 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

Location: Laurel Oaks Career Campus | Wilmington

Cost: \$40

Agenda: _____

5 p.m. Registration and networking

5:30 p.m. Student entertainment

6 p.m. Dinner/call to order

Mary Cleveland, Southwest Region president; board member, **Princeton City** and **Great Oaks Career Campuses**

6:30 p.m. Program

Introduction of guests and sponsors

OSBA update

Christine Varwig, OSBA president; board member, **Toledo City**

OSBA comments

Dr. Kathy McFarland, OSBA chief executive officer

Legislative update

Nicole Piscitani, OSBA deputy director of legislative services

Nominating Committee report

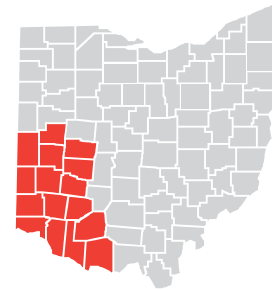
Lynda O'Connor, board member, **Lakota Local (Butler)**

Awards Committee report

Bobbie A. Grice, board member, **Little Miami Local (Warren)** and **Warren County Career Center**

Recognitions

8:30 p.m. Adjourn



Register by Oct. 2 at:

www.ohioschoolboards.org/events

Join the Ohio School Boards Association for our 2023 Southwest Region Fall Conference. This is an outstanding professional development opportunity for board members and district leaders as well as an excellent chance to celebrate regional achievements.

This engaging event features updates from OSBA, awards presentations and student entertainment.

For questions about registration, contact **Melanie Price**, OSBA senior administrative assistant of communication services, at mprice@ohioschoolboards.org or (800) 589-OSBA.



**OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION**

Northwest Region Fall Conference

Thursday, Oct. 26

5:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

Location: Fostoria High School | Fostoria

Cost: \$40

Agenda:

5:30 p.m. Networking/social hour

5:55 p.m. Welcome

Kevin Landin, Northwest Region president;
board member, **Ottoville Local (Putnam)**

6 p.m. Dinner

Student entertainment:
Pep Tribe Choir

6:50 p.m. Program

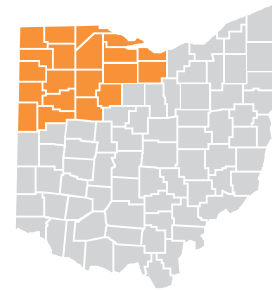
OSBA remarks
Christine Varwig,
OSBA president; board member, **Toledo City**

OSBA update
Dr. **Kathy McFarland**,
OSBA chief executive officer

OSBA legislative update
Scott Palider,
OSBA lobbyist

Recognitions

8:30 p.m. Adjourn



Register by Oct. 16 at:

www.ohioschoolboards.org/events

Join the Ohio School Boards Association for our 2023 Northwest Region Fall Conference. This is an outstanding professional development opportunity for board members and district leaders as well as an excellent chance to celebrate regional achievements.

This engaging event features updates from OSBA, awards presentations and student entertainment.

For questions about registration, contact **Melanie Price**, OSBA senior administrative assistant of communication services, at mprice@ohioschoolboards.org or (800) 589-OSBA.



**OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION**



Sports Law Workshop Series

Why attend

Hosted over four weeks, the redesigned OSBA Sports Law webinars focus on key topics facing district athletic programs: safety at athletic events, funding your athletic programs, addressing Title IX issues in K-12 sports and Ohio's ethics laws for coaches.

Location

Virtual

Cost

\$110 for the series or \$70 per session

Dates

Module 1: Sept. 8, 2023

School safety plans and athletic facilities

Module 2: Sept. 15, 2023

Funding your fields: reviewing financial issues for athletic administrators

Module 3: Sept. 22, 2023

Title IX updates in athletics

Module 4: Sept. 29, 2023

Conflicts for coaches

Time

10 a.m.-11 a.m.



OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION

Register today!

www.ohioschoolboards.org/events



WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

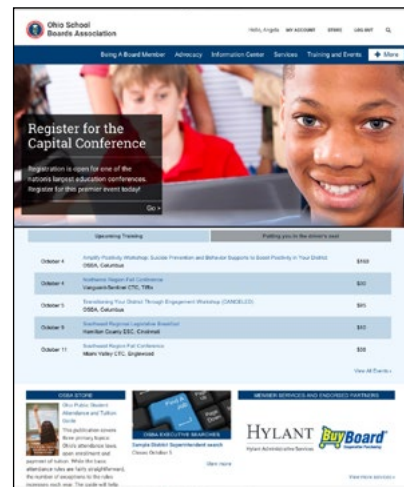
Register at www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops

OSBA members can access member-only information, including workshop registration, by logging in to the OSBA website.

How to log in

Click on “Log in to your account” on the top right of the website. Log in using your email address on file and your password. Click “Reset your password” if needed.

If it says “We could not find your email address,” or if this is your first time logging in to the site, click “Create new account.” At the username prompt, enter your email address, select your affiliation and school district, and click “Submit.” Create a password and add your job title on the next screen. An email with a link to activate your account will be sent to you. Click on the link to activate your account, and you will be directed to a home screen.



OHIO SCHOOL
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FAIR 2023

Nominate a student program or artwork

The OSBA Capital Conference Student Achievement Fair highlights outstanding student performance groups and fresh, innovative initiatives from school districts across the state. The fair will be held during the OSBA Capital Conference.



DATE

Monday, Nov. 13

TIME

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

LOCATION

Greater Columbus
Convention Center

NOMINATION DEADLINE

Friday, Oct. 27

Student Achievement Fair district programs

The Student Achievement Fair showcases exemplary programs that improve student achievement. Examples of district programs in the Student Achievement Fair include photography, agricultural, environmental, science and transition-to-work programs.

Student digital art display

The Student Achievement Fair features a digital student art show. Outstanding artwork by students from school districts across the state will be on display.

Have questions? Contact:

Amanda Husmann
ahusmann@ohioschoolboards.org

Kim Miller-Smith
kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org

(614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA

Scan the QR code for booth
details or to nominate a
student program or artwork.



Communications, continued from page 4

- Eat breakfast with your children.

After school and in the evening

- Set a schedule and be consistent. Plan a regular time for homework, meals, TV and bed.
- Talk about the next day's schedule so your children know what to expect.
- Eat dinner together and allow time for each family member to talk about their day.
- Set rules for TV. Turn it off at least an hour before bed. TV can be stimulating and disrupt sleep.
- Read with your children before bed.

Reaching out to partners

School building leaders and staff can also benefit from activities to reengage in the new school year. Reach out to educational partners to start the year with strong support.

- Contact school PTA presidents or parent leaders to let them know you are looking forward to working with them. If time permits, serve coffee and bring them all together before school starts. Keep it informal; this is a gathering to encourage two-way conversation about the upcoming year.
- Invite student body officers and student leaders to join you in a similar informal conversation over refreshments. Talk to them about expectations and set the tone for the year. Remind them

about the important role they play as student leaders. Most importantly, give them the opportunity to offer suggestions and ask questions.

- Your office staff is your "front-line team" when working with parents and students. Show your appreciation. Take them to lunch or host a special coffee break after they've returned from summer vacation and before students return to school. Talk about the office environment and discuss what they will need from you and what support you will need from them to ensure smooth operations.
- Call your teachers to welcome them back. It doesn't need to be a long conversation, but holding a quick check-in to tell the new teachers how excited you are to have them joining the team and returning teachers how much they are appreciated will set a positive tone. Let them know you support them and are excited to be working with them. A phone conversation is more personal, but you can send a text message if you have difficulty connecting.
- Drop by your school's business neighbors. Meet the managers. Leave your business card, and ask them to give you a call if they have any concerns or compliments about your students' behavior in their business before or after school in the coming year.

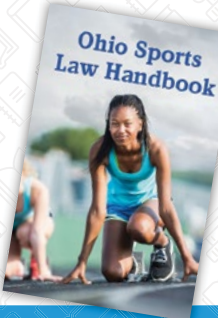
- Work with your chamber of commerce, your teachers' association and business and civic organizations to host a new teacher welcome breakfast. Even better, work with all employee associations to make it a new staff welcome breakfast.
- Hold a back-to-school pep rally or event for staff, students and parents. Build enthusiasm and team spirit. Keep it short with a few inspirational words and a welcome from the superintendent and a member of the school board. Arrange for student music and/or cheerleaders to help set the tone.

Source: Washington State School Directors' Association

OHIO SPORTS LAW HANDBOOK

This book provides practical legal information about funding and staffing athletic programs; ensuring equal access to athletic programs; disciplining student-athletes; extracurricular student transportation; liability for sports injuries; and more.

Cost: \$15



Purchase this and other publications at:
www.ohioschoolboards.org/catalog



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Nicole Piscitani, deputy director of legislative services

Ohio Legislature makes changes to the homestead exemption and considers additional bills

In light of escalating property values the Ohio General Assembly has turned its attention to modifying the homestead exemption. First permitted in 1970 by a constitutional amendment, the homestead exemption reduces property taxes for certain qualifying individuals. School districts and local governments are reimbursed by the state of Ohio for the revenue that they otherwise would have received from these property taxes.

The 1970 amendment limited this to lower income senior citizens. Since then, the Ohio General Assembly has expanded eligibility to include veterans who are permanently and totally disabled from a service-related experience and to surviving spouses of public safety personnel killed in the line of duty.

The Ohio General Assembly has continued to make changes to the homestead exemption during this current legislative session and has several bills still pending that would further expand eligibility and the exemption amount.

House Bill (HB) 33, the biennial budget bill, included a provision that indexes the homestead exemption to inflation and adjusts its amount for inflation each year. The indexing adjustment is applied to

both the standard \$25,000 exemption and the enhanced \$50,000 exemption for disabled veterans and spouses of public service officers killed in the line of duty.

The Legislative Service Commission provided the following information on how the adjustments would be calculated:

- The adjustments are made in the same manner as inflationary adjustments are made to the income limit for the \$25,000 homestead exemption: by multiplying the current year's exemption amount by the percentage increase in the GDP deflator over the preceding year and adding that result to the current exemption amount.
- An adjustment would not be made for any year the GDP deflator does not increase.
- The Tax Commissioner must compute the adjustments and certify the resulting amounts to each county auditor by December 1, to be applied the following tax year.

The Ohio General Assembly also enacted Senate Bill (SB) 43, sponsored by Sen. **Andrew O. Brenner** (R-Delaware). Brenner remarked regarding the need for the bill, "A constituent reached out to me to share a timing issue that has unfortunately prevented her

from receiving this exemption under current law. Her husband, a veteran, applied for disability status through the U.S. V.A. and, sadly, passed away shortly after the application was submitted. The V.A. continued to process his application and determined that he was in fact totally disabled. However, because he died before the determination was made, his surviving spouse is not legally eligible to qualify for the disabled veteran homestead tax exemption." SB 43 corrects this timing issue and allows the qualifying spouse to receive the exemption. Gov. **Mike DeWine** signed SB 43 into law on July 28.

Several other pending bills could further make changes to the homestead exemption, including:

HB 60, sponsored by Rep. **Daniel P. Troy** (D-Willowick), which would increase the amount of and expand the income qualifications for the homestead exemption.

Specifically, it would make the following changes:

- Increase the homestead exemption for elderly or disabled homeowners and certain of their surviving spouses from \$25,000 to \$40,000 of the home's appraised value or cost.

Continued on page 15



PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

Granville outdoor classroom provides educational opportunities

Granville EV's Granville Intermediate School has something most school grounds don't: tall-grass prairies, wetlands and a pair of goats who help keep the weeds down in a small fruit tree orchard.

Students in Granville High School AP environmental science and ecology teacher **Jim Reding's** class sowed the seeds of the project a decade ago.

"The ultimate goal here is not just for conservation, but also for

education, research and discovery," Reding told a local radio station.

Students had the idea to turn about five acres of school board-owned land into a small wetland surrounded by prairie. They got in touch with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, which restores habitat on private property.

A decade later, the Granville Land Lab spans almost 100 acres. It also is a college lab for students

at nearby Denison University.

The next step, Reding said, could be transforming another 40 acres into a short grass prairie and maybe even bringing in cattle. The animals engage the younger children at the intermediate school and fertilize the fruit trees in the orchard.

"And today you would be hard-pressed to find a more successfully diverse schoolyard habitat project anywhere in the country," he said.

Source: WOSU public media

Legislative Report, continued from page 14

- Index the amount of that homestead exemption so that the exemption and resulting tax savings increase in proportion to inflation.
- Expand eligibility for that homestead exemption by raising the income threshold one may have to qualify for the exemption, currently \$36,100 in modified Ohio adjusted gross income, to \$45,000.

HB 90, sponsored by Rep. **Thomas F. Patton** (R-Strongsville), which would authorize a total property tax exemption for the homesteads of totally disabled veterans and their surviving spouses by replacing the partial homestead exemption for disabled

veterans with an enhanced homestead exemption for all disabled veterans equal to all taxes imposed on the homestead. Additionally, the bill would require the state of Ohio to reimburse local taxing units for the resulting reduction in taxes in the same manner as other homestead exemptions.

HB 254, sponsored by Reps. **Tracy M. Richardson** (R-Marysville) and **Adam Holmes** (R-Nashport), which would expand the enhanced homestead exemption to 100% of a home's true value from the current cap of \$50,000. Honorably discharged veterans who have a 100% disability rating would be

eligible for this new exemption. Veterans with a disability rating of 70% or more would be eligible to exempt \$10,000 of their home's true value and a disability rating of 50% to 70% would qualify them for a \$5,000 exemption.

SB 134, sponsored by Sen. **Frank Hoagland** (R-Mingo Junction), would extend the homestead property tax exemption to certain disabled veterans.

SB 136, sponsored by Sen. **Hearcel F. Craig** (D-Columbus), would reduce property taxes on qualifying owner-occupied homes and would name this act the Property Tax Relief and Local Government Support Act.

August 2023

- 28 Northeast/Southeast Regions Open House West Lafayette
- 28 *Last day to file (by 4 p.m.) as a write-in candidate for November general election – RC 3513.041 (72 days prior to the election).*
- 29 OSBA Forum Virtual

September 2023

- 7 Board Candidate Workshop Southern Region..... Lebanon
- 8 Sports Law Module 1..... Virtual
- 9 Board Candidate Workshop Northern Region..... Smithville
- 11 Urban Boards Symposium..... Columbus
- 15 Sports Law Module 2..... Virtual
- 19 Coffee Chat: Hot Topics in Risk Management..... Virtual
- 20 Central Region Fall Conference Columbus
- 20 MTA 2023-24 Module 1: Routing and Technology..... Columbus and Virtual
- 22 Sports Law Module 3..... Virtual
- 26 OSBA Forum Virtual
- 26 Public Schools Cyber Symposium Westerville
- 28 Southeast Region Fall Conference Albany
- 29 Sports Law Module 4..... Virtual

- 30 *Last day to file business advisory council plan with the Ohio Department of Education – RC 3313.821.*

October 2023

- 1 *Last day for board to adopt annual appropriation measure – RC 5705.38(B).*
- 4 Northeast Region Fall Conference Wadsworth
- 6 Administrative Professionals Workshop Columbus and Virtual
- 10 *Last day for voter registration for November election – RC 3503.01, 3503.19(A) (30 days prior to election).*
- 12 Southwest Region Fall Conference Wilmington
- 15 *Last day for certification of licensed employees to State Board of Education – RC 3317.061; last day to provide immunization status reports to the Ohio Department of Health – RC 3313.67(D).*
- 17 Coffee Chat: Arming Your People on the Front Lines: Crisis Communications Best Practices Virtual
- 23 Auditorium Stage Equipment Maintenance 101, Public Schools Edition Virtual
- 24 OSBA Forum Virtual
- 25 MTA 2023-24 Module 2: Personnel Management..... Columbus and Virtual

- 26 Northwest Region Fall Conference Fostoria
- 26 Auditorium Stage Equipment Safety 101, Public Schools Edition..... Virtual
- 26 *Pre-general election campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates appearing on the ballot (by 4 p.m.) detailing contributions and expenditures made from the last day reflected in the previous report to the close of business on Oct. 18, 2023 (12 days before election) – RC 3517.10(A)(1).*
- 31 *End of first ADM reporting period – RC 3317.03(A).*

November 2023

- 1 *Last day for classroom teachers to develop online classroom lessons (“blizzard bags”) in order to make up hours for which it is necessary to close schools – RC 3313.482(A)(3)(a).*
- 7 *General Election Day; Special Election Day – RC 3501.01 (first Tuesday after the first Monday).*
- 12-14 OSBA Capital Conferene Columbus
- 12 Northeast Region Executive Committee Meeting Columbus
- 12 Northwest Region Executive Committee Meeting Columbus