

# BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



## Show your support for Tuscarawas Valley Local Schools

Our thoughts and heartfelt sympathies are with the **Tuscarawas Valley Local (Tuscarawas)** community as they mourn the sudden loss of six community members. For those who feel called to help out during this painful time, locals have established a fund through the TV Trojan Foundation for the families' recovery and memorial expenses. Donations can be made at [www.trojanfoundation.org/donate](http://www.trojanfoundation.org/donate).

## January is School Board Recognition Month

Each year, Ohio schools celebrate School Board Recognition Month, honoring the board of education members who work to make a difference for over 1.6 million public school students. This year's theme is "Launching our next generation." OSBA is once again offering an extensive toolkit to help districts recognize board members for their service. The kit, which includes social media posts, a sample news release and suggestions for recognizing board members, among other resources, is posted at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm).

## OHSAA campaign addresses abusive fans

The Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) is relaunching its Respect the Game campaign, with updated and expanded content aimed at addressing and preventing unsportsmanlike and bullying behavior from the stands at high school sporting events. Harassment from fans is a major cause of the shortage of sports officials in Ohio, the association stated, and takes the spotlight away from student athletes. "We must create a more positive environment at our athletic contests," OHSAA Executive Director **Doug Ute** said. One of the most effective features of the campaign is a practice of having pleas for good sportsmanship read by students before games. Further resources for school administrators, including public address scripts, materials for preseason parent meetings and more, are available at [www.ohsaa.org/Respect-the-Game](http://www.ohsaa.org/Respect-the-Game).

## All Ohio ESCs earn top budget performance rating

Ohio's 51 educational service centers (ESCs) have each received a "High-Performing" designation from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW). The designations, created as part of the biennial budget bill, reflect the costs saved for the school districts the ESC serves. A "High-Performing" designation means that schools saved at least 5% across five core service areas, as compared to the expense of providing those services in-house or through another provider. According to an announcement from the department, many ESCs far surpass this benchmark, with the average cost savings being 40% or more.

**Dec. 11, 2023**

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## Route workshop information to:

- Administrators
- Principals
- Communication specialists
- Transportation supervisors

### Career-tech grant available

The first application window for DEW’s competitive Career Technical Education Equipment Grant is still open. The grant is designed to “establish or expand career-technical education programs, with priority for programs that support careers on Ohio’s Top Jobs List” and can be used for credentialing programs from the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation Innovative Workforce Incentive Program list. Interested schools should submit their applications by 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 15. More information is available at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/career-tech-grant>.

### Deadline approaching for Northeast Region scholarship

Each year, the Lester C. Marrison Teacher Education Book Grant is presented to a high school senior in a Northeast Region

**Youngstown students grow healthier food choices**

Students at **Youngstown City’s** Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary school are cultivating a taste for healthy choices with the school’s new hydroponic farm.

Taking charge of their nutrition, the students monitor the pH balance of the water to ensure optimal nutrient levels for their homegrown greens. This initiative not only provides healthier dining options for the district’s students but also imparts valuable lessons on self-sufficiency and sustainable practices.

Food Service Director **Tascin Brooks** emphasized the simplicity of growing, showing students that with minimal space and resources, they can cultivate their own food. Students were able to grow two different types of lettuce over four to six weeks.

Source: WFMJ-TV

district who plans to major in education at an accredited Ohio college or university. The grant is named in memory of **Lester C. Marrison**, a longtime member of the Northeast Region Executive Committee and OSBA Board of Trustees, who had a passionate interest in teacher education. The

2024 deadline for applications will be Jan. 15, so now is the time to ensure interested students are aware of this opportunity. For more information, please contact Northeast Regional Manager **Reno Contipelli** at (217) 288-1704 or [rcontipelli@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:rcontipelli@ohioschoolboards.org).

### Reminder: Add new members to your roster

With newly elected board members joining school boards in January, it’s time to update your membership roster with OSBA. Have your treasurer or roster designee log in to your OSBA account — they should be able to edit the roster directly on the My Account page.

### OSBA online

● [www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)

Photos from the Capital Conference will be posted on our Flickr page. Visit [www.flickr.com/photos/ohschoolboards](http://www.flickr.com/photos/ohschoolboards) to view.



## Briefcase

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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

## OSBA executive searches

### Superintendent

District	Deadline	Contact
① Orrville City	Feb. 2	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



## Other Ohio searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Perkins Local (Erie)	Jan. 4	<b>Brooke Moore</b> , HR assistant, North Point ESC, (419) 627-3908

## National searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Mission, Texas	Jan. 24	<b>Butch Felkner</b> , executive search services director, Texas Association of School Boards, (800) 580-8272

## Board changes

Geneva Area City Board of Education member **Richard L. Arndt** announced his resignation effective Nov. 15. ●●●  
South-Western City Board of Education Member **Cathy Johnson** announced her resignation effective Nov. 20, due to moving outside the district.

## Administrative changes

### Treasurer

Mid-Ohio ESC hired **Brenda Miller** as treasurer effective Aug. 1, 2024. She will replace **Lorraine A. Earnest**, who is retiring effective July 31, 2024. Miller is currently treasurer at **Cardington-Lincoln Local (Morrow)**.

## Sympathies

Former Ashland City and Ashland County-West Holmes JVSD Board of Education member **Robert L. Valentine** died Nov. 5. He was 93. ●●● Former **Buckeye Local (Medina)** Board of Education member **Kay Elizabeth Salzman** died Nov. 7. She was 81. ●●● Former **Lincolnview Local (Van Wert)** Board of Education member **David "Dave" Kimmey** died Oct. 28. He was 81.



# COMMUNICATIONS

by Angela Penquite, deputy director of communication services

## School Board Recognition Month celebrated in January

Each year, school districts across Ohio honor the work and dedication of their school board members during School Board Recognition Month. This annual celebration highlights the crucial role school board members play in their schools and communities, and provides an opportunity to say “thank you” to these devoted individuals.

Often, the best “thank yous” come from students in the district. Older students may prepare a video presentation or perform at a board meeting, while younger students may make posters or personalized cards for each board member. District staff and administrators may honor board members at a meeting or feature them in district newsletters. Chambers of commerce, local governments and other organizations often pass resolutions honoring school boards and their members, and many newspapers run editorials praising these dedicated community servants.

The Ohio School Boards Association has created a resource kit to help districts recognize their local school board members. The kit, centered on the 2024 theme “Launching

our next generation,” has ideas for honoring board members and informing the community of their many contributions. The kit includes customizable social media graphics and messaging, artwork, a sample news release and more. Access the resources at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm). In addition, OSBA will send each district a large poster and personalized certificates for its board members to use at recognition events.

Please feel free to use all the items in the resource kit or modify them to create your own method of honoring the wonderful things school board members do for your district. Use #SchoolBoardMonth on

Twitter and Instagram and follow OSBA on social media to see how other districts are celebrating.

OSBA wants to highlight districts’ celebrations as well. Following their January celebrations, districts are asked to submit articles, photos and videos of their events to OSBA. A summary of district recognitions will be included in the April issue of the Journal and on the OSBA website. Recaps of your district celebrations can be submitted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/84140>. The deadline is Feb. 8. For more information or questions, please contact the author at [apenquite@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:apenquite@ohioschoolboards.org).







# OSBA FORUM

*Join us as we discuss the current issues in public education.*

**Date**

Dec. 19

**Time**

11:30 a.m. to  
12:30 p.m.

**Cost**

Free

As we wrap up the 2023 Forums, OSBA's CEO Dr. Kathy McFarland will join us as we discuss the state of the association and what we hope to achieve in 2024.

Mark your calendar for the first 2024 OSBA Forum on Jan. 30.

Register at: [www.ohioschoolboards.org/events](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/events)



# OSBA 2024 COFFEE - CHAT -

## ANATOMY OF A COMMUNICATIONS AUDIT

Jan. 16 | 8:30 a.m.-9 a.m.

**Key takeaways:**

- Discuss why a communications audit matters.
- Review the benefits of a communications audit.
- Learn the steps to conducting a communications audit.

**Speaker:**

Thom Fladung, Hennes Communications

For more information and to register: [www.ohioschoolboards.org/events](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/events)



# Master of Transportation Administrator Series



## Student transportation administrator training program

The safety, reliability and efficiency of a district's bus service are maximized when the school transportation manager has the specific knowledge and skills needed to manage the service effectively. The goal of the Master Transportation Administrator (MTA) program is to provide learning opportunities in the many key areas affecting transportation.

OSBA brings its depth of resources in safety practices, fleet management, federal regulations, and state codes for student transportation together to support this training curriculum. This program exceeds the requirement in Ohio Administrative Code for annual transportation in-service training.

### Curriculum

The complete curriculum includes classes in each of three proficiencies – compliance, operations management and governance (including policy and fiscal matters). Each year of the curriculum focuses on just one of these proficiencies.

Complete all three-modules and the district project framework question form, to be acknowledged as a Master Transportation Administrator by OSBA.



### MTA Module 1

Routing and technology  
Sept. 20, 2023



### MTA Module 2

Personnel management  
Oct. 25, 2023



### MTA Module 3

Transportation rules and regulations  
Nov. 29, 2023



### MTA Module 4

The transportation handbook  
Jan. 24, 2024



### MTA Module 5

Public relations and working with the media  
Feb. 21, 2024



### MTA Module 6

Designing your operational plan, and building keys for success  
March 20, 2024





## BOARD MEMBER 101: A COMPREHENSIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF OFFICE

### Why attend

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Experienced OSBA staff have designed a weekend program full of the key information necessary to give new board members the confidence and tools to flatten the learning curve. Board Member 101 will include sessions on governance, collaboration, legal parameters, parliamentary procedure, meeting management, policy management, legislative understanding, district advocacy and school financing. The program is designed to allow new board members to ask questions, network with others and discover the many resources OSBA offers to district members.

### Dates and locations

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	<b>Jan. 27-28, 2024</b>
<b>Columbus</b>	Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center
<b>Cleveland</b>	Intercontinental Hotel & Conference Center
	<b>Feb. 3-4, 2024</b>
<b>Dayton</b>	Hilton Garden Inn Dayton South at Austin Landing
<b>Findlay</b>	Findlay Inn & Conference Center
<b>Cost</b>	\$350

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**OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION**

View our complete events calendar and register at:  
[www.ohioschoolboards.org/events](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/events)



# WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

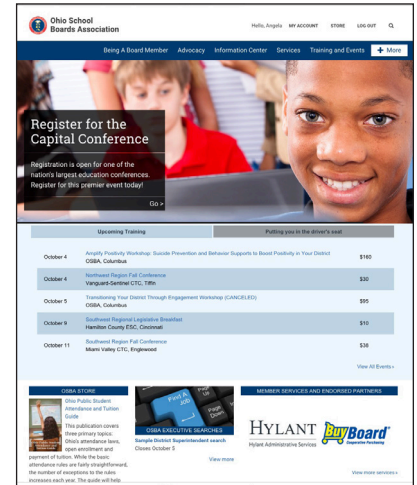
Register at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops)

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.



## What will your district look like two, five or eight years down the road?

As leaders in your district, it's important to look toward the future and anticipate opportunities and roadblocks in preparing students for school and lifetime success.

Let OSBA be your partner in developing an effective, aligned strategic plan to map your district's future. Call OSBA's Division of Board and Management Services at (800) 589-OSBA to get started today.



OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

# PLANNING FOR SUCCESS





# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Nicole Piscitani, deputy director of legislative services

## Top 10 legislative actions to watch in the remaining days of 2023

The Ohio General Assembly has approximately two weeks left, in calendar year 2023, before they leave their legislative work in Columbus for their winter break. Both chambers have released their session calendars for the first six months of 2024 and the Ohio Senate has a total of eight session days planned. The Ohio House has a total of seven session days and two additional if-needed session days. Traditionally, the Ohio General Assembly doesn't meet during July and August, taking what is known as a legislative summer recess. The legislature returns in the fall with a light schedule as those running for re-election spend more time back in their home districts. After the November election and throughout mid-December the 135th General Assembly will be fast-and-furiously finishing legislative priorities during the lame-duck session, which ends when both chambers adjourn indefinitely, formally ending the two-year legislative calendar.

While the end of this legislative calendar is a little more than a year away, the Ohio General Assembly has been a little busier than usual in these last weeks of

2023. These are the legislative items receiving the most action.

1. **Steve Dackin** was nominated by Gov. **Mike DeWine** to lead the Department of Education and Workforce. His appointment hearing is scheduled in the Senate Education Committee on Dec. 5. It is likely that Dackin will receive the required votes from the Senate Education Committee and his appointment could go before the full Ohio Senate on Dec. 6.
2. House Bill (HB) 187, sponsored by Reps. **Thomas Hall** (R-Madison Township) and **Adam C. Bird** (R-New Richmond), which would modify the procedures used by the tax commissioner to conduct property tax sales-assessment ratio studies. The bill passed out of the Ohio House earlier this fall and is now in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. While this bill is expected to be substantially amended, a vote to move it out of committee is scheduled for Dec. 6. If the Ohio Senate passes the bill, the Ohio House would need to concur with the changes before it goes to Gov. DeWine for his action.
3. HB 68, sponsored by Rep. **Gary Click** (R-Vickery), which would prohibit certain procedures to alter a minor child's sex; and would designate this act as the Ohio Saving Adolescents from Experimentation Act. This bill also includes HB 6, which would enact the Save Women's Sports Act to require schools, state institutions of higher education and private colleges to designate separate single-sex teams and sports for each sex. The bill passed out of the Ohio House in June 2023 and is in the Senate Government Oversight Committee. The bill has received two hearings during the fall legislative calendar and is scheduled for a third hearing this week. The bill is also scheduled for a committee vote on Dec. 6. The bill hasn't been amended in the Ohio Senate. If the Ohio Senate passes HB 68, the bill would go to Gov. DeWine for his action.
4. Senate Bill (SB) 49, sponsored by Sen. **Michele Reynolds** (R-Canal Winchester), which

*Continued on page 10*

- would make changes to laws regarding excessive absenteeism, excused absences and the reporting of graduation rates. The original bill required school boards to adopt a policy that would allow any student three excused absences for religious expression days. The Ohio Senate passed that original bill in April 2023. Since then, the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee Chairman has worked extensively to amend the bill to include other types of excused absences in addition to laws regarding chronic absenteeism. The bill is scheduled for a hearing on Dec. 5, where additional changes to the bill are likely. SB 49 is also scheduled for a committee vote on Dec. 5. If the bill receives a House Floor vote and passes, the Ohio Senate will need to concur on the changes to the bill.
5. SB 17, sponsored by Sen. **Steve Wilson** (R-Mainesville), which would require the State Board to update the standards and model curriculum for financial literacy and entrepreneurship in grades nine-12 to include free market capitalism content. The bill passed out of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee and is awaiting a House Floor vote. If the bill passes out of the Ohio House, the Ohio Senate will need to concur on the changes made to the bill.
  6. HB 206, sponsored by Reps. Click (R-Vickery) and **Monica Robb Blasdel** (R-Columbiana), which would permit a school district to establish a policy that authorizes a superintendent to expel a student from a public school for actions that endanger the health and safety of other students or school employees. HB 206 passed out of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee and could receive a House Floor vote in December. The bill would then go to the Ohio Senate for consideration.
  7. HB 183, sponsored by Reps. Bird and **Beth Lear** (R-Galena), would make changes to laws regarding single-sex bathroom access in primary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education. The bill is currently in the House Higher Education Committee and has had three hearings during the fall legislative calendar. The bill is scheduled for a fourth hearing Dec. 6. Additionally, the House Higher Education committee has issued notice that a substitute bill will be offered and a vote on that bill also is scheduled.
  8. SB 162, sponsored by Sen. **Andrew O. Brenner** (R-Delaware), which would require public schools to provide certain academic intervention services to each student who demonstrates a limited level in math and English language arts. The bill is a priority for the Senate Education Committee and is likely to move out of committee in the next two weeks.
  9. SB 168, sponsored by Reynolds, is an education deregulation reform bill. The bill would make several changes to teacher licensure, professional development and the elimination of obsolete provisions of law, among other changes. SB 168 is scheduled for a fourth hearing in the Senate Education Committee and is a priority bill that could move out of committee in December. Additionally, the bill could potentially be amended to include other deregulation provisions and/or clean up items from HB 33, the biennial budget bill.
  10. HB 70, sponsored by Reps. **Sarah Fowler Arthur** (R-Ashtabula) and **Jennifer Gross** (R-West Chester), which would require schools to adopt a policy regarding the administration of over-the-counter drugs. The bill is scheduled for hearing on Dec. 5 and also a committee vote. The bill could receive a House Floor vote this month and move on to the Ohio Senate for consideration.



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

## Boardman students research Lake Erie during field trip

Students from **Boardman Local (Mahoning)** recently embarked on an enlightening field trip to Ohio State University’s Stone Laboratory near Put-In-Bay on Lake Erie.

The educational excursion aimed to provide a hands-on experience in scientific research and exploration for science students.

AP Environmental teacher **Heather Moran** led the students through a fish identification lab

and discussions on native and invasive reptiles and amphibians.

The students explored Lake Erie by boat, conducting water samples, engaging in fishing activities and even dissecting fish.

Eighth-grader **Elijah Land** marveled at the lake’s diversity, noting the significant difference in depth between its west and east sides. The interactive fish lab, where they dissected a yellow perch, left a lasting impression on Land.

The organizers injected an element of fun into the research, dividing students into competitive groups for boat fishing.

For eighth-grade science teacher **Scott Lenhart**, the field trip provided a unique opportunity.

“To have an opportunity to bring kids to this area and do some actual field studies and research was an opportunity I didn’t want to miss,” Lenhart told a local TV station.

Source: WKBN-TV



Unlock your students’ full potential

Student achievement workshops deliver customized results to guide your district to success

To schedule your customized training session, contact Kim Miller-Smith, senior student achievement consultant, at (614) 540-4000 or [kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org).



OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

**December 2023**

- 12 Coffee Chat: Cost of Taking Payments in K-12 Education..... Virtual
- 15 Last day to submit emergency or current operating expenses levy to county auditor for March election — RC 5705.194, 5705.195, 5705.213, 5705.219(C) (95 days prior to the election) post-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 request to the close of business on Dec. 8, 2023 (38 days after the election) — RC 3517.10(A)(2).
- 19 OSBA Forum ..... Virtual
- 20 Last day for school district to file resolution of necessity, resolution to proceed and auditor’s certification for bond levy with board of elections for March election — RC 133.18(D); last day for county auditor to certify school district bond levy terms for March election — RC 133.18(C); last day to submit continuing replacement, permanent improvement or operating levy for March election to board of elections — RC 5705.192, 5705.21, 5705.25; last day to certify resolution for school district income tax levy or renewal of conversion levy for March election to board of elections — RC

- 5748.02(C), 5705.219(G); last day to submit emergency levy for March election to board of elections — RC 5705.195; last day to submit phased-in levy or current operating expenses levy for March election to board of elections — RC 5705.251(A) (90 days prior to primary election in presidential election year).
- 31 Last day for treasurer to canvass the board to establish a date for the organizational meeting — RC 3313.14.

**January 2024**

- 15 Deadline for boards of education of city, exempted village and local school districts to hold organizational meeting — RC 3313.14; last day for boards of education of city, exempted village, vocational and local school districts to adopt tax budgets for the coming school fiscal year — RC 5705.28(A)(1).
- 16 Coffee Chat: Anatomy of a Communications Audit ..... Virtual
- 20 Last day for boards of education to submit fiscal tax-year budget to county auditor — RC 5705.30.
- 24 MTA 2023-24 Module 4: The Transportation Handbook .....Columbus and Virtual
- 27 Central Region Board 101 ..... Columbus

- 31 Deadline for joint vocational school districts and educational service center (ESC) governing boards to hold organizational meeting — RC 3313.14; deadline for secondary schools to provide information about College Credit Plus to all students enrolled in grades six through 11 — RC 3365.04(A); annual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates (by 4 p.m.) detailing contributions and expenditures from the last day reflected in the previous report through Dec. 31, 2022 — RC 3517.10(A)(3).

**February 2024**

- 17 Board Management 201 .....Columbus and Virtual
- 19 Last day for voter registration for March election — RC 3503.01, 3503.19(A) (30 days prior to primary election in presidential election year).
- 21 MTA 2023-24 Module 5: Public Relations and Working with the Media .....Columbus and Virtual

**March 2024**

- 1 Last day to take action and deliver written notice of nonrenewal of superintendent’s contract — RC 3319.01.