

# BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



## Board Leadership Institute just a few weeks away

Have you registered for the OSBA Board Leadership Institute (BLI)? BLI provides essential professional development for new and veteran school board members alike, with training customized to their unique needs across numerous leadership and governance topics. This event, held April 28-29 at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris, includes 18 breakout sessions, numerous networking venues and breakfast and lunch both days. See the flier in this issue for more details or visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/BLI> to register. Attendees can stay at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris for a discounted rate of \$147 per night if booked by April 4. Visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/2023BLIhotel> to make your reservation.

## OSBA accepting legislative platform amendments

The OSBA Legislative Platform details OSBA's positions on public education issues and conveys to legislators, policymakers, the public and the media where the association stands on these issues. The platform guides OSBA's advocacy efforts and is shared with the governor's office and Ohio General Assembly. The ongoing process of refining and amending the legislative platform needs your involvement and input. OSBA member school boards are asked to provide suggested modifications to the platform by submitting a duly adopted resolution signed by the district treasurer. Resolutions should be sent to **Jennifer Hogue** ([jhogue@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:jhogue@ohioschoolboards.org)), OSBA director of legislative services, by May 31. All amendment resolutions will be shared and discussed with the Legislative Platform Committee at its August meeting. The current platform is posted on the OSBA website at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/legislative-platform](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/legislative-platform). For more information, contact Senior Administrative Assistant of Legislative Services **Renee Gibson** at [rgibson@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:rgibson@ohioschoolboards.org) or (614) 540-4000.

## Congress to weigh federal education spending increase for 2024

President **Joe Biden's** spending plan for Fiscal Year 2024 includes a 13.6% increase in education spending, the U.S. Department of Education announced in a press call on March 9. The proposed new spending would be focused on several issues including addressing the teacher shortage, helping schools create new career-readiness programming and improving student achievement. The top two categories of funding outlined in the plan are grants for high-poverty K-12 schools and for pre-K-12 special education. The plan now awaits approval in congress, where it is expected to encounter opposition despite bipartisan calls for a smooth budget process. The full plan can be viewed at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/whitehouse/budget24>.

**March 27, 2023**

Volume 55 Issue 6

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## Route workshop information to:

- Administrators
- Principals
- Communication specialists
- Transportation supervisors

## Virtual Transportation Supervisor subscribers' roundtable upcoming

Virtual Transportation Supervisor (VTS) subscriber districts are invited to participate in a roundtable to discuss the T2, special needs transportation and the effects of the new state budget on April 12 at 10 a.m. Be on the lookout for an invitation with your VTS newsletter. Not a subscriber? It's not too late. Visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/VTSinfo> to learn more.

## Report compiles evidence for whole-child supports in education

The Learning Policy Institute has released a report compiling more than 20 years of scientific literature to allow policymakers, educators, researchers and parents to efficiently survey the

enormous evidence base for social-emotional learning (SEL) benchmarks and "whole child" education. The report, which reviews 12 independent meta-analyses of hundreds of studies, may be useful for school district leaders considering or evaluating new

or current SEL frameworks and guidelines. An abstract summarizing the findings, as well as the report in full, is available at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/learningpolicyinstitute>.

## OSBA online

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

OSBA's legal division recently updated its fact sheet on parliamentary procedure. This essential resource for conducting board meetings is posted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/61294>. OSBA maintains an online library of fact sheets to provide quick references for school boards and other education leaders on a wide variety of topics, such as collective bargaining, individual education plans, district property issues and more. All of these fact sheets can be accessed at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/82858>.

## Kickball game inspires inclusivity at Woodmore Local

Woodmore Local's (Sandusky) Woodmore High School gymnasium typically hosts large boisterous crowds for Friday night basketball games.

But this time, students were cheering on inclusivity as a group of students with disabilities played kickball.

"They want to do the same things that all of the other students want to do," Woodmore High School Principal **Nolan Wickard** told a local TV station. "They might do it a little bit differently ... but they get just as excited about playing a kickball game as some of our other students would get."

Students with disabilities were partnered with other students, and the fans made it an authentic sporting event experience.

Source: WTOL-TV



## Briefcase

Ohio School Boards Association  
8050 North High Street, Suite 100  
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[www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)

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*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](mailto: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

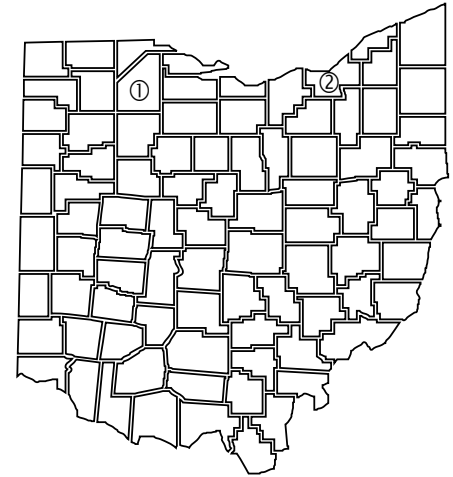
## OSBA executive searches

### Superintendent

District	Deadline	Contact
① Bowling Green City	March 29	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000

### Treasurer

District	Deadline	Contact
② Brooklyn City	April 21	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



## Other searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Secondary director of teaching and learning	Sylvania City	March 31	Josh Tyburski, executive director of human capital, Sylvania City, (419) 824-8500

## National searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Lexington, North Carolina	March 27	Sam Thorp, assistant legal counsel for superintendent searches, North Carolina School Boards Association, (919) 747-6706
Superintendent	Hampton, Virginia	March 31	Gina Patterson, executive director, Virginia School Boards Association, (434) 295-8722
Superintendent	Clinton, North Carolina	April 10	Sam Thorp, assistant legal counsel for superintendent searches, North Carolina School Boards Association, (919) 747-6706

### Editor's note

Job postings must be received six weeks before the application deadline to ensure timely publication.  
Thank you for your cooperation.

## Board changes

Fairport Harbor EV appointed **Justin Levine** to the board effective Feb. 22. He replaced **Thomas Fazekas**, who resigned in January.

## Administrative changes

### Superintendents

**Buckeye Local (Jefferson)** hired **Coy Sudvary** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Interim Superintendent **Scott Celestin**. Sudvary is currently a high school principal at **Wellsville Local (Columbiana)**. ●●● **Carrollton EV** hired Interim Superintendent **David Davis** as superintendent effective immediately. ●●● **Cuyahoga Falls City** hired **Jodie Hausmann** as assistant superintendent effective Aug. 1. ●●● **Fort Recovery Local (Mercer)** Superintendent **Larry C. Brown** announced his retirement effective July 31. ●●● **Woodridge Local (Summit)** hired Assistant Superintendent/Director of Pupil Services **N'ecole Ast** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Walter C. Davis**, who is retiring.

### Treasurers

**Groveport Madison Local (Franklin)** Treasurer **Felicia Drummey** announced her retirement effective July 31. ●●● **Lake Local (Wood)** hired **Maria Robinson** as treasurer effective March 10. She replaced **Monica Leppelmeier**, who took the treasurer position at **Eastwood Local**. Robinson was previously chief financial officer at the Lorain Public Library System.

## Sympathies

Former **Black River Local (Medina)** Board of Education member **Burt Allen Rollin** died March 4. He was 93. ●●● Former **Buckeye Central Local (Crawford)** Board of Education member **Elizabeth Ann Bayer** died Feb. 18. She was 45. ●●● Former **Conneaut Area City** Board of Education member **Joseph Thomas Estock** died March 3. He was 87. ●●● Former **Conotton Valley-Union Local (Harrison)** and **Harrison Hills City** Superintendent **Mike S. Pekach** died Feb. 28. He was 94. ●●● Former **Frontier Local (Washington)** Board of Education member **Bobby J. Bradford** died March 7. He was 82. ●●● Former **Middletown City** Board of Education member **Fred Finney** died March 4. He was 95. ●●● Former **Milton-Union EV** Board of Education member **Eugenie Faith Dennis Markley** died Feb. 25. She was 87. ●●● Former **Morgan Local (Morgan)** Board of Education member **David A. Copeland** died March 4. He was 68. ●●● Former **Otsego Local (Wood)** Board of Education member **David F. Mertz** died Jan. 28. He was 85. ●●● Former **Wooster City** Board of Education member **Dr. Beth Irwin Lewis** died March 3. She was 89.



**Ohio School Boards Association**

**PLANNING FOR SUCCESS**

**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.

# Board Leadership Institute

//////// 2023

Leadership and governance  
training designed for public  
school board members

Join OSBA for this  
two-day event!

## Dates

**Friday, April 28**

9:10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, April 29**

9:15 a.m.–1 p.m.

## Location

Hilton Columbus/Polaris

8700 Lyra Drive

Columbus, OH 43240



OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION



For more details or to register, visit: [www.ohioschoolboards.org/events](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/events)

# Join colleagues from across Ohio April 28-29



Governance and leadership training designed for you, the public school board member

Becoming an effective public school board member requires building your skills as you work with your leadership team to guide your district and meet the needs of its students and your community. The OSBA Board Leadership Institute (BLI) offers training customized to the unique needs of school board members across numerous leadership and governance topics.

Over two days, you can attend sessions covering topics such as communications, legal issues, school finance and board policy. Leadership experts will present on conflict resolution, employee wellness, workplace culture and improving leadership teams. Networking with peers during meal functions and an afternoon reception provide opportunities to discuss what you learned that day and share how your district is addressing current concerns.

Attend BLI to learn valuable skills, enhance your board's performance, become a better communicator and improve collaboration within your district. Register now to sharpen your leadership and governance skills and be better equipped to tackle the challenges facing your district and help your students succeed.

## Top five reasons to attend the Board Leadership Institute

- # 1 BLI is open only to board members, allowing you the chance to talk about issues important to your district with people who understand your role and the challenges you face.
- # 2 Public education is constantly evolving — Sessions are led by experts who can answer your questions and address issues affecting your district.
- # 3 BLI features training specific to your role as recommended by school board members participating in the BLI Focus Group.
- # 4 Choose from among 18 breakout sessions to create a learning schedule that addresses your professional development needs.
- # 5 Get involved in your association and region — Regional managers and OSBA staff are on-hand to share how you can become more involved at the regional or state level.

## Reflections from past attendees

"Anytime OSBA gives us an opportunity to attend one of these trainings, I normally try to attend. It's always something new. And what makes it so much better is that I get to go back to our district and share what I've learned with community members ... administration, teachers. It's an amazing learning experience."

**A.J. Harris**  
Cuyahoga Falls City

"You owe it to yourself, and you owe it to your district to be the best school board member you can be, and that's really what BLI helps you do."

**Micah Covert**  
Nelsonville-York City and  
Tri-County Career Center

"I really think that these trainings are crucial to being a board member. It's good to network with people. I've learned so much. ... The topics are always different, and things with education are always evolving."

**Julie Altawil**  
Howland Local (Trumbull)

# Keynote speakers



## Opening General Session

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### Walt Stasinski

*The secret to bouncing back from setbacks, failures and crises*

Walt Stasinski holds a master's degree education from Wayne State University and a master's degree in public health from the University of Michigan. His early speaking career began as a teacher and football coach at Wayne State University, where he discovered that people learn and achieve the most when they're having fun. He used this same approach in the health care industry, where he directed programs at hospitals, including the Wellness Initiative for 10,000 employees at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich. The solutions he offers are straightforward, common-sense ideas for real life.



His presentation will focus on the power of hope to overcome challenges. Everyone faces setbacks and crises that can create feelings of hopelessness. The key to getting beyond that is transforming those feelings into the power to build confidence and optimism. Learn how to become more resilient and adaptable during a setback and how to develop a realistic action plan to bounce back up when life knocks you down.

## Closing Address

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### OSBA Division of Legislative Services

*Key issues at the Statehouse*

OSBA Director of Legislative Services **Jennifer Hogue** and Lobbyist **Nicole Piscitani** lead the advocacy efforts of the Ohio School Boards Association. Guided by the OSBA Legislative Platform, developed and voted upon by OSBA-member school boards, Hogue and Piscitani meet with Ohio legislators to encourage legislative activity that supports success for all students in Ohio's public schools.

Hogue and Piscitani will review recent activity at the Statehouse. Topics to be discussed include the biennial budget and important education-related bills that are pending or have passed in the Ohio General Assembly.



# Schedule of events



## Friday, April 28

- 8 a.m.** Registration and breakfast
- 9:10 a.m.** Welcome  
Cheryl W. Ryan, director of board and management services, OSBA, and OSBA President Christine Varwig, Toledo City
- 9:30 a.m.** Opening General Session:  
*The secret to bouncing back from setbacks, failures and crises*  
Walt Stasinski
- 10:15 a.m.** Networking break
- 10:30 a.m.** Concurrent breakout sessions
- 11:30 a.m.** Concurrent breakout sessions
- 12:30 p.m.** Luncheon (sponsored by Sedgwick)
- 1:30 p.m.** Concurrent breakout sessions
- 2:30 p.m.** Concurrent breakout sessions
- 3:30 p.m.** Networking and refreshments  
Attendees are invited to a networking hour to relax and reconnect with fellow board members and share what they've learned after the first day of sessions.
- 4:30 p.m.** Adjourn



## Saturday, April 29

- 8:30 a.m.** Breakfast
- 9:15 a.m.** Concurrent breakout sessions
- 10:30 a.m.** Concurrent breakout sessions
- 11:30 a.m.** Luncheon (sponsored by Sedgwick Managed Care Ohio)
- Noon** Closing address:  
*Key issues at the Statehouse*  
OSBA Division of Legislative Services
- 1 p.m.** Adjourn



# Concurrent session descriptions



## Friday, April 28

10:30 a.m.	<p><b>Get to know OSBA's committee and governance structure</b> In this session, we'll discuss answers to questions like, "How is OSBA's legislative platform created?" "How can I get on that one committee?" or "How can I become an OSBA trustee?"</p>	Mark E. Bobo, senior membership engagement consultant, OSBA
	<p><b>Understanding and appreciating the district's five-year forecast</b> Learn more about the importance of the five-year forecast as a critical tool for your district's budget and financial health, and review ways to use this information in decision-making.</p>	Ryan Ghizzoni, director-Ohio analytics, Frontline Education
	<p><b>Crisis communications: Be strategic, prepared and calm in the storm!</b> "Winging it" is not a successful crisis communication strategy. While a crisis may not be predictable, the way your community and the media respond can be anticipated. Join us to discuss tips, tricks and best practices.</p>	Krista Davis, director of communications, Olentangy Local (Delaware)
11:30 a.m.	<p><b>What would Ted Lasso do?</b> This session will reveal some of Lasso's best life lessons, explaining how they can help you as a school board member.</p>	Dr. William D. Waidelich, CAE, board and management services consultant, OSBA
	<p><b>Ohio auditor of state update</b> Review recently released tax levy guidance and common audit issues and recent findings.</p>	Robert Hinkle, deputy auditor of state, Ohio Auditor of State's Office
	<p><b>Board member bingo: Let's 'spell out' solutions to continuing conundrums</b> Board work is definitely rewarding and difficult. Play along with us as we discuss a few of the current challenges boards may be facing.</p>	Cheryl W. Ryan, director of board and management services, OSBA
1:30 p.m.	<p><b>Legal quick hits: What you need to know</b> Review hot legal topics impacting public education. Learn how these issues may impact your district, and leave with practical tips for compliance.</p>	Sara C. Clark, chief legal counsel; Jennifer A. Hardin, senior deputy director of legal services; and John Price, staff attorney, OSBA
	<p><b>Do you have what it takes? Nurturing effective family engagement</b> Family engagement may be the most misunderstood concept in public education. It's easy to understand why authentic family engagement is so elusive — best practices were not defined, educators receive little training and families are often not up to the challenge. Recently, the National Association of Family, School and Community Engagement released a unifying set of professional competencies. Explore best practices, and see if your district has what it takes.</p>	Kim Miller-Smith, senior student achievement consultant, OSBA
	<p><b>It's all about culture</b> What does "culture eats strategy for breakfast" mean? Simply put, it means that no matter how well-designed your strategic plan is, it will fall flat unless your team shares the appropriate culture. At the end of the day, the people who implement the plan matter. Learn strategies that help build the appropriate culture for educational leadership in the 21st century.</p>	Dr. Kathy McFarland, deputy chief executive, OSBA

# Concurrent session descriptions



Friday, April 28		
2:30 p.m.	<p><b>To teach is to lead</b> Join the author of the book, "To Teach is to Lead," an OSBA Book Club selection, to discuss why teachers are among our districts' most critical and successful leaders, and gain strategies to improve your own board leadership.</p>	Dr. James Mahoney, educator, entrepreneur and author
	<p><b>Blended engagement: Creating opportunities for collaboration</b> Now, more than ever, it's critical that districts engage partners within the community. Attend this empowering session that introduces a blended engagement approach, focusing on an authentic, inclusive process that meets community members where they are and in the manner they desire. These methods allow community participants to work collaboratively to create both the vision and the means to achieve the vision.</p>	Natasha Adams, superintendent, and Daniel M. Romano III, treasurer, West Clermont Local (Clermont)
	<p><b>Let's hear from the Fair School Funding Plan Workgroup</b> This session will provide participants with a basic overview of Ohio's Fair School Funding Plan and important updates on the current legislative process related to school funding.</p>	Dr. Michael P. Hanlon Jr., superintendent, Chardon Local (Geauga); and Thomas L. Hosler II, superintendent, Perrysburg EV
Saturday, April 29		
9:15 a.m.	<p><b>Working with people that can make things difficult</b> Learn a few proven techniques to bring out some of the best in people who can sometimes be at their worst.</p>	Kristine Robbins, board and management services consultant, OSBA
	<p><b>Unique student needs through a board policy lens</b> Hear updates on key policies affecting the unique needs of some students in your district, including considerations for vulnerable youth, parent and family involvement and hazing and bullying. Gain an understanding of requirements and best practices in these areas and how to review local policies and procedures to ensure unique student needs are being met.</p>	Kenna S. Haycox, senior policy consultant, and Gamy Narvaez, policy consultant, OSBA
	<p><b>Job development for students with special learning differences</b> Discover Polaris Career Center's new job development program, which focuses on providing exclusive opportunities for competitive employment to students with unique learning differences and developing long-lasting industry and business partnerships.</p>	Diane Xander, director career development, and Mike Rhamy, director of pupil personnel, Polaris Career Center
10:30 a.m.	<p><b>Lost in paradise?</b> Experiencing conflicts among the board, the leadership team or your community? This session includes suggestions to bring you back to true paradise and your real focus – the students.</p>	Teri Morgan, senior deputy director of board and management services, OSBA
	<p><b>The positive effect of success coaches on student behavior</b> Learn about the strategic hiring practice and the implementation of success coaches and how it has changed the culture in the Plain Local (Stark) Schools.</p>	Brent May, superintendent; Kortney Milford, principal; Katelyn Fraizer and Amy Schuster, success coaches; and Brett Niarchos, deputy principal, Plain Local
	<p><b>Everything you always wanted to know about working with OFCC</b> This session will provide you with all the information you need regarding Classroom Facilities Assistance Programs (CFAPs) or Expedited Local Partnership Programs (ELPPs) projects in partnership with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC).</p>	Holly McLean, chief operating officer, and Matthew Westerman, general counsel, MCS & Associates Ltd.

# Register today for the 2023 Board Leadership Institute!

## Cost

The cost to attend this intensive two-day institute is \$315.

## Registration

Register online at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/BLI> or contact **Scott Clay**, events manager, at [sclay@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:sclay@ohioschoolboards.org).

## Accommodations

The Hilton Columbus/Polaris is the site of this year's Board Leadership Institute. The hotel is in north Columbus at 8700 Lyra Drive, adjacent to Polaris Fashion Place mall, countless restaurants, additional shopping and entertainment. Parking is free.

## Room rates

Stay at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris for \$147 per night if booked by April 4. Make your reservation at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/2023BLIhotel>.

## Cancellation and refund policy

Cancellations received on or before April 21 will receive a full refund. Cancellations received after April 21 will be charged \$158. No-shows and cancellations the day of the event will be charged \$315.

## Earn credits for the OSBA Training Award

Board members attending BLI can earn 20 credits for the OSBA Training Award. Board members who earn 200 points within a three-year period will be recognized. Learn more at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/training-award](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/training-award).



**OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION**



For more details or to register, visit: [www.ohioschoolboards.org/events](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/events)



# WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

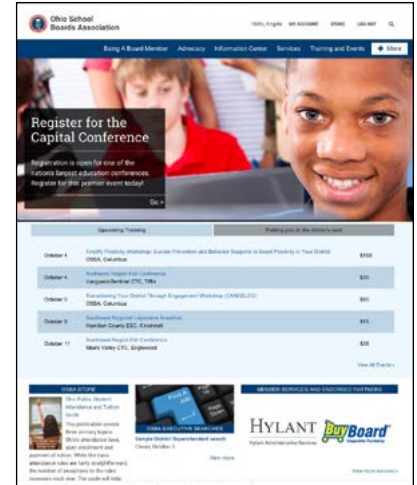
Register at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops)

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.



# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Jennifer Hogue, director of legislative services

## New legislative topics emerge

The new general assembly began in January and we are already tracking over 40 education related bills. Many of these bills are reintroductions from the last general assembly that didn't make it through the process. Some of the pending legislation has already been highlighted in previous publications. This article focuses on providing information for bills that are being introduced for the first time.

### House Bill 47

House Bill 47, sponsored by Reps. **Richard Brown** (D-Canal

Winchester) and **Adam Bird** (R-New Richmond), would require each school to place an automatic external defibrillator (AED) in the building. Additionally, each district and school would be required to provide training on the use of AEDs to teachers, principals, administrative employees, coaches, athletic trainers and any person who supervises interscholastic athletics. Districts would also be required to hold informational meetings about the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest for all ages of students before the start

of each athletic season.

HB 47 would also require each district to adopt an emergency action plan for the use of the AEDs. Under the bill, the Department of Health would be charged with creating a model plan for district use. The model plan must require that the plan be practiced at least quarterly. House Bill 47 is currently pending in the House Health Provider Services Committee.

### House Bill 63

House Bill 63, sponsored by Rep. **Latyna Humphrey**

*Continued on page 6*

(D-Columbus), would require schools to provide age-appropriate classroom instruction on conflict resolution to students in grades K-12. The bill specifies that the instruction must include the following topics:

- skills of conflict resolution including methods of diffusing conflict situations and resolving differences amicably;
- the mediation process;
- respect for and awareness of different cultures, beliefs, religion, races, gender identifies and sexual orientations, including empathy and compassion for others;
- effective communication;
- establishing and maintaining positive social relationships;
- effectively managing emotions;
- making responsible decisions;
- the correlation between conflict and violence, including gun violence.

The bill would also require ODE to create an in-service training program based on conflict resolution instruction as well as a list of instructional materials and curricula that districts may use. The bill is pending in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee.

### House Bill 103

House Bill 103, sponsored by Reps. **Don Jones** (R-Freeport) and **Tracy Richardson** (R-Marysville), would create the Ohio social studies standards task force which would consist of nine members. The Governor, Speaker of the House and President of the Senate

would each appoint three individuals to the task force.

The task force would be charged with developing statewide academic standards in social studies for grades K-12 based on the standards published in “American Birthright: The Civics Alliance’s Model K-12 Social Studies Standards.” When developing the standards, the task force must provide opportunities for public input from parents of K-12 students, active Ohio classroom teachers, other school personnel and administrators with expertise in the social studies subject area. The bill would require the task force to present the proposed standards to the House and Senate Education Committees by August 15, 2023. The standards would need to be approved by the House and Senate through a concurrent resolution before they could go into effect. If approved, the standards will take effect in the 24-25 school year and will be in effect for five years. This bill has not yet been referred to a committee in the House.

### Senate Bill 49

Senate Bill 49, sponsored by Sen. **Michele Reynolds** (R-Canal Winchester), would require school boards to adopt a policy that accommodates the sincerely held religious beliefs of students as it relates to exams, other academic requirements and absences for faith or religious belief. This policy must allow up to three religious expression days each school year

for students. The policy must also include language that a student who is absent for religious expression days is allowed to attend interscholastic events or other extracurricular activities on days they were absent due to religious expression. Additionally, the policy must include a procedure for students to notify the school of any grievance regarding the implementation of the policy.

Under the bill, schools would be prohibited from imposing academic penalties because of the student’s absence and schools would also be prohibited from considering these absences when determining absence hours that require parental notification. The bill specifies that students must be given alternative accommodations if they miss exams or other academic requirements.

Districts would also be required to post the policy and contact information for a person to provide further information on their website in a prominent location. Under SB 49, the district would also be responsible for posting a nonexhaustive list of major religious holidays, religious observations or festivals for the next two academic years. The list must include a note that the list is not exhaustive, and the exclusion of certain holidays, observances or festivals may not be the basis for denying accommodation to the student. Senate Bill 49 is pending in the Senate Education Committee.



## NEWS

by Angela Penquite, deputy director of communication services

### Trustees review association's strategic plan, finances

The OSBA Board of Trustees worked through a packed agenda on Feb. 25 during its first meeting of 2023.

The board is OSBA's official governing body and meets three times a year. In February and July, meetings are held at OSBA headquarters in Columbus. The board's November session is conducted at the OSBA Capital Conference.

OSBA President **Christine Varwig, Toledo City**, presided over the meeting, and thanked the trustees for "taking the time" out of their lives to attend the meeting and for their "servant hearts" that "serve students throughout the state."

The meeting began with the swearing-in of the 2023 Board of Trustees and an introduction of the board. New members of the board are: **Alice Browning, Crooksville EV**; **Michael J. Enriquez, Batavia Local (Clermont)**; **Cathy Johnson, South-Western City**; **Deborah Melda, Lorain County ESC** and **Lorain County JVS**; **Randall Parker III, Toledo City**; and **Christina Vera, Columbus City**.

A list of all the trustees as well as OSBA Executive Committee members is posted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/42720>.

The board recognized

Immediate Past President **Robert M. Heard Sr., Cleveland Municipal**, for his service as 2022-23 OSBA president. Varwig presented Heard with a resolution listing his accomplishments and thanking him on behalf of the board. Deputy Chief Executive Dr. **Kathy McFarland** gave Heard a scrapbook commemorating his time as president, along with a recognition clock. Heard also was congratulated for being named to the Consortium of State School Boards Associations' Board of Directors, where he will serve a three-year term.

The meeting included a training section to orient the trustees to their work as part of the association's governing body. Chief Legal Counsel **Sara C. Clark** and Director of Board and Management Services **Cheryl W. Ryan** discussed governance best practices and the trustees' fiduciary duties as members of the board. OSBA Chief Financial Officer **Allison Morris** presented an overview of the association's structure, entities and finances. She also reviewed OSBA's 2022 financial report, the 2023 budget and a report on the building improvement reserves, which the trustees approved.

**Thomas J. Fladung**, managing

partner at Hennes Communications, presented best practices for public school districts navigating social media. "Social media is here to stay," he confirmed, noting it's often the first place people go to find information. He advised that districts be consistent with their messaging, establish guidelines and terms for use and secure their accounts.

School districts, he said, can use social media to build trust with their communities by showing the great things happening every day in their schools. "The more you can do that, the better, and social media is the most powerful tool to do that," Fladung said.

McFarland provided an update on OSBA's strategic plan, the Visionary Initiatives for Strategic Action (VISA). In November, the trustees reauthorized the strategic plan, which was updated by a committee of school board members and OSBA staff.

"The work of that committee led to an updated mission statement and vision statement and created the goals to guide the association through 2027," McFarland said. Currently, OSBA staff is creating strategies to achieve those goals, and new

*Continued on page 8*



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

## Fayette County schools revamp STEM for EV battery plant

Educators in Fayette County have been anticipating the arrival of a new electric vehicle (EV) battery plant so their students can be prepared for the future.

“We are developing some pathways for our high school students to get a good basis for technology and science and mathematics,” **Washington Court House City Superintendent Thomas S. Bailey** told a local TV station.

Bailey said he’s already talking

to representatives from Honda Motor Co. about how the district can best ready students for success. He added that STEM learning is something the district is taking very seriously from early on, even in elementary school.

“We’re ready to get our students to Honda and these other companies that will give them a great life,” he said.

Next year, the district will be offering new courses and pathways focused on business and

technology and a special nine-course partnership with the University of Cincinnati.

Students in the district’s sixth-grade robotics courses already know what’s possible.

“It can definitely help you if you’re wanting to be somebody that builds stuff, and it can make you a lot of money once you grow up and get a job like that,” Washington Middle School student **Joseph Somers** said.

Source: Spectrum News

*News, continued from page 7*

initiatives will begin this spring.

Director of Legislative Services **Jennifer Hogue** reviewed current legislative issues, including House Bill 33, the biennial budget. She encouraged trustees to invite legislators to their schools to see the impact of the decisions made at the Statehouse and ask their communities, parents and students to share why they chose public education.

“Educational opportunities are available in our public schools,” Hogue said. “Bring legislators into your district. Let the kids tell your story.”

The next meeting of the OSBA Board of Trustees is July 15 in Columbus.

### **New strategic plan guides association through 2027**

In June 2022, OSBA convened a group of 28 staff members, trustees and regional committee members to review past association strategic plans and reimagine the VISA plan for 2023-27. Their efforts revised the association’s vision and mission statements to ensure they succinctly expressed OSBA’s goals.

As part of its work, the committee built on the four pillars of the association’s purpose — membership services, public relations and communications, student achievement and association operations — to create new goals to guide the association for the next five years.

At its November 2022 meeting, the OSBA Board of Trustees adopted the VISA plan, including the revised statements:

**Vision Statement:** Leading the way as the respected voice of Ohio public education.

**Mission Statement:** OSBA engages and serves Ohio’s public school board members and the diverse districts they represent by fostering or delivering:

- excellence in governance;
- steadfast advocacy;
- superior services;
- relevant professional development;
- customized training.

Learn more at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/visa](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/visa).

**March 2023**

- 28 Northeast Region Spring Conference #2  
..... Smithville
- 29 OSBA Master of Transportation  
Administration: Fleet compliance  
..... Columbus and virtual
- 31 End of second ADM reporting period — RC  
3317.03(A).

**April 2023**

- 3 Last day for voter registration for May  
election — RC 3503.01, 3503.19(A) (30  
days prior to election).
- 4 Southwest Region Executive Committee  
Meeting ..... TBD
- 18 Coffee Chat: From Gender Neutral  
Bathrooms to Banned Books: Inclusion  
in the Education Space ..... Virtual
- 25 OSBA Forum ..... Virtual
- 28-29 OSBA Board Leadership Institute  
..... Columbus
- 30 Southeast Region Executive Committee  
Meeting ..... Zanesville

**May 2023**

- 1 Last day to submit certification for income  
tax levy to Ohio Department of Taxation  
for August election — RC 5748.02(A) (100  
days prior to the election).
- 2 Special Election Day; Primary Election Day —  
RC 3501.01 (first Tuesday after first Monday).

- 3 Northeast Region Executive Committee  
Meeting ..... Wadsworth and virtual
- 5 Last day to submit emergency or current  
operating expenses levy to county auditor  
for August election — RC 5705.194,  
5705.195, 5705.213 (95 days prior to the  
election).
- 7 Northwest Region Executive Committee  
Meeting ..... Findlay
- 10 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 August election —  
RC 133.18(D); last day for county auditor  
to certify school district bond levy terms  
for August election — RC 133.18(C); last  
day to submit continuing replacement,  
permanent improvement or operating levy  
for August election to board of elections  
— RC 5705.192, 5705.21, 5705.25; last  
day to certify resolution for school district  
income tax levy for August election to board  
of elections — RC 5748.02(C); last day to  
submit emergency levy for August election  
to board of elections — RC 5705.195; last  
day to submit phased-in levy or current  
operating expenses levy for August election  
to board of elections — RC 5705.251(A) (90  
days prior to the election).
- 15 Last day for certain board members and  
all administrators to file 2022 financial

- disclosure statements with the Ohio Ethics  
Commission — RC 102.02(A)(4)(a).
- 16 Coffee Chat: Employee Benefits - Life  
Insurance Programs specifically for  
schools ..... Virtual
- 23 OSBA Forum ..... Virtual

**June 2023**

- 1 Last day to take action to nonrenew  
contracts of administrators other than  
superintendent and treasurer — RC  
3319.02(C); last day to take action on and  
give written notice of intent not to reemploy  
teachers — RC 3319.11(D); last day to take  
action on and give written notice of intent  
not to reemploy nonteaching employees.  
(Note: this requirement does not apply to  
municipal school district employees  
as defined in RC 3311.71) — RC 4141.29(I)  
(1)(f).
- 27 OSBA Forum ..... Virtual
- 30 2022-23 school year ends — RC 3313.62;  
end of third ADM reporting period — RC  
3317.03(A).

**July 2023**

- 1 2023-24 school year begins — RC 3313.62;  
last day for board to notify teaching and  
nonteaching employees of succeeding year  
salaries — RC 3319.12, 3319.082.