

BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



OSBA CEO Rick Lewis retires; Dr. Kathy McFarland appointed

OSBA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) **Rick Lewis**, CAE, announced his retirement as the association's sixth executive director and CEO effective May 22, having served in that position since 2006. Lewis's career with OSBA spanned over 38 years, during the course of which he was honored by the Ohio University College of Education and national organizations for his outstanding leadership. The OSBA Board of Trustees appointed **Dr. Kathy McFarland**, who has served as deputy executive director since 2018, as the new executive director. Before joining OSBA, McFarland worked as a high school principal at **Olentangy Local (Delaware)**. "Rick Lewis' contributions to public education and the Ohio School Boards Association will continue to have a lasting impact," stated OSBA President **Christine Varwig, Toledo City**. "School board members throughout Ohio have become better leaders for their community via the training and services OSBA offers. Rick's leadership, guidance and friendship will be missed by all. The Board of Trustees thanks him for his decades of service and wishes him well. We very much look forward to welcoming our newly appointed CEO Dr. Kathy McFarland to guide OSBA in the years ahead as the voice of public education."

Funds available for suicide prevention programs

In Ohio, youth suicides increased by 5% in 2021, while overall suicides increased by 8%, according to an Ohio Department of Health (ODH) report released last month. Adjusting for population, rates were highest in rural counties, where access to mental health services and other basic health needs may be limited. You can view the ODH report at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/hannah/suicide-report-21>. A coalition of suicide prevention organizations is offering a competitive funding opportunity aimed at expanding existing mental health resources throughout the state. If your school district uses the Sources of Strength, Be Present Ohio or Kognito suicide prevention materials, it may be eligible for a \$3,000 to \$18,000 grant. For more information and to apply, visit <https://bepresentohio.org/funding-opportunities>.

OSBA Aptitude Award recognizes board governance knowledge

The Aptitude Award — a component of OSBA's STAR Awards program — allows board members to demonstrate understanding and comprehension of a variety of board governance skills based on six leadership areas: vision; accountability; policy; community engagement; relationships and advocacy. To receive the Aptitude Award, board members must receive an 80% passing score on an online assessment. Board members may complete the assessment at their convenience through July 7. The assessment may be taken multiple times during this period. The awards will be

June 12, 2023

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Route workshop information to:

- Administrators
- Principals
- Communication specialists
- Transportation supervisors

presented at the regional fall conferences. Details about the Aptitude Award, including a registration link and assessment guide, are posted at www.ohioschoolboards.org/aptitude-award.

Ohio Department of Education updates special education guidelines

In April, the Ohio General Assembly voted to expand the definition of “child with a disability” under state law. This means that more public school students may be eligible for special education provisions. The Ohio Department of Education has updated its guidance for schools in light of the change. For more information on the updates to the law, and special education in general, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/ohio/special-ed-eligibility>.

Triplets graduate as co-valedictorians, salutatorian

Three students at **Sebring Local’s (Mahoning)** Sebring McKinley High School were honored as co-valedictorians and salutatorian.

The best part? They’re triplets.

Caydin and **Sadie Barker** were co-valedictorians, and **Gage Barker** was the class salutatorian.

Sadie Barker plans to attend the University of Cincinnati (UC), majoring in chemical engineering and then possibly attending law school. Caydin Barker also plans to attend UC to major in electrical engineering and business. Electrical lineman trade school is up next for Gage Barker, but he said college could be in his future.

“These three are amazing in everything they have done in life so far,” their mom, **Becky Pusateri-Barker**, told a local TV station.

Source: cleveland19.com

OSBA board candidate campaign underway for another election year

OSBA’s Get on Board campaign aims to increase the number of qualified candidates running for open school board seats. All too often, board vacancies are filled via appointments rather than in

elections. Get on Board seeks to limit this trend by offering resources to those who might be interested in running for a board seat, while encouraging current board members to consider an additional term of service. Resources include details on school board roles, time commitments, running a campaign and candidate training. For more information, visit www.getonboardohio.org.

OSBA online

● www.ohioschoolboards.org

The summer months are a great time to build support for your district’s schools in your community and in the Statehouse. Check out www.ohioschoolboards.org/grassroots-initiatives for organizing resources, and be sure to download OSBA’s free publication, *Effective Advocacy for School Leaders*, to maximize your positive impact as an ally for your local students.



Briefcase

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Columbus, OH 43235-6481
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www.ohioschoolboards.org

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



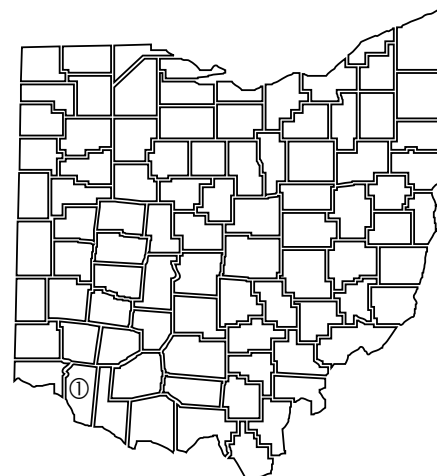
BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, senior administrative assistant of communication services

OSBA executive searches

Treasurer

District	Deadline	Contact
① New Richmond EV	June 16	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



Other Ohio searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Pike-Delta-York Local (Fulton)	June 15	Kerri Weir, superintendent, Northwest Ohio ESC, (567) 444-4795
Treasurer	Pioneer Career and Technology Center	June 16	Kevin Kimmel, superintendent, Mid-Ohio ESC, kimmel.kevin@moesc.net

Administrative changes

Superintendents

Adams County/Ohio Valley Local (Adams) hired Dawn Wallace as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace Richard Andrew Seas, who is retiring. Wallace is currently special education director at Eastern Local (Brown). ••• Bowling Green City hired Dr. Ted M. Haselman as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Francis R. Scruci, who is resigning. Haselman is currently superintendent at Pike-Delta-York Local (Fulton). ••• Brecksville-Broadview Heights City hired Jeffery Harrison as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Joelle M. Magyar, who took the superintendent position at Avon Lake City. Harrison is currently superintendent at Buckeye Local (Medina). ••• Cleveland Metropolitan hired Dr. Warren G. Morgan as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Eric S. Gordan, who is retiring. Morgan is currently the chief academic officer for Indianapolis Public Schools. ••• Columbus City hired Interim Superintendent Dr. Angela Chapman as superintendent effective immediately. ••• Delphos City Superintendent Douglas Westrick announced his resignation effective immediately. He has taken a principal position at Bluffton EV. ••• Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical Schools hired Assistant Superintendent Shelley Groves as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace Dr. Kimberly Pietsch Miller, who is retiring. ••• Galion City hired Dr. Jeffrey Hartmann as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Jennifer Lynn Allarding, who took the superintendent position at Loudonville-Perrysville EV. Hartmann is currently a high school principal at Stow-Monroe Falls City. •••

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

Goshen Local (Clermont) hired Assistant Superintendent **Brian Bailey** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Darrell Edwards**, who is retiring. The district then hired Director of Curriculum and Instruction **Theresa Scherzinger** as assistant superintendent, also effective Aug. 1. ••• **Liberty-Benton Local (Hancock)** hired Director of Operations **Bruce Otley** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Mark Kowalski**, who is retiring. ••• **Olentangy Local (Delaware)** hired Chief Operations Officer **Todd Meyer** as superintendent effective June 1. He replaced **Mark T. Raiff**, who is retiring. ••• **Versailles EV** hired **David L. Harmon** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Aaron Moran**, who took the superintendent position at **Tipp City EV**. Harmon is currently human resources chief at **Dayton City**.

Treasurer

Columbus City Treasurer **Stanley Bahorek** announced his retirement effective July 31. ••• **Delphos City** Treasurer **Brad E. Rostorfer** announced his retirement effective July 31. ••• **Grand Valley Local (Ashtabula)** hired Assistant Treasurer **Tahnee Gruskiewicz** as treasurer effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Lisa Moodt**, who is retiring in October. ••• **Huron City** treasurer **Paul DeMarco** announced his resignation effective July 31. ••• **Jefferson County JVS** hired **Marcy Thompson** as treasurer effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Karen Spoonemore**, who is retiring. Thompson is currently treasurer at **Wellsville Local (Columbiana)**. ••• **Jonathan Alder Local (Madison)** hired **Mark Ingles** as treasurer effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Aaron Johnson**, who took the treasurer position at **Fairbanks Local (Union)**. Ingles currently is treasurer at **Jefferson Local (Madison)**. ••• **Kettering City** hired Assistant Treasurer **Rick Taylor** as interim treasurer effective June 1. He replaced **Cary Furniss**, who took a position with the **Warren County ESC**. ••• **Lima City** hired **Heather Sharp** as treasurer effective May 22. She replaced Interim Treasurer **Rhonda Zimmerly**. Sharp was previously assistant to the treasurer at the **Allen County ESC**.

Sympathies

Former **Colonel Crawford Local (Crawford)**, **Mid-Ohio ESC** and **Pioneer Career and Technology Center** Boards of Education member **Howard A. Koons** died April 12. He was 85. ••• **Lisbon EV** and **Columbiana County Career and Technical Center** Boards of Education member **Gary Lee Peruchetti Jr.** died May 6. He was 77. ••• Former **Morgan Local (Morgan)** Board of Education member **Mark Steven Inman** died Nov. 18. He was 66. ••• **Union Scioto Local (Ross)** Board of Education member **Laura Uhrig** died April 19. She was 61. ••• Former **Urbana City** Board of Education member **Rosa Lee "Dodie" Ligrell Giampetro** died May 22. She was 86.



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.



The Science of Reading: Understanding its impact in Ohio schools

Why attend

For years, the early literacy education community has been discussing the need to reform practices to align to the science of reading. What is the science of reading? How can it improve our practice so students become better readers? Hear from experts who explain what the science of reading is and how it has made an impact on literacy in Ohio.

Speakers

Dr. Mary Heather Munger

assistant professor of education, University of Findlay

Bob Longworth

superintendent, Lockland Local (Hamilton)

Elizabeth Fessel

student service supervisor, Lockland Local (Hamilton)

Aaron Bouie III

executive director of secondary education, Youngstown City

Date and time

Tuesday, June 13
11 a.m.–Noon

Location

Virtual

Cost

Free

Register

www.ohioschoolboards.org/events



OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION

www.ohioschoolboards.org
8050 N. High Street, Suite 100 | Columbus, Ohio 43235

Human Capital Essentials Training with ODE

Wednesday, June 21 | 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Columbus

Districts are well-equipped to serve and support students when they hire, grow and retain quality staff. In this training, we will build principal capacity in the following areas:

- human capital system and organizational alignment;
- recruitment, branding and communication;
- hiring practices;
- employee engagement.



This training addresses standards in all four domains of Ohio's Principal Standards. Participants will receive an e-badge and six contact hours.



For more information and to register: www.ohioschoolboards.org/events

GET ON BOARD

BECOME A VOICE FOR OHIO STUDENTS

Pre-Board Candidate Webinar

JULY
22

10 a.m. to noon



Register for this session by scanning the QR code

Learn about being a board member at a free workshop conducted by OSBA

Led by OSBA staff, this session is for those considering running for a school board seat and current school board members who were appointed to office and now must run for election.

Budget Analysis and Discussion Seminar



Why attend

Attend the Budget Analysis and Discussion Seminar for the most in-depth analysis on the 2024-2025 state budget. This comprehensive seminar will provide insights on the budget process and final version of the legislation.

Key takeaways

- Learn about the school-funding changes in the biennial budget bill and what's to come.
- Hear about provisions in the budget bill that will impact schools and how they will be implemented.
- Get all of your budget questions answered.

Date and time

Tuesday, Aug. 1
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Location

Virtual or in person at:
Hilton Columbus/Polaris
8700 Lyra Drive | Columbus, 43240

Cost

\$205

Register

www.ohioschoolboards.org/events



OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION



Ohio's Superintendent Association





WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

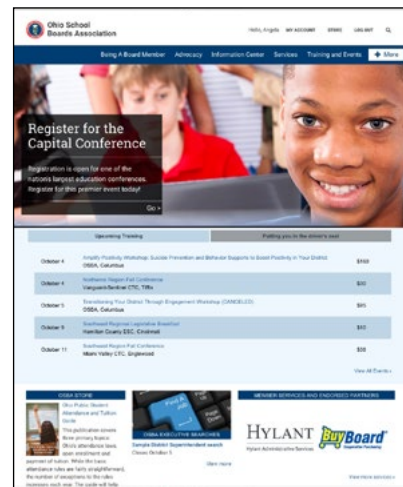
Register at www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops

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.



INFORMATION

by Angela Penquite, deputy director of communication services

Apply now to serve on an OSBA regional committee

Board members, are you looking for ways to network with colleagues from around the state? Would you like to be more involved in OSBA leadership? Do you want to represent your district at region or state events? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, consider answering OSBA’s call for nominations and taking on a leadership role in *your* association.

What do you gain by becoming active in OSBA leadership? Besides the opportunity to provide input

that shapes the future of the association, many current regional and statewide committee members say their leadership roles offer a better perspective on statewide educational issues and give them the chance to network with board members in their region and across the state.

Committees work best when OSBA’s diverse members provide their unique perspectives. Whether you’re in your first year of board service or your 30th, consider serving on an OSBA committee

to increase your interaction with school board members from other districts and represent your fellow board members and school district at region and state events and meetings.

Currently, OSBA is accepting applications for the following 2023 regional and state committees:

- region executive committee members;
- regional executive committee president elect;
- regional appointments to the

Continued on page 11



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Nicole Piscitani, lobbyist

Legislature discusses several attendance bills

The Ohio House and the Ohio Senate are considering three bills that if enacted would require schools to allow excused absences for specific circumstances.

Senate Bill (SB) 49, sponsored by Sen. **Michelle Reynolds** (R-Canal Winchester), would enact the Religious Expression Days "R.E.D." Act and require school boards to adopt a policy providing students with religious accommodations for up to three days. Reynolds provided the following statement during sponsor testimony: "Today, many students of various religious backgrounds in our K-12 public schools have to choose between attending school and practicing their faith. Those who are absent due to religious commitments are often marked as unexcused or otherwise academically penalized." The bill is modeled after House Bill 353 of the 134th General Assembly, which requires each state institution of higher education to adopt a policy providing students with religious accommodations.

Provisions of the bill require a school district to have a policy that permits any student to be absent for up to three religious expression days each school year; to take holidays for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system;

or to participate in organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or other religious or spiritual organization. Additionally, the school must post a non-exhaustive list of major religious holidays, festivals and religious observations. A student cannot be denied a religious expression day due to the holiday's non-inclusion on the list, but a parent or guardian is required to notify the school principal of the observance no later than 14 days after the first day of school or 14 days after the date of enrollment for a student who transfers into the school district. A school principal may contact the parent who submitted the notification to verify the request.

The bill also prohibits schools and districts from the following:

- Imposing an academic penalty as a result of a student's absence under the policy;
- Considering absences under the policy in determining absence hours for the purpose of required parental notification due to unexcused student absences;
- Unreasonably withholding or denying an excused absence for any religious holiday, festival, or observation.

Furthermore, the policy must require a provision that pertains to alternative accommodations for students who miss exams or other academic requirements as a result of absences under the policy. The policy must permit students to participate in interscholastic athletics or other extracurricular activities on days during which the student is otherwise absent for a religious expression day.

The bill passed unanimously in the Ohio Senate and is currently pending in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee.

HB 135, sponsored by Reps. **Thomas Hall** (R-Madison Township) and **Rodney Creech** (R-West Alexandria), would require school districts to grant students excused absences from school for participation in 4-H and FFA programs and activities. Creech provided the following remarks during sponsor testimony: "Each year, many Ohio students take part in 4-H and FFA activities, and for some students it can bring scholarships and tuition money to help them pursue further education. Yet some competitions and events happen to fall within the school calendar, requiring students to miss time from either

Continued on page 10

school or their 4-H or FFA events.”

The bill requires school districts to grant excused absences for participation in scheduled 4-H and FFA activities or programs to students as long as a 4-H or FFA educator submits written documentation to the school principal. However, the school principal is prohibited from granting the excused absence if there is a scheduled administration of a state assessment, or during any period of time in which the student has been disciplined by, suspended from or expelled from school. The 4-H and FFA excused absences would be subject to current law when calculating chronic absenteeism.

The bill is pending in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee.

HB 38, sponsored by Reps. **Jessica Miranda** (D-Forest Park) and **Willis Blackshear** (D-Dayton), would allow school districts to permit students to take up to three mental health days each school year. Miranda provided the

following statement during sponsor testimony: “If a child has pink eye, we excuse and even encourage their absence from school; H.B. 38 simply asks us to consider mental health as we do physical health.”

The bill would permit but not require school districts to allow students in grades K-12 to take up to three mental health days as excused absences from school. It defines a mental health day as a school day during which a student attends to their own emotional and psychological well-being in lieu of attending school. A school district that permits the mental health day policy must implement the same policy in each of its school buildings. Additionally, a school district can establish an in-school mental health program for students to attend instead of allowing the student to take the excused absence away from school. The bill also specifies that once a student uses one excused mental health day, a district may refer that student to the appropriate school

health and support services, such as counseling, social work or psychological services.

A few other provisions in the bill include:

- Prohibiting a school district from requiring a student to have a doctor’s note in order to be granted an excused mental health day absence.
- Allowing a school district to prohibit excused mental health days from being taken on certain days of the year, such as school days scheduled for standardized testing.

The bill is currently pending in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee.

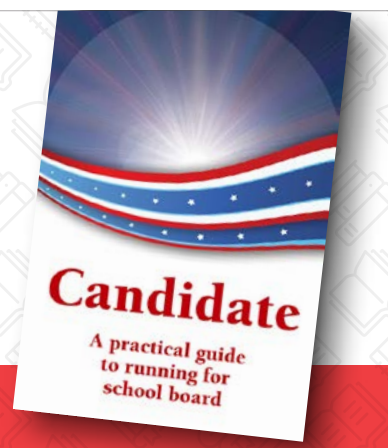
As hearings continue, some or all of these bills may move out of committee. Several committee members acknowledge that current law on chronic absenteeism needs to be reexamined due to these bills, which could impact a school district’s chronic absenteeism report card measure. OSBA is currently working with the committee on a potential fix.

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





PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

Apollo Career Center students help solve OSU drainage issue

High school construction equipment technology students at **Apollo Career Center** teamed up with Ohio State University's (OSU) Lima campus to solve a real-world problem.

OSU had been dealing with standing water in some of the grassy areas near a baseball field. The hope was that students could design a drainage system.

"There was just too much water in this area, and it was flooding," senior **James Schiffhauer** told a

local newspaper. "So, we dug a 300-foot trench with a 6-inch (diameter) main, and then we did a series of four-inch stringers roughly 30-feet apart to help get all the water down to one spot."

Instructor **Chris Washam** was gratified to see students get experience in the field as they prepare to enter the workforce.

"Those kids are going to go into a new job environment making \$25 an hour, and their confidence has been boosted and their résumé has

been boosted," Washam said.

Students expect to continue the work this fall.

"Ohio State Lima students use our campus as a learning laboratory every day, and we are happy that students from Apollo are also able to use our space to develop the skills and experiences they need as they move through their educational journeys," said OSU-Lima Communications Specialist **Pamela Joseph**.

Source: limaohio.com

Information, continued from page 8

OSBA Board of Trustees.

The time commitment for the committees vary. You can view a chart at www.ohioschoolboards.org/call-committee-nominations that outlines the length of the committee's term, number of yearly meetings and whether it is an appointed or elected position. The webpage also includes details on the committees' roles, composition and meeting details.

Any school board member interested in serving on a committee is encouraged to apply for various elected offices and

appointed committees within the association. To learn more about a committee, review the descriptions on the webpage listed above or contact your regional manager. The contact information for regional managers is listed at www.ohioschoolboards.org/region-managers.

If you currently serve on a 2023 committee that is appointed by the regions and would like to continue serving in 2024, you *must* submit an application. Current region executive committee members also should complete this form if they

are interested in serving on any committees or if their term on the region executive committee expires in 2023 and they want to run again.

The deadline to apply is June 30. You can download the application at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/86502>. Submit your application to OSBA Senior Membership Engagement Consultant **Mark E. Bobo** at nominations@ohioschoolboards.org or mail to Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 N. High St., Ste. 100, Columbus, Ohio, 43235.

June 2023

- 13 The Science of Reading: Understanding its impact in Ohio schools..... Virtual
- 17 Northeast Region Lake County Captain's Game FundraiserEastlake
- 21 Human Capital Essentials Training with ODE..... Columbus
- 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; treasurer must certify available revenue in funds to county auditor — RC 5705.36(A)(1); deadline for superintendent to notify the Ohio Department of Education about the implementation or cessation of a blended learning or online learning model in the district — RC 3302.41, 3302.42.
- 10 Last day for voter registration for August election — RC 3503.01, 3503.19(A) (30 days prior to election); last day for termination of teaching contract by a teacher without consent of the board of education — RC 3319.15.

- 14 OSBA Executive Committee Meeting Columbus
- 15 Board of Trustees Meeting Columbus
- 15 Last day to adopt school library district tax budget on behalf of a library district — RC 5705.28(B)(1).
- 22 Pre-Board Candidate Webinar..... Virtual
- 31* Last day to submit certification for November income tax levy to Ohio. Department of Taxation — RC 5748.02(A) (100 days prior to election); last day for board of education to adopt a plan to require students to access and complete online classroom lessons (“blizzard bags”) in order to make up hours for which it is necessary to close schools — RC 3313.482(A)(1); semiannual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates (by 4 p.m.) detailing contributions and expenditures made through June 30, 2023 — RC 3517.10(A)(4).

August 2023

- 1 Budget, Analysis and Discussion Seminar Columbus
- 1 Last day to file statistical report with Ohio Department of Education — RC 3319.33.
- 2 Central Region Executive Committee Meeting TBD

- 2 Northwest Region Executive Committee Meeting Wadsworth and virtual
- 2 Reasonable Suspicion Training Virtual
- 4 Attendance, Tuition and Custody Law Workshop Columbus and virtual
- 4 Last day to submit emergency, current operating expenses or conversion levy to county auditor for November general election — RC 5705.194, 5705.195, 5705.213, 5705.219(C) (95 days prior to election).
- 8 Southwest Region Executive Committee MeetingTBD
- 8 Special Election Day (August election available only if district is under a fiscal emergency) — RC 3501.01 (first Tuesday after the first Monday).
- 9 Last day to file (by 4 p.m.) a nominating petition as a board of education candidate for the November general election — RC 3513.254; 3513.255; 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 November election — RC 133.18(D); last day for county auditor to certify school district bond levy terms for November election — RC 133.18(C).