

# BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



## Thomas C. Patterson nominated as OSBA president-elect

OSBA's Nominating Committee convened July 22 to review candidates for the association's 2024 president-elect position. The committee selected **Thomas C. Patterson**, an 18-year board member from the **Sandusky City**. If elected by the Delegate Assembly in November, Patterson will serve one year as president-elect before becoming the association's president in 2025. His past involvement with OSBA is extensive: He has been region president, and part of the Northwest Region Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, Governance Review Committee, Legislative Platform Committee, Board Member Cabinet, Capital Conference Planning Task Force, VISA Team and Urban Network. Patterson was named recipient of the 15-Year Veteran Board Member award in 2020 and will be recognized with the Master Board Member Award in 2024. "I am proud to serve OSBA," he said upon receiving the nomination, "and my goal is to do as well as my predecessors."

## Register soon for fall region conferences

OSBA's fall region conferences are set for September and October. They feature dinner, awards, region officer elections, student performers, networking and updates on education issues. For reservation information and agendas, visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/events](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/events).

## Social media a cause of youth mental health crisis, report says

The American Federation of Teachers has issued a report on the costs to education arising from social media, drawing on sources such as the U.S. surgeon general and the American Psychological Association. *Likes vs. Learning: The Real Cost of Social Media for Schools* explains the correlations between social media use and academic, mental health and behavioral issues among students. It recommends steps social media companies could take to make their products safer and healthier for children and teens. Read the report here: <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/afe-report>.

## Submit proposals for COSSBA annual conference

The Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) is seeking innovative proposals for learning sessions to feature at its annual conference, Feb. 23-25, 2024, in Dallas, Texas. All OSBA member districts are encouraged to submit their topic ideas by Sept. 18 for a chance to present to education leaders from across the country. For more information and a proposal form, please visit <https://www.cossba.org/cossba-annual-conference/2024callforproposals>.

**Aug. 14, 2023**

Volume 55 Issue 15

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## Route workshop information to:

- Administrators
- Principals
- Communication specialists
- Transportation supervisors

## Only a few weeks left to apply for Clean School Bus grant

Schools seeking U.S. EPA Clean School Bus program grants to replace aging buses must apply for funding by Aug. 22 at 11:59 p.m. EST. Approximately \$400 million in competitive funding will be granted in all. Further information is available at <https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/clean-school-bus-program-grants>.

## Heat safety tips for student athletes

As the dog days of summer wear on and students return to school campuses for preseason activities, such as sports and band practices, educators and staff should be aware of the health and safety risks associated with extreme heat. The Cleveland Clinic's website offers a handy

chart to help identify, differentiate between and treat common heat-related concerns, such as heat cramps, heatstroke and heat exhaustion. You can view the chart here: <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/heat-exhaustion-vs-heat-stroke>.

Another great source for districts

seeking to promote heat safety is the American Red Cross. You can download their Extreme Heat Safety Checklist in several languages at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/heat-safety-checklist>.

## OSBA online

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

This year's OSBA Capital Conference will be held Nov. 12-14 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The best way to make the most of the conference is to register early and plan ahead. Start curating your 2023 Capital Conference experience now at <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/2023>. Nominate student groups for the Student Achievement Fair, view a listing of Trade Show exhibitors or the tentative schedule or catch up on up-to-the-minute information on the learning sessions, speakers and events in store.

## Ohio students dive into Dominican culture

A small group of **Bowling Green City** and **Granville EV** students and teachers spent part of their summer in the Dominican Republic for a cultural experience.

The students toured the old district of Santo Domingo and the nearby Los Tres Ojos Caves National Park. They also learned about Caribbean history and culture with a museum trip, got a sneak peek at preparations for next year's Carnival, participated in a salsa dance lesson and visited a community ceramic center.

Bowling Green student **Bella Karlovec** told a local newspaper that she "loved interacting with Dominicans." Many do not have cellphones, she said, so "that makes it easier for them to go out and socialize more with people in the community."

Source: BG Independent News



## 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

## Board changes

Ayersville Local (Defiance) appointed **Adam Fritz** to the board effective July 17. He replaced **Matt Hanenkrath**, who died in June. ••• Cambridge City appointed **Steve Taylor** to the board effective July 27. He replaced **Amy Kissinger**, who resigned in May. ••• Columbiana County Career and Technical Center appointed **T.K. Hiscox** to the board effective July 20. He replaced **Gary Peruchetti Jr.**, who died in May. ••• Mapleton Local (Ashland) appointed **Vincent Hartzler** to the board effective July 19. He replaced **Timothy McKean**, who resigned effective June 23.

## Administrative changes

### Superintendents

Crestline EV hired **James R. Sater** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He replaced **Matt Henderson**, who resigned. Sater is currently superintendent at Dalton Local (Wayne). ••• Dayton City hired Business Manager **Dr. David Lawrence** as interim superintendent effective immediately. ••• Pike Delta York Local (Fulton) hired **Jonathan Burke** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He replaced **Dr. Ted M. Haselman**, who took the superintendent position at Bowling Green City. Burke was previously principal at St. Marys City.

### Treasurer

Groveport Madison Local (Franklin) hired **Adam Collier** as treasurer effective Aug. 1. He replaced **Felicia Drummey**, who retired June 30. Collier was previously treasurer at Hamilton Local (Franklin).

## Sympathies

Former Crestview Local (Richland) Board of Education member **Phyllis Elizabeth McPhern** died July 16. She was 87. ••• Former Highland Local (Medina) Board of Education member **Mary “Jean” Zorn** died July 11. She was 79. ••• Former Indian Creek Local (Jefferson) and Jefferson County JSVD Board of Education member **James E. “Jim” Kirkpatrick** died July 23. He was 87. ••• Former Parkway Local (Mercer) Board of Education member **Ronald D. Frahm** died July 8. He was 77.



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.



# COMMUNICATIONS

by Marcia Latta, communications consultant

## Plan your back-to-school kickoff to inform and celebrate

A new school year is equal parts exciting and daunting. Some students can't wait to claim their seats in their new classrooms, and others feel a sense of anxiety. Planning this annual ritual with both sensibilities in mind can launch your new year successfully and make all students feel welcome in their school community.

### Planning your celebration

Schools know how to plan a new school year. Although they do it every year, this year promises to be more "normal" than the last few years. A reminder of the old routines, or even a refreshed plan, may be helpful.

There are plenty of easy ways to let your students and families know that you are glad to see them. This list has new ideas and tried-and-true activities to help you plan.

### Set up reliable and inclusive communications

Assess your systems. People appreciate reliability and feel welcome when they are included in the information loop. The first step is to ensure they receive your information.

Effective communication is inclusive. Let your families know

how you will communicate with them from the very start. Use multiple communication methods to ensure they don't miss your messages. Let parents know whether you will share information via your website, social media, email or text messaging systems, phone dialer or printed materials sent home with students.

Be sure to cross-post on whichever channels you choose, and let parents know they will be able to access future messages in the same manner. These systems should be tested in advance to troubleshoot any potential sign-up or access issues.

Check your tone. A principal's welcome letter can set the tone for a positive experience. Create a sense of familiarity by sharing some information about yourself and your summer, introducing new staff members and programs, and summarizing facility work or upgrades that were completed or will be happening during the coming year. A good tone reassures families that your school is well-organized and your staff can't wait to welcome students.

Give them the essentials. A back-to-school packet that provides all of the information for a successful, stress-free start is a welcoming

gesture and a necessary resource. This essential information should be available as printed materials, electronic attachments or links. You may consider using a QR code that directs users to a back-to-school webpage.

If you are distributing digital files, have printed materials available for families who lack reliable internet service. Also have translated materials available and consider how you will accommodate any accessibility needs. Include the following:

- a school calendar;
- information regarding immunization requirements;
- school, office and phone hours;
- transportation information;
- information on how to access school policies and procedures;
- a statement explaining student use of cellphones at school;
- costs of extracurricular athletics and activities, school yearbooks and other incidentals;
- price of school meals and how to apply for the free and reduced-price meals program;
- rules on harassment, bullying, weapons, drugs and other behaviors that need to be emphasized.

*Continued on page 9*



OSBA 2023  
**COFFEE  
- CHAT -**

# EASYPROCURE, WHAT IS THAT?

**AUG. 15 | 8:30 a.m.-9 a.m.**

**Key takeaways:**

- Gain an understanding of how a purchasing card is different than a credit card, making it a safer method of payment for school districts.
- Learn about the efficiency of paying with the P-card and the potential rebates (up to six figures) your district can earn by leveraging this program.
- Discover what questions to ask your treasurer about your district's spending and P-card program potential.

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

# OSBA CAPITAL CONFERENCE

## HOUSING WEBINAR

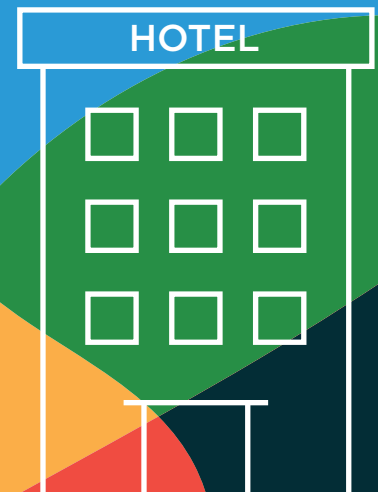
Join the OSBA team as we discuss the 2023 Capital Conference housing system and walk through the entire process from start to finish. We will have time at the end for all of your questions. Attending the Housing Webinar will give you the best chance of getting your first choice in a hotel for the 2023 Capital Conference.

[WWW.OHIOSCHOOLBOARDS.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.OHIOSCHOOLBOARDS.ORG/EVENTS)



OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION

**AUG. 18, 2023**  
10 a.m.-11 a.m.





# Board Candidate Workshops

## Why attend

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

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

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



## WORKSHOP DATES

SEPT.

7

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

SEPT.

8

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

SEPT.

9

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



OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
[GETONBOARDOHIO.ORG](http://GETONBOARDOHIO.ORG)

# OSBA Region Fall Conferences

Don't miss this professional development opportunity and chance to celebrate achievements from throughout your region.

## Central Region

**Wednesday, Sept. 20** | 5 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  
Villa Milano, Columbus  
Cost: \$45

## Southeast Region

**Thursday, Sept. 28** | 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  
Alexander High School, Albany  
Cost: \$40

## Northeast Region

**Wednesday, Oct. 4** | 5 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  
Galaxy Restaurant, Wadsworth  
Cost: \$45

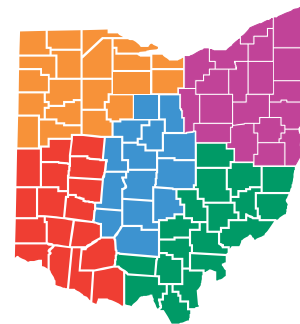
## Southwest Region

**Thursday, Oct. 12** | 5 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  
Laurel Oaks Career Campus, Wilmington  
Cost: \$40

## Northwest Region

**Thursday, Oct. 26** | 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  
Fostoria High School, Fostoria  
Cost: \$40

**Register today  
for your local  
fall conference!**



**To register, visit:**  
[www.ohioschoolboards.org/  
events](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/events)

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



**OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION**



# WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

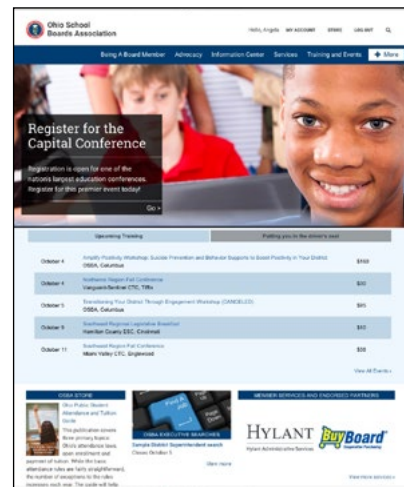
Register at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops)

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.




## OSBA FORUM

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

Date	Time	Cost
Aug. 29	11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Free

Save the date for this upcoming virtual event. OSBA Forums will tackle the critical issues facing public education today. We will discuss and provide insights and strategies to assist you in today's challenging environment.

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





Communications, continued from page 4

## Welcome your families

Back-to-school excitement is not a one-day event. School registration or teacher introduction days are part of the fun. Students' first impressions may be from these early events. Schools should be clean and look fun. When students arrive, it should be clear to them what they need to do and where they need to go.

Consider including student artwork in the halls, teacher personal statements and photos on the classroom doors or college pennants from staff alma maters. These visuals can be aspirational for students and families, and convey messages of high expectations and support for student achievement.

Bulletin boards and display cases can be used to showcase school programs or student awards. Showcase the best recognitions and achievements.

Before any family event, discuss the goals with staff members. Provide any additional information they may need to be informed and appear confident. If there are special messages about the school or district that you want them to share with families, be sure that they have talking points, details and an opportunity to ask questions in advance.

## Is your school ready?

Do an inventory of your building before you invite your families to come in. The attention to detail for the facility and

grounds may reassure parents of your attention to detail in managing their child's safety and educational needs in your school.

- **Plan messaging for school reader boards.** Use your reader board for welcoming messages about the new school year several weeks in advance. Include important dates and warm greetings. If you have room, you could include messages to welcome new staff or the student body in general.

- **Check your signage.** Directing visitors to the correct entrance is essential for safety and for conveying that the building has safety protocols. The signs can be both clear and friendly. Is it easy to identify the front door? Are the other exterior doors clearly marked with directions to the front entrance? Is the signage welcoming? Is there signage near the parking lot to direct visitors to the front entrance?

- **Hang your banners.** Do you have a school banner or a back-to-school flag you can fly? If not, consider buying a welcome-back banner. Hang it prior to the start of school and leave it up for a few weeks after the first day of school.

- **Assess your administrative office space.** All visitors must stop by your school office when they enter the building. This is one of the first impressions visitors get of your building. It should be clean and organized. Tidy the counters, stack the forms and refresh the space with welcoming touches, such as framed art, fresh flowers,

stuffed toys or a digital photo album featuring staff and students.

- **Offer them a seat.** In case of longer wait times, chairs for visitors can reduce frustration. Reading materials also are helpful, especially if they have information about your school, such as school newsletters or brochures.


- **Plan some get-to-know-you events.** A back-to-school barbecue, meet-and-greet or open house can be an opportunity to get to know the members of the school community and kick off the new year with some fun. Plan for a festive event with student-made decorations, food, icebreaker activities and a chance to mingle.

Source: Washington State School Directors' Association

## THE OHIO SCHOOL ETHICS GUIDE

A comprehensive discussion of Ohio laws that define the ethical conduct of school board members and administrators. The book includes financial disclosure filing requirements, how to avoid conflicts of interest and a guide to compatibility of public offices.

**Cost:** \$15



Purchase this and other publications at:  
[www.ohioschoolboards.org/catalog](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/catalog)



# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Nicole Piscitani, lobbyist

## Changes coming to ODE in Fall 2023

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) will be going through an extensive change in the fall of 2023 due to House Bill (HB) 33, in which the General Assembly created not only the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) but also the Department of Children and Youth. The biennial budget bill, HB 33, included provisions from Senate Bill (SB) 1 that transfers most of the responsibilities and duties from the State Board of Education (SBOE) and ODE to a Governor led department called the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW). The bill also created another Governor led department called the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) that will serve as the state's primary children's services agency.

The provisions of HB 33 that transfer responsibilities to DEW are subject to the 90-day rule, meaning the effective date of these provisions will occur in early October. HB 33 also provides a 90-day transition period that begins on the bill's effective date. On this effective date, ODE will be renamed DEW and become a cabinet-level agency reporting to the Governor of Ohio. The Governor will

appoint the Director of DEW and the Senate will be required to approve the appointment. Gov. **Mike DeWine**, at this time, has not released any potential director candidates. While the actual transfer of responsibilities cannot occur until the effective date, the SBOE and ODE are in the process of creating a transition plan to make the transfer as smooth as possible.

DEW will be responsible for primary, secondary, special and career-technical education, and will be divided into two divisions: the Division of Primary and Secondary Education and the Division of Career-Technical Education. Both of these divisions will have a deputy director selected by the Director of DEW and approved by the Senate.

The Department of Children and Youth will be led by a Governor-appointed director. Current ODE programs regarding early learning and preschool special education will transition to DCY. The children's services programs that are currently administered by other state agencies, including Job and Family Services, Health, Developmental Disabilities, Medicaid, Mental Health and

Addiction Services and Development will also move to DCY. HB 33 requires that all programs and staff be transitioned by January 1, 2025.

The State Board of Education will continue to lead ODE until the provisions of HB 33 go into effect. After the effective date, the SBOE will be responsible for the following education-related items:

- Adoption of requirements for educator licensure;
- Processing and issuing educator licenses;
- Investigating and resolving educator misconduct complaints;
- Evaluating background checks, evaluating eligibility for licensure and participating in the retained applicant fingerprint database program;
- Determining school district territory transfer disputes;
- Administering the teacher and school counselor evaluation systems;
- Overseeing the Ohio Teacher of the Year program; and
- Interfacing with and providing staff support to the Educator Standards Board.

A superintendent of public instruction, hired by SBOE, will serve as executive officer. Over

*Continued on page 11*



## PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

### Washington Local teacher donates kidney to student

**Washington Local (Lucas)** geometry teacher **Eddie McCarthy** was watching the local TV news when he happened to see one of his students.

Whitmer High School student **Roman McCormick**, 15, had stage 4 kidney disease. None of his relatives were a match.

"He always turned his work in on time, and he was definitely one of my best students," McCarthy told the Washington Post. "But I didn't realize he'd been going

through something this serious."

After seeing the plea from Roman's mother on the news, McCarthy, who has two young children, decided to get a blood test in February to see if he might be a potential match. In June, he learned he would be a great donor match for Roman.

The surgeries in July were a success.

"Everyone in our family will forever be grateful for what Eddie did," Roman's mother, **Jamie**

**Redd**, said. "We hope that this gift will give hope to others who are going through what we did, and that they'll also find donors."

Without McCarthy's kidney, Roman likely would have waited three to five years for a kidney from a deceased donor, if he was able to live that long.

According to the American Kidney Fund, there are more than 92,000 people on the national kidney donor waiting list.

Source: The Washington Post

*Legislative Report, continued from page 10*

the past few months, the SBOE members have selected a search firm to aide in the superintendent search and are currently working on a job description. According to the official timeline, the application window will be open from the end of August to early October. In October and November, the SBOE will review and interview candidates, with a tentative final vote to occur at the Nov. 15 SBOE meeting.

Following the passage of HB 33, additional changes to the SBOE were proposed in HB 235,

sponsored by Rep. **Sarah Fowler Arthur** (R-Ashtabula). This bill would change the composition of State Board members. Currently the State Board is made up of 11 elected members and eight governor appointed members. HB 235 proposes to eliminate the eight appointed members and increase the elected members to a 15-member body that aligns with Ohio's 15 congressional districts. The bill would also require the 15 State Board of Education members to be elected on the partisan ballot instead of the

non-partisan ballot that is currently in law.

In addition, HB 235 would require the State Board to convene one public meeting each month with the purpose of holding a public hearing on any rules proposed by DEW. The SBOE would be required to allow public testimony — both in-person and written — and provide a report that summarizes the comments and feedback. Due to the bill's introduction during summer break, it has yet to be referred to a committee for consideration.

**August 2023**

- 15 Coffee Chat: EasyProcure, What is that? ..... Virtual
- 18 OSBA Capital Conference Housing Webinar ..... Virtual
- 23 Central Region Legislative Open House ..... Mount Vernon
- 23 Northeast/Northwest Regions Open House ..... Sandusky
- 27 Northwest Region Executive Committee meeting ..... Virtual
- 28 Northeast/Southeast Regions Open House ..... West Lafayette
- 28 *Last day to file (by 4 p.m.) as a write-in candidate for November general election – RC 3513.041 (72 days prior to the election).*
- 29 OSBA Forum ..... Virtual

**September 2023**

- 7 Board Candidate Workshop Southern Region..... Lebanon
- 8 Sports Law Module 1..... Virtual
- 9 Board Candidate Workshop Northern Region..... Smithville
- 15 Sports Law Module 2..... Virtual
- 20 Central Region Fall Conference ..... Columbus
- 20 MTA 2023-24 Module 1: Routing and Technology..... Columbus and Virtual
- 22 Sports Law Module 3..... Virtual

- 26 OSBA Forum ..... Virtual
- 26 Public Schools Cyber Symposium ..... Westerville
- 26 Sports Law Module 4..... Virtual
- 28 Southeast Region Fall Conference ..... Albany
- 30 *Last day to file business advisory council plan with the Ohio Department of Education – RC 3313.821.*

**October 2023**

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

- 23 Auditorium State Equipment Maintenance 101, Public Schools Edition ..... Virtual
- 24 OSBA Forum ..... Virtual
- 25 MTA 2023-24 Module 2: Personnel Management.....Columbus and Virtual
- 26 Northwest Region Fall Conference ..... Fostoria
- 26 *Pre-general election campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates appearing on the ballot (by 4 p.m.) detailing contributions and expenditures made from the last day reflected in the previous report to the close of business on Oct. 18, 2023 (12 days before election) – RC 3517.10(A)(1).*
- 31 *End of first ADM reporting period – RC 3317.03(A).*

**November 2023**

- 1 *Last day for classroom teachers to develop online classroom lessons (“blizzard bags”) in order to make up hours for which it is necessary to close schools – RC 3313.482(A)(3)(a).*
- 7 *General Election Day; Special Election Day – RC 3501.01 (first Tuesday after the first Monday).*
- 30 *Deadline to file consolidated school mandate report – RC 3301.68.*