

BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



OSBA welcomes new school board members

As the new year begins, hundreds of newly elected school board members will start their terms of office. OSBA has compiled a wealth of resources to help districts smoothly bring new members onto their boards. They include: transitioning new board members to the leadership team; an organizational meeting fact sheet and tips; administering the oath of office; filling January board vacancies; and new board member training opportunities. For details, visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/new-board-members.

Briefcase, OSBA Update to merge in revamped digital publication

After this issue, we will no longer publish the Briefcase. Instead, the regular Briefcase features will be included in a new, interactive e-newsletter, which will be free for all members. For more information, see page 4.

Proactive measures best to prevent violence, teachers report

Despite the popularity of “zero-tolerance” policies, teachers nationwide say that the threat of suspension or expulsion does little to prevent violence against educators by students, according to an Ohio State University study released this month. The researchers surveyed 4,471 K-12 educators about what measures their districts had taken to address potentially dangerous behavior, what they thought of those measures’ effectiveness and whether they themselves had been on the receiving end of threats or harm from their students. Upon analysis, the teachers’ on-the-ground experiences seem to support earlier studies showing that “prevention” strategies are the most effective, with crisis intervention strategies rating second-highest for effectiveness. Schools that used suspension and expulsion punishments as a deterrent were most likely to experience incidents of violence against teachers and staff. You can view the full paper at <https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2024-20854-001>.

Virtual Transportation Supervisor subscribers access expertise, resources

OSBA’s Virtual Transportation Supervisor (VTS) program is designed to supplement your district’s transportation department with expert information and feedback. The program includes training for transportation supervisors, reviews of your T-1 and T-2 draft reports, additional consulting, a suite of cost analysis procedures to help your district save money and more. The cost for 2024 is \$275, and multiple administrators within a district may use the same VTS subscription. For more information and to register, go to <https://www.ohioschoolboards.org/transportation-services>.

Dec. 25, 2023

Volume 55 Issue 23

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your 2024 liaisons;
Register now for
cyberlaw webinar
series; OSBA online*

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Route workshop information to:

- Administrators
- Principals
- Communication specialists
- Transportation supervisors

It's time to name your 2024 liaisons

At the beginning of the year, school districts should appoint an OSBA legislative liaison and a student achievement liaison and inform OSBA of those appointments. The legislative liaisons' role is to share information from OSBA about state and federal education legislation with fellow board members; urge them to contact legislators on key legislative issues; and build relationships with legislators. Student achievement liaisons lead discussions with district leaders on items published in Success, a monthly student achievement newsletter, which is distributed to all OSBA members. For questions about legislative liaisons, contact **Nicole Piscitani** at npiscitani@ohioschoolboards.org. Contact **Kim Miller-Smith** at kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org for details on student

Akron schools celebrate kindness through poetry

Dozens of young poets stole the spotlight at Akron Civic Theatre for an inspiring evening centered on kindness.

The Expressions of Kindness Poetry Project, involving Akron students of all grades, culminated in this heartwarming event. Book publisher and poet **Jason Blakely** suggested compiling a poetry book on kindness, leading to a collaborative effort with **Joanne Issac** and **Akron City Schools**. "We asked students to express, what does it mean to be kind to you? What is kindness in our community?" Isaac told a local newspaper.

The resulting book, "Poetry Project, Expressions of Kindness," features heartfelt poetry aligned with grade-level standards. Proceeds from sales support the Be Kind 330 initiative.

Source: Akron Beacon Journal

achievement liaisons. They also can be reached at (614) 540-4000.

Register now for cyberlaw webinar series

Beginning Jan. 23, OSBA's legal division will host a series of four webinars covering important current topics in cyberlaw and

cybersecurity. The cost is \$125 for all four sessions. For more information and to register your district, visit <https://www.ohioschoolboards.org/events/view/cyberlaw-webinar-series>.

OSBA online

● www.ohioschoolboards.org

School districts must set the date for their annual organizational meetings by Dec. 31. OSBA has resources for running effective meetings and transitioning new members to the board. They include: School board organizational meeting and oath of office fact sheet, <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/49649>; Five fast facts: Tips on running successful board meetings: <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/20576>; and Five fast facts: Helping new board members transition to your leadership team: <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/79391>.



Briefcase

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After this issue, we will no longer publish the Briefcase.

Beginning in 2024, all OSBA members will receive a revitalized OSBA Update e-newsletter delivered to your inbox twice a month. This e-newsletter is free with your OSBA membership.

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



BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, senior administrative assistant of communication services

OSBA executive searches

Superintendent

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



Other Ohio searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	McComb Local (Hancock)	Jan. 12	Jeff Young, superintendent, Hancock County ESC, youngj@hancockesc.org
Treasurer	Four County Career Center	Jan. 4	Kerri Weir, superintendent, Northwest Ohio ESC, (567) 444-4795

Administrative changes

Superintendent

Liberty Local (Trumbull) Superintendent **Andrew Tommelleo** announced his retirement effective Jan. 31. ●●●
 McComb Local (Hancock) hired Hancock County ESC Superintendent **Jeff Young** as interim superintendent effective immediately. Young will continue to serve as superintendent with the ESC.

Treasurer

Huron City hired **Mike Limberios** as treasurer effective Jan. 15. He will replace Interim Treasurer **Betty J. Schwiefert**. Limberios is currently treasurer/compliance with Buckeye Community School.

Sympathies

Former Lordstown City Board of Education member **Kenneth A. Purnell** died Nov. 28. He was 83. ●●● Former Wellington EV Board of Education member **Allen Wayne Kimmich** died Nov. 25. He was 93. ●●● Former West Liberty-Salem Local (Champaign) Board of Education member **Richard Benge Jr.** died Nov. 18. He was 76.



COMMUNICATIONS

by Katherine Gregor, editorial manager

New year, new era for the Briefcase and beyond

Beginning in the new year, the OSBA Briefcase will be evolving with a convenient new format.

For decades, our members have relied on the Briefcase as a way to connect, catch up and learn about OSBA's services and offerings. We began offering the electronic version of the Briefcase as a paperless option that readers could access right from their email inbox, but this had limits as well: including links to our other online publications were less straightforward than a simple email, and the delays associated with printing and mailing the paper version in concert meant that we couldn't include up-to-the-minute news that would change by the time readers received it.

Eighty-nine percent of subscribers read the Briefcase online. For breaking news, most members look to the OSBA Update, our e-newsletter, which serves a purpose similar to the one the Briefcase served when it was first introduced. In light of these facts, the Briefcase will be merging with the OSBA Update, consolidating all OSBA news and announcements into a single streamlined email.

The move will save our readers time, help declutter their inboxes

and make more effective use of our collective resources as an association. The newsletter will remain free to all members and continue to include the bulletin board, legislative update and all the other useful features Briefcase readers have come to expect.

This will be our last print issue. For more information about the changes, visit <https://www.ohioschoolboards.org/osba-update-faq> or contact

Communications Director **Jeff Chambers** at jchambers@ohioschoolboards.org. We appreciate the time and attention you have given the Briefcase as readers and the support you have given to us as members, and we look forward to continuing on our mission to aid, inform and inspire public education leaders in 2024.

OSBA UPDATE

DECEMBER 11, 2023

OHSAA campaign addresses abusive fans
The Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) is relaunching its Respect the Game campaign, with updated and expanded content aimed at addressing and preventing unsportsmanlike and bullying behavior from the stands at high school sporting events. Harassment from fans is a major cause of the shortage of sports officials in Ohio, the association stated, and takes the spotlight away from student athletes.
> Read more

LAUNCHING OUR NEXT GENERATION
SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

January is School Board Recognition Month
Each year, Ohio schools celebrate School Board Recognition Month, honoring the board of education members who work to make a difference for over 1.6 million public school students. OSBA is once again offering an extensive toolkit to help districts recognize board members for their service.
> Read more

OSBA 2024 COFFEE-CHAT
A FREE Virtual Event

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

MTA Module 4: The Transportation Handbook
Jan. 24 at 10 a.m.
We will discuss the handbook development process as well as what to include in the handbook and how to keep it current. > Register

January OSBA Forum
Jan. 30 at 11:30 a.m.
OSBA Forums tackle the critical issues facing public education today. > Register

Professional development and learning opportunities throughout the year full calendar and register for an event today.

COMMUNICATIONS

Access during Recreation Week
Education Appreciation education and once by ensuring location. Use this press with your

CELEBRATE
Ohio Public Education Appreciation Week
Nov. 13-17, 2023

BULLETIN BOARD

Other Ohio searches	Administrative openings
Administrative changes	Sympathies

OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

650 N. High Street, Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235



OSBA 2024
**COFFEE
- CHAT -**

ANATOMY OF A COMMUNICATIONS AUDIT

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

Key takeaways:

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

Speaker:

Thom Fladung, Hennes Communications

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



OSBA FORUM

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

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

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

Register at: www.ohioschoolboards.org/events





Master of Transportation Administrator Series



Student transportation administrator training program

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

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

Curriculum

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

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



MTA Module 1

Routing and technology
Sept. 20, 2023



MTA Module 2

Personnel management
Oct. 25, 2023



MTA Module 3

Transportation rules and regulations
Nov. 29, 2023



MTA Module 4

The transportation handbook
Jan. 24, 2024



MTA Module 5

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



MTA Module 6

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





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

Why attend

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

Dates and locations

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



**OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION**

View our complete events calendar and register at:
www.ohioschoolboards.org/events



WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

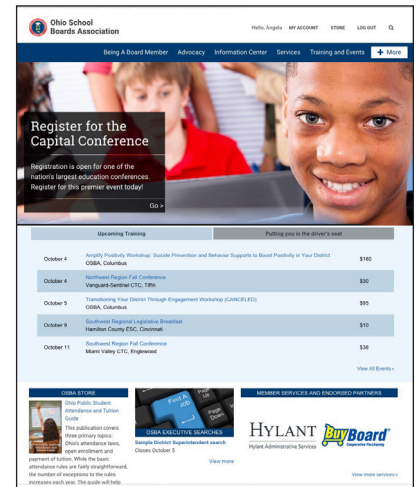
Register at www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops

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

How to log in

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

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



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

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

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



OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Nicole Piscitani, deputy director of legislative services

Bill to address local property tax increases remains on hold until 2024

The General Assembly has concluded the fall 2023 legislative session. Several issues that either the Ohio House or the Ohio Senate have indicated as priorities are still working their way through the legislative process, which will continue in January 2024. One issue that both the House and Senate have prioritized is a bill to provide temporary tax relief for property owners whose valuations increased significantly.

During the process of passing House Bill (HB) 33, the biennial budget, legislators noted that some counties, as part of the three-year cycle of property reassessment, were seeing high valuation increases, which would increase the amount of taxes property owners paid to various tax levying entities. The provisions in the budget bill ended up being removed due to concerns about changing the method of assessing properties.

HB 187, sponsored by Reps. **Thomas Hall** (R-Madison Township) and **Adam C. Bird** (R-New Richmond), was introduced at the end of May.

This bill contained the same provisions that were in HB 33. The introduced bill would have created temporary relief for residential property owners by requiring the use of a three-year average for re-evaluating property values, resulting in real property valuations being based equally on the past three years rather than a 3-year lookback on sales with an emphasis placed on sales occurring closest to the tax lien date. During the legislative process in the Ohio House, the bill was amended to include agriculture property and thus would require a similar three-year averaging for current agricultural use value (CAUV) for farmland in counties that undergo a property tax reappraisal or triennial update.

The House also made a change regarding the final authority in determining the valuations during the reappraisal process. Under current law, the Department of Taxation has the final authority; with this legislation, the House changed the final authority to the county auditors. The bill passed out of the Ohio House on Oct. 11, 2023.

While the Ohio House was

deliberating HB 187, the Ohio Senate was hearing testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 153, a companion bill. After HB 187 passed out of the Ohio House, however, the Senate Ways and Means Committee focused on amending HB 187 instead of SB 153. The Senate Ways and Means Committee held several hearings over the month of November and December and made several significant changes. The amendment removed the three-year averaging language and instead inserted an expanded homestead exemption.

The Ohio Constitution allows certain individuals to qualify for a homestead exemption. They include individuals at least 65 years of age; individuals who are disabled; military veterans who are totally disabled and their surviving spouses; and surviving spouses of peace officers, firefighters, or other emergency responders who die in the line of duty or by an injury or illness sustained in the line of duty. State law has narrowed eligibility by requiring homeowners to fall below a certain income level. The

Continued on page 10

Legislative Report, continued from page 9

homestead exemption is actually a property tax credit for the primary residence that exempts a portion of the value of an eligible individual's homestead from taxation.

The expanded homestead exemption would expand eligibility for individuals who would qualify based on all requirements except for the income threshold. Under current law, a homeowner must have an Ohio modified adjusted gross income of \$36,100 or less for tax year 2023 to qualify. The bill increases the Ohio modified adjusted gross income to \$75,000. In addition to the expanded eligibility, the bill also increases the tax credit amounts; however, the tax credit amount varies in relation to the adjusted gross income.

Under current law, the state

provides the local taxing authorities with funds for individuals who utilize the homestead exemption, thus holding those entities harmless for any loss in revenue. The bill that was amended in the Senate Ways and Means Committee would reimburse local, city and exempted village school districts for 50% of their revenue loss from the expanded homestead provisions contained in the bill. All other local taxing authorities would be reimbursed 100%, including joint vocational school districts. One important point to note is that the reduction in reimbursement for school districts is only applicable to the expanded provisions — local, city and exempted village school districts would be reimbursed 100% for existing homestead exemptions.

The amended bill also contains

several provisions that impact a school district's ability to challenge property valuations. These provisions build on similar changes that were enacted through HB 126 of the 134th General Assembly. The Ohio Senate passed HB 187 on Dec. 6, 2023.

Due to the extensive changes made in the Ohio Senate, and because the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate versions represent two completely different approaches to addressing the increases to local taxes, it is unclear if the Ohio House will accept the changes. Both the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate are taking a legislative break. The Ohio House has an if-needed session scheduled for Jan. 10, 2024, and both the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate have session scheduled for Jan. 24, 2024.

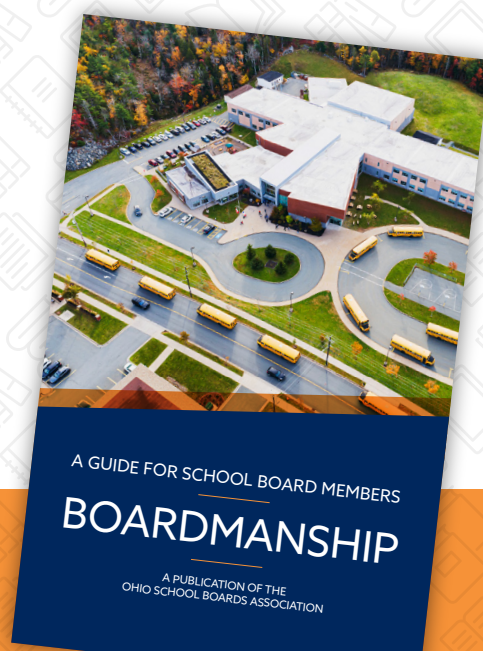
BOARDMANSHIP

A guide for school board members

A quick reference manual covering a multitude of areas. An essential book for all board members. Included in the OSBA Boardmanship Series. Edited by OSBA staff members.

Cost: \$15

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





PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

Rocky River school pantries support families in need

Rocky River City is reaching out to families in need by establishing pantries in each of its five buildings.

Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, the initiative to support families during the holiday and winter seasons was led by Executive Director of Pupil Services **Jennifer Norman**. The Early Childhood Center, Goldwood Primary School, Kensington Intermediate School, Rocky River Middle School and

Rocky River High School now house these pantries, which are open daily during school hours.

“We are excited to offer this opportunity to our families,” Norman told a local newspaper. “It allows us to ensure we are serving families with any level of need.”

Surplus funds helped purchase five cabinets stocked with essential items, including clothing, backpacks, toiletries and various foods for breakfast, lunch, dinner

and snacks. Families in the district are encouraged to visit the pantries and select what they need. Additionally, a generous donation of 21 spirited shirts from the Rocky River Boosters, featuring the district’s pirate mascot symbolizing strength, courage, and adventure, further contributed to the initiative. Parents have the flexibility to visit the pantries during school hours or request specific items for delivery.

Source: cleveland.com



Unlock your students’ full potential

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

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



OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

December 2023

31 *Last day for treasurer to canvass the board to establish a date for the organizational meeting — RC 3313.14.*

January 2024

15 *Deadline for boards of education of city, exempted village and local school districts to hold organizational meeting — RC 3313.14; last day for boards of education of city, exempted village, vocational and local school districts to adopt tax budgets for the coming school fiscal year — RC 5705.28(A)(1).*

16 Coffee Chat: Anatomy of a Communications Audit..... Virtual

20 *Last day for boards of education to submit fiscal tax-year budget to county auditor — RC 5705.30.*

23 Hot topics in k-12 cyberlaw webinar Virtual

24 MTA 2023-24 Module 4: The Transportation Handbook Columbus and Virtual

27 Central Region Board 101 Columbus

27 Northeast Region Board 101 Cleveland

30 Navigating the storm: responding to a data breach webinar..... Virtual

30 OSBA Forum Virtual

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

February 2024

3 Northwest Region Board 101 Findlay

3 Southwest Region Board 101 Dayton

6 Beyond the schoolhouse gates: regulating students' online behavior webinar Virtual

13 Using and regulating generative AI in educational settings webinar Virtual

17 Board Management 201 Columbus and Virtual

19 *Last day for voter registration for March election — RC 3503.01, 3503.19(A) (30 days prior to primary election in presidential election year).*

21 MTA 2023-24 Module 5: Public Relations and Working with the Media Columbus and Virtual

27 OSBA Forum Virtual

March 2024

1 Southwest Region SchoolComp Dayton

1 *Last day to take action and deliver written notice of nonrenewal of superintendent's contract — RC 3319.01; last day to take action on and deliver written notice of nonrenewal of treasurer's contract — RC 3313.22; last day to publish joint statement describing how district's business advisory council has fulfilled its responsibilities — RC 3313.821(D).*

4 Northwest Region SchoolComp Findlay

5 Northeast Region SchoolComp Rootstown

7 Southeast Region SchoolComp Athens

8 Central Region SchoolComp Columbus and Virtual

19 2024 State Legislative Conference Columbus

19 *Special Election Day; Primary Election Day — RC 3501.01 (third Tuesday after the first Monday in March in presidential election year).*