



Central News

June 2023 - News from the Ohio School Boards Association's Central Region

Best practices for communicating with district staff

There have been questions in communities about "why the board can't talk to teachers." While board members are just people, they are technically the boss of the superintendent, who is the boss of the school principal who is the boss of the teacher. When a board member asks a teacher or even a principal questions or makes suggestions, it can create anxiety over the board members' intentions or create conflicting directions from someone else.

Think of the district as a business. A corporate board member would not show up in the office and talk to the customer service department about what's going on and make suggestions for change. This would be inappropriate and create confusion. The chain of command would be broken. Similarly, it is more efficient for everyone when the superintendent responds to board questions. It ensures consistency and potentially increased and better information to board members, without negative side effects.

Board members are not forbidden to talk to teachers as many board members are parents. So, one unwritten rule is when you talk to staff, always start with the understanding that the conversation is that of a parent to teacher, or parent to principal, nothing more. Some board members go further and say, "When we talk, I may offer ideas, but that is never meant to be a directive, I have no authority and would not do that."

Like all professional relationships, open communication and established trust are important. With these, communications with staff should not create a problem.

Source: Informmt.org, a website is produced by the Mequon-Thiensville School District in Wisconsin.




Legislative information

House Bill (HB) 12

Sponsored by Reps. **Don Jones** (R-Freeport) and **David Dobos** (R-Columbus), HB 12 is a companion bill to Senate Bill 1, which would restructure the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the State Board of Education. HB 12 would rename ODE as the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW). DEW would become a cabinet agency with the director being appointed by the governor. HB 12 would remove most functions and responsibilities from the State Board of Education and the superintendent of public instruction, leaving the board to deal only with educator licensure and territory transfers. All other current responsibilities of the state superintendent and board would be moved to DEW.

Understanding the state's biennial budget process

The Ohio General Assembly is working to pass the state's biennial budget. This process was outlined in the February 2023 issue of the OSBA Journal; [click to view the article](#).




**Save the date:
The Central Region Fall
Conference is Sept. 20**

Don't miss the Central Region Fall Conference, where we'll honor the Friends of Public Education, Exemplary School Employees, Outstanding Teachers, Champion of Public Education, board members with more than 30 years of service and those who earned STAR Aptitude and Recognition awards.



Dr. **David T. Harrison**, president of Columbus State Community College, will be the event's keynote speaker.

Reservations are \$45 per person.
View details and register at
<http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/crfall2023>.



Recognize excellence in your district

The Central Region Executive Committee is intentional about how it honors excellence. The Friend of Public Education Award and the Exemplary Employee Award epitomize what the region's board members and district administrators believe to be the heart of effective districts. The third award, determined by the region president and executive committee, is the Champion of Public Education award.



Please consider nominating an outstanding **nonteaching** employee for the Exemplary Employee Award or an invaluable community member for the Friend of Public Education Award. Forms are available on the Central Region webpage at www.ohioschoolboards.org/central-region.

Districts may nominate one individual for each award. The process is simple, and it's an opportunity to bring positive press and communication about people who go the extra mile for your district. Recipients will be recognized at the region's Fall Conference on Sept. 20. Plan to participate in the Central Region fall awards program.

Nominations are due by July 15.

Join us for the free Central Region Legislative Open House

Plan to join us Aug. 23 for the region's summer legislative open house. A legislative update for school leaders will be presented by OSBA Lobbyist **Nicole Piscitani**.

This session provides board members an opportunity to learn about legislative issues that impact their school districts. Time is set aside for questions and answers.

Knox County Career Center will host the event. The career center is located at 306 Martinsburg Rd., Mount Vernon, OH 43050.

The **free event** begins with social time at 6 p.m., followed by the presentation at 6:30 p.m. For registration information, visit

www.ohioschoolboards.org/events/view/central-region-open-house-0

The open house is a great kick off to the new school year and an opportunity to hear the latest legislative news while networking with fellow board members. We hope to see you there!



The Central Region needs you!

Applications are now being accepted for 2024 regional committees. The region's strength is due to the leadership of its school board members. Now's the time to consider becoming actively involved in your region!

Currently, OSBA is accepting applications for the following 2024 regional committees and offices:

- region executive committee members;
- region executive committee president-elect;
- regional appointments to the OSBA Board of Trustees.

Time commitments for committees vary, so review the [committee listing](#) and choose the committee(s) that fit your schedule. Contact **Mark E. Bobo** at mbobo@ohioschoolboards.org if you have questions concerning a committee.

Complete the application form and return it to OSBA by June 30. Email the completed form to nominations@ohioschoolboards.org or mail it to Mark E. Bobo, Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 N. High St., Ste. 100, Columbus, Ohio, 43235.

Milestone service recipients

The region celebrated board member service at the 2023 Spring Conference.

10 Year Milestone

Robyn L. Almanson, Crestline EV & Pioneer Career and Technology Center
Barbara E. Bruce, North Fork Local (Licking)
Caryl Caito, Liberty Union-Thurston Local (Fairfield)
Michael D. Cole, Columbus City
Farrah Cooperider, North Fork Local (Licking)
Tracy A. Davidson, Westerville City
Michael F. Grady, Pioneer Career and Technology Center
Elizabeth L. Gray, Groveport Madison Local (Franklin)
John Hart, Plymouth-Shiloh Local (Richland)
Margaret Hoyles, Colonel Crawford Local (Crawford)
Nathan R. Huff - Adena Local (Ross)
Karen M. Keller - Walnut Township Local (Fairfield)
Linda L. Kitchen - Southeastern Local (Ross)
Leo Knoblauch - Eastland-Fairfield Career and Tech Schools
Chris S. Martin - Buckeye Central Local (Crawford)
John McClelland - New Albany-Plain Local (Franklin)
Jayna McDaniel-Browning - Delaware City
Linda J. Miller - Union Scioto Local (Ross)
Vanessa A. Niekamp - Pickerington Local (Fairfield)
Kevin L. Pancake - Adena Local (Ross)
Mary M. Pierce - Eastland-Fairfield Career and Tech Schools
Scott Rose - Shelby City
Mary Rugola-Dye - Mount Vernon City
Tracy Russ - Licking Heights Local (Licking)
Shawn D. Shook - Liberty Union-Thurston Local (Fairfield)
Dick Smith - Marysville EV
Sam Smith - Heath City
Lori Stradley - North Fork Local (Licking)
Tim Swauger - Johnstown-Monroe Local (Licking)
Amy Walker - Madison Local (Richland)

10 Year Milestone continued

Dr. John A. Walter - Liberty Union-Thurston Local (Fairfield)
Forest Yocum - Licking County ESC and C-TEC of Licking County

15 Year Milestone

Ramona Reyes - Columbus City
Jeff Stauffer - Southeastern Local (Ross)

20 Year Milestone

Rex Coleman - Berne Union Local (Fairfield)
Norman Huber - Colonel Crawford Local (Crawford)
Todd Stevens - Pickaway-Ross County JVSD
Keith Stoner - Lexington Local (Richland)
Christopher Valentine - Dublin City
Steve Votaw - Jonathan Alder Local (Madison)
Jeff Whisler - Northmor Local (Morrow)



**Board members
running for reelection:
The filing deadline is
4 p.m. on Aug. 9**

Visit GetonBoardOhio.org for information and resources, including important dates and deadlines.



Central Region STARS

Each year, the Ohio School Boards Association presents awards to board members across the state who demonstrate dedication to self-improvement, service to their association and work on behalf of their own board.

The OSBA Service Award was presented to 56 board members across the state. Seven board members from the Central Region were recognized for their service. Earning the **Service Award** were:

- Jennifer Adair - Columbus City
- Dr. Marguerite Bennett - Mount Vernon City and Knox County Career Center
- Renda M. Cline - Mansfield City
- Richard McLarnan - Knox County ESC and Knox County Career Center
- Tony Reeser - Circleville City and Pickaway-Ross County JVSD
- Lee Schreiner - South-Western City
- Charlie Wilson - Worthington City

Fifty board members in the state earned the **Training Award** in 2023, with nine hailing from the Central Region:

- Eric S. Brown - Columbus City
- Anthony Caldwell - South-Western City
- Amy E. Lloyd - Worthington City
- Kelly Mackay - Marion City
- Dr. Tina D. Pierce - Columbus City
- Victoria Powers - Bexley City
- Lee Schreiner - South-Western City
- Dick Smith - Marysville EV
- Susan Young - Amanda-Clearcreek (Fairfield)



THE CENTRAL REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Dr. Tina D. Pierce, Columbus City

President-elect

Anthony Caldwell, South-Western City

Immediate past president

Renda M. Cline, Mansfield City

Members

Dr. Marguerite Bennett, Mount Vernon City and Knox County Career Center

Kevin W. Butler, Canal Winchester Local (Franklin)

Sue Devine, Marysville EV

Whitney Duemmel, Jefferson Local (Madison)

Amy Eyman, Lancaster City

Dr. Robert Haas, Tri-Rivers Career Center
Levi Hartschuh, Wynford Local (Crawford)

Cathy Johnson, South-Western City

Mary Kotterman, Madison Local (Richland)
Dennis E. Long, Galion City and Pioneer Career and Technology Center

Ted M. McKinniss, Marion City and Tri-Rivers Career Center

Richard McLarnan, Knox County ESC and Knox County Career Center

Ray Storts, Union Scioto Local (Ross)

Christina Vera, Columbus City

Dr. Libby Wallick, Olentangy Local (Delaware)

Charlie Wilson, Worthington City

Dr. LaKeshia Wyse, Olentangy Local (Delaware)

Regional manager

Mark E. Bobo



Assessment for OSBA STAR Aptitude Award now open

The assessment period for the OSBA Aptitude Award is now open! **Board members can complete the assessment from June 12, 2023, to July 7, 2023.** The assessment is available 24/7, so board members can take the assessment at their convenience.

OSBA has a guide and resources to help you complete the assessment. You can access the guide, resources and assessment at www.ohioschoolboards.org/aptitude-award.

Resolutions for the OSBA Recognition Award due July 31

Any board member may be nominated for the Recognition Award by a majority vote of their board. Once voted upon, the board of education should forward the approved resolution to OSBA on behalf of the board member to be recognized. **Resolutions must be received by July 31.** A sample resolution and details are available at www.ohioschoolboards.org/recognition-award.

OSBA STAR Awards recognize board governance and leadership skills

Four awards comprise the OSBA STAR Awards program: service, training, aptitude and recognition.

Service: Points for the Service Award accrue from local school board, district, region and state leadership, including service on OSBA committees and local board offices and committees. The Service Award requires 150 points to be earned within a three-year period.

Training: Points for the Training Award are earned from professional development events and activities delivered by OSBA and other approved organizations. The Training Award requires 200 points earned over a three-year period.

Aptitude: The Aptitude Award requires a board member to demonstrate an understanding and comprehension of a variety of board governance skills based on six leadership areas: vision, accountability, policy, community engagement, relationships and advocacy. Board members must receive an 80% passing score on an online assessment to receive this award. The assessment may be taken multiple times to reach the passing score if needed.

Recognition: Board members may be nominated for the Recognition Award by their school board by a majority vote of the board. This award honors board members most dedicated to the craft of being a model board member.

Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/star-awards to learn more.



Apply for the Ohio Boards of Distinction Award

In 2021, Central Region's **Marysville City** was one of only two districts to receive the Ohio Boards of Distinction Award, which honors school boards that have engaged in activities and modeled behaviors that lead to excellence in local school district governance in support of quality education.

Applications for the 2022-23 award are due Oct. 10. Learn more about the criteria and download an application at www.ohioschoolboards.org/ohio-board-distinction.

Nominate your students for the Student Achievement Fair

The Student Achievement Fair is one of the most rewarding exhibitions at the Capital Conference. The event showcases many innovative programs districts have created to boost student achievement and engage students in their learning. The exhibition offers excellent opportunities to learn about new programs, share ideas and celebrate what Ohio's public education is all about — helping students achieve.



Reynoldsburg City's The Beautiful Culture Project participated in the 2022 Student Achievement Fair.

Nominations for digital art and innovative programs are open. We urge you to nominate a program from your district. For more on the student achievement fair, please visit <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/2023/for-attendees/student-achievement-fair>.

Urban Network invites you to collaborate and learn

The Ohio School Boards Association began working closely with Ohio's urban school districts in 1967 when the state's seven largest districts formed the Large City Commission. The group established itself as a strong force for Ohio's urban districts and has grown to 54 districts designated by the Ohio Department of Education as large or small urban districts.

Now, more than ever, urban school districts can benefit from the good work being done across the state. The OSBA Urban Network is continually working to benefit urban school districts through collaboration, training and leveraging collective assets to benefit urban school districts.

The Urban Network will meet July 20 at the OSBA Office in Columbus. All board members and administrators are invited. Register at www.ohioschoolboards.org/events/view/urban-school-boards-network-meeting.