

# BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



## OSBA, NSBA launch 'Stand Up for Public Schools' campaign

Well-funded and well-organized critics are undermining public schools and seeking to eliminate school board governance as we know it. In response to these attacks, OSBA, in conjunction with the National School Boards Association, launched the Stand Up for Public Schools campaign on April 5. The campaign's mission is to raise awareness about the importance of public schools and how vital they are to American democracy. The campaign is enlisting the support of school communities and citizens across Ohio and the U.S. to take action in support of public schools and locally elected school boards. For details and resources, visit [www.standupforOHpublicschools.org](http://www.standupforOHpublicschools.org).

## Don't get shut out — register now for Board Leadership Institute

Is your board registered for the OSBA Board Leadership Institute in Columbus? If not, you'd better act soon, because the institute — designed exclusively for school board members — is less than three weeks away. The May 2-3 event features keynote speakers Dr. **Mike Thomson**, a leadership expert and author, and state Sen. **Randy Gardner** (R-Bowling Green). The institute also offers 18 breakout sessions, two luncheons and plenty of networking opportunities. For details and to register, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/33166>.

## Districts urged to commemorate school desegregation case anniversary

The OSBA Board of Trustees adopted a resolution on Feb. 22 recognizing the upcoming 60th anniversary of the historic U.S. Supreme Court *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that ruled racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. The resolution urges Ohio schools to commemorate the May 17 anniversary "with an appropriate ceremony and remembrance." OSBA's Diversity and Inclusion Committee has developed resources — including a sample resolution — to help school districts mark the anniversary at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/82816>.

## ODE accepting teacher of the year nominations

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is seeking candidates for the 2015 Ohio Teacher of the Year program, which promotes excellence in teaching. Superintendents and principals are urged to nominate an exemplary teacher this spring for selection in the fall. Visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/90854> for details and to make nominations.

## Highlight outstanding school programs at achievement fair

OSBA encourages districts to nominate their exemplary student programs and performing groups for the Student Achievement Fair at the 2014 OSBA Capital

**April 14, 2014**

Volume 45 Issue 7

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### Route workshop information to:

- ☐ Administrators
- ☐ Assistant treasurers
- ☐ New board members
- ☐ Principals
- ☐ Transportation supervisors

Conference. Learn more and nominate programs at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/84929>. The deadline is June 27.

### **OSBA seeks student video team for Capital Conference**

Does your district have a top-notch student video team? If so, nominate it to become the student documentary video team for the OSBA Capital Conference. The winning program will attend the conference in Columbus and produce a 10-minute documentary of the event, set for Nov. 9-12. The video will be streamed on OSBA's website, shared with other state school boards associations and used to promote the conference. Visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/svdt](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/svdt) to apply; the deadline is June 6. To see a video of last year's documentary team members describing how they benefitted from the experience, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/why-svdt>. For details, contact **Drew Clark** at (614) 540-4000 or [dclark@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:dclark@ohioschoolboards.org).

**svdt.** For details, contact **Drew Clark** at (614) 540-4000 or [dclark@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:dclark@ohioschoolboards.org).

### **NEA offers resources to help celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week**

May 5 through May 9 is National Teacher Appreciation

Week, with May 6 set aside as National Teacher Day. School districts and communities across the U.S. will take time that week to thank teachers for the crucial role they play in providing every child a high-quality education. The National Education Association (NEA) offers a wealth of resources to help celebrate the week at [www.nea.org/grants/teacherday.html](http://www.nea.org/grants/teacherday.html).

### **OSBA online**

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

Looking for gifts to recognize your district's leaders and staff at the end of the school year? Then visit the online OSBA Store, which offers customized plaques, clocks, desk nameplates and other items — all perfect for singling out those in your district who deserve special recognition. The store also offers OSBA and student achievement lapel pins, as well as OSBA apparel. Visit the store by clicking on the "Store" link near the top of OSBA's home page.

### **North Royalton City teacher wins big on 'Jeopardy!'**

A **North Royalton City** teacher recently competed on the hit TV show "Jeopardy!" and won big.

**Matt Kish**, a North Royalton High School social studies teacher, won \$24,201 when he was the only contestant to correctly answer the Final Jeopardy! question on the show. Kish, a **Berea City** alumnus, had his run on the show come to an end the following day when he narrowly finished in second place.

North Royalton High School Principal **Mic Becerra** said Kish's impressive performance on national television captured the attention of students and parents.

"He's just got a knowledge base that's unheard of," Becerra told a local newspaper. "He can talk about anything."

Source: *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer*



## **Briefcase**

Ohio School Boards Association  
8050 North High Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, OH 43235-6481  
(614) 540-4000 — (800) 589-OSBA  
fax: (614) 540-4100 ● [www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)

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*A one-year subscription to Briefcase is \$125 for up to 15 subscribers. Briefcase also is available electronically by email or by fax. For more information, contact Ann Herritt at the address or fax number above or email [aherritt@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:aherritt@ohioschoolboards.org). Briefcase is published semimonthly by the Ohio School Boards Association. Postage paid at Westerville, Ohio. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Briefcase, Attn.: Mailroom, Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 N. High St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235-6481*

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OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.



# BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, administrative assistant of communication services

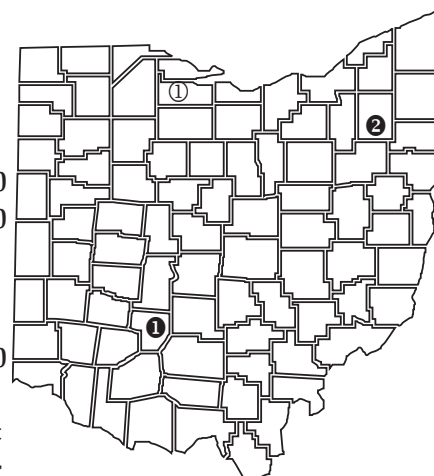
## OSBA executive searches

### Superintendent

District	Deadline	Contact
① Washington Court House City	April 18	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
② Kent City	TBD	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000

### Treasurer

District	Deadline	Contact
① Fremont City	TBD	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



① = Superintendent  
② = Treasurer

## Other searches

Position	District	Deadline	Contact
Treasurer	Norwalk City	April 28	Mandy Martin, personnel and licensure, North Point ESC, (419) 627-3908
Principal/director of secondary education	Southern Hills Career and Technical Center	April 30	Kevin Kratzer, superintendent, Southern Hills Career and Technical Center, (937) 378-6131, ext. 303

## Board changes

Buckeye Local (Jefferson) appointed Russell "Rusty" Cominsky to the board effective March 24. He replaced James Cesario, who resigned. ●●● Strongsville City appointed Jane Ludwig to the board effective March 20. She replaced Ruth Brickley, who resigned.

## Administrative changes

### Superintendents

Adena Local (Ross) hired Pete Ruby as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace David A. Warne, who is retiring. Ruby currently is the assistant superintendent at Huntington Local (Ross). ●●● Benjamin Logan Local (Logan) Superintendent Lori Lytle announced her retirement effective June 30, 2015. ●●● Conneaut Area City Superintendent Donald Kent Houston announced his retirement effective Dec. 31. ●●● Eastern Local (Pike) Superintendent Neil Leist announced his retirement effective Jan. 31, 2015. ●●● Gibsonburg EV hired Jose Hernandez as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Thomas Peiffer, who is retiring. ●●● Kent City Superintendent Dr. Joseph Giancola

### Editor's note

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

announced his retirement effective Aug. 1. ●●● **Sebring Local (Mahoning)** hired district elementary school Principal **Toni Viscounte** as interim superintendent effective March 25. ●●● **St. Henry Consolidated Local (Mercer)** hired **Julie Garke** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Rodney Moorman**, who is retiring. Garke currently is the district's middle school principal and guidance counselor. ●●● **Union-Scioto Local (Ross)** hired **Matt Thornsberry** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Dwight Garrett**, who is retiring. Thornsberry currently is an elementary school principal at **Chillicothe City**. ●●● **Canal Winchester Local (Franklin)** Assistant Superintendent **Barbara Harrison** announced her retirement effective July 1. ●●● **Lakewood City** Assistant Superintendent Dr. **Kevin Bright** announced his resignation effective Aug. 1.

#### **Treasurers**

**Bay Village City** hired **Kevin D. Robertson** as treasurer effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Debbie Putnam**, who is retiring. Robertson currently is the treasurer at **Sandusky City**. ●●● **Fremont City** hired **James Estle** as interim treasurer effective April 1. He replaced **David M. Chambers**, who took the treasurer position at **Medina City**.

#### **Sympathies**

Former **Dayton City** Board of Education member **Cezell Chancellor** died March 15. He was 81. ●●● Former **Girard City** Board of Education member **Vincent "Sonny" Schuyler** died March 19. He was 78. ●●● Former **Jackson City** Board of Education member **Marvin Maurice Davis** died March 9. He was 61. ●●● Former **Kent City** Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent **Kenneth Earl Cardinal** died March 8. He was 85. ●●● Former **Lake Local (Wood)** Board of Education

*Continued on page 5*



# **OSBA Student Achievement Fair**

**Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014 • Greater Columbus Convention Center**

The OSBA Capital Conference Student Achievement Fair highlights outstanding initiatives from school districts across the state. OSBA is seeking fresh, innovative programs or practices your district is willing to share with thousands of Ohio school district representatives. One hundred programs and practices will be selected based on creativity and impact on student achievement. The fair will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 11, during the OSBA Capital Conference.

Five performing groups from around Ohio will be selected to entertain attendees during the Student Achievement Fair. To be considered, you must submit an audio or video recording of the performing group. DVDs or CDs can be mailed to OSBA or a video or MP3 can be submitted with the online application.

OSBA is now accepting nominations for district programs and performing groups. While multiple programs may be submitted for consideration, no more than two per district will be selected, so districts should prioritize their submissions.

Nominate your district at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/saf-nominations](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/saf-nominations). The nomination deadline is June 27.



Bulletin Board, continued from page 4

member **Kenneth E. Russell** died March 11. He was 78. ●●● Former **Lebanon City** Board of Education member **William Otis Donovan** died March 17. He was 93. ●●● **Robert L. Frum**, former superintendent at **Martins Ferry City** and the former **Lawrence County School District**, died March 6. He was 86. ●●● Former **West Holmes Local (Holmes)** Board of Education member **Dr. Steven R. Close** died March 19. He was 62. ●●● Former **Whitehall City** Board of Education member **Michael R. Capozziello** died March 18. He was 88. ●●● Former **Whitehall City** Superintendent **Gilbert Adrian Johnson** died March 2. He was 89.



## INFORMATION

by Amanda Finney, senior marketing coordinator

### OSBA's Van D. Keating celebrates 25 years of service

Director of Management Services **Van D. Keating** marked 25 years of service to OSBA in March.

Keating began his career at the association as a staff attorney before moving to the Division of Management Services as a labor relations specialist. He went on to become deputy director of labor relations, and has spent the last 21 years as the division director.

"Van Keating has been an enormous influence on this association over the last 25 years," said OSBA Executive Director **Richard Lewis**. "He has served numerous school districts in the field and provided information, guidance and support to countless individuals through professional development and one-on-one networking. His knowledge of labor relations and board policy combined is second to none.

"Our members have truly been fortunate to have Van as an advocate for public education and the management of schools. It has

been a privilege to work alongside him these many years."

Keating recalls many changes since he joined the association in 1989, including OSBA's move from its Westerville office to its current location on North High Street in 1999. Additionally, technology has

changed the way school business is done. Communication via email or video conferencing programs such as Skype has enabled OSBA to better serve its members.

Some of Keating's favorite memories over the years include

*Continued on page 6*

### Get what you want, when you want it!

OSBA's customized workshops allow your school district to schedule and tailor workshops designed to meet your specific needs. OSBA's highly experienced staff is here to serve you at your convenience. Customized workshops include team-building exercises; goal-setting or strategic-planning activities; conflict-resolution sessions; and topics customized to fit your needs.

To schedule a customized workshop or for further information, please contact **Kathy LaSota** at [kLasota@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:kLasota@ohioschoolboards.org) or (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA.



# What board members need to know about value-added information in practice in Ohio



Value-added information was first introduced in Ohio in 2002, but are you aware of its significance for your district, teachers and students? If your answer is “No,” or “I am not sure,” you are not alone.

These two-hour regional seminars will shed some light on value-added information and help inform local policy decisions that impact student learning. Learn how your district can use value-added information to its benefit.

Choose from the following dates and locations:

**Tuesday, April 15**  
Southern Ohio ESC,  
Wilmington

**Tuesday, April 22**  
Portage County ESC,  
Ravenna

**Thursday, April 17**  
Tri-County Career Center,  
Nelsonville

**Thursday, April 24**  
Wood County ESC,  
Bowling Green

## Agenda

5:50 p.m. Registration  
6 p.m. Welcome and introduction to value-added information  
6:10 p.m. Understanding and using value-added data

7:15 p.m. Break  
7:30 p.m. Panel discussion: how districts are using value-added data  
8 p.m. Adjourn

Cost for these workshops is \$50. Register online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops) or contact **Laurie Miller**, senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000; (800) 589-OSBA; or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).

## Free BoardDocs library, packet and goal-tracking webinar

A typical packet for a board meeting often consists of more than just an agenda and its attachments. It can be both helpful and necessary at times to include important supporting items in the packet, such as policies, upcoming events, strategic goals, newsletters, press releases, special notes, reports and other documents. Learn how to build documents in the BoardDocs library and present them in the packet on the “Featured” tab for easy access. See how to attach goals to agenda items and track their progress toward achievement using the BoardDocs Goal Tracking feature. This free webinar will be on May 27 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. To register, visit <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/767082617>.

Once registered, you will receive an email confirming your registration with the information you need to view the webinar. For questions, contact **Amanda Finney**, OSBA senior marketing coordinator, at (800) 589-OSBA; (614) 540-4000; or [afinney@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:afinney@ohioschoolboards.org). For more information about BoardDocs, visit [www.boarddocs.com](http://www.boarddocs.com).



## Management Development Series #2:

# Student welfare — suicide prevention, key policies and more

Thursday, April 24  
OSBA office, Columbus

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Cost is \$90



Student welfare encompasses a variety of topics, including suicide prevention. In-service training in youth suicide awareness and prevention is now required for nurses, teachers, counselors, school psychologists and administrators. In this workshop, the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation will lay the groundwork for this training and highlight resources to use in your schools. OSBA policy experts will discuss hot topics in student welfare policies, including an update on restraint and seclusion and an overview of district obligations regarding bullying. Attendees will leave this session with a much better understanding of hot topics in student welfare, as well as a wealth of resources to support their efforts in their districts.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. Register online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops) or contact **Laurie Miller**, senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000; (800) 589-OSBA; or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).

### Agenda

9:30 a.m. Registration

10 a.m. Welcome and overview

10:15 a.m. Youth suicide prevention training

Learn about the warning signs of suicide and steps to decrease risk. Also, gain an understanding of resources to help train your staff and reach your students.

*Carolyn Givens, executive director, Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation*

Noon Lunch (provided)

12:45 p.m. Hot topics in student welfare policies

Get updates on restraint and seclusion, including an overview of resources and policy implications. Other topics include bullying policy requirements and student tobacco use.

*Megan Greulich and Kenna S. Haycox, policy consultants, OSBA*

2 p.m. Questions and final thoughts

# PUPIL TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATOR TRAINING PROGRAM

This new series of workshops will help those involved in student transportation better understand and perform day-to-day operations.

This half-day workshop includes a working lunch and time for questions. Register online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops) or contact **Laurie Miller**, OSBA senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000; (800) 589-OSBA; or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).



## PUPIL TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATOR TRAINING PROGRAM #5 Fleet compliance

Wednesday, May 7 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. • \$90 • OSBA office, Columbus

This class will focus on bus maintenance and safety checks, compliance with Ohio State Highway Patrol inspections and how to make the best use of the driver pre-trip inspection. We also will delve into the value of a preventive maintenance plan, bus purchasing and using alternative fuels.





Ohio School Boards Association

# Board Leadership Institute

Professional development designed by board members for board members

May 2-3, 2014 • Hilton Columbus/Polaris

## Organizational leadership for tomorrow's schools

You are accountable for overseeing a multimillion-dollar organization that serves your community's most important asset — its children. It's an enormous responsibility, one that calls for extraordinary skills.

The 13th annual Board Leadership Institute (BLI) promises the training you need to hone your skills and take them to the next level. The institute focuses on what you need to know, because it's the only leadership development event in Ohio designed exclusively for school board members.

BLI offers two days of in-depth workshops taught by experts on topics ranging from student achievement, finance and school law to legislative issues, curriculum and board development. These topics will be spread among 18 breakout sessions in six learning tracks.

The institute also features enlightening keynote speakers, an on-site OSBA Bookstore and plenty of opportunities to share ideas and best practices with other board members and association staff.



No matter what your challenge, BLI will connect you with people who have solutions. By working together, we can develop the skills and strategies to meet the ever-increasing demands of school district governance.

Veteran board members are strongly encouraged to bring their board's newer members to BLI. The time and resources invested in this high-value training event will repay themselves many times over.

## The Board Leadership Institute enables board members to:

### Attend a seminar designed for and by board members

Board members plan BLI breakout sessions during the Capital Conference

### Receive superb professional development

Experience a comprehensive two-day training event

### Network with other board members

Meet with colleagues to share success stories and learn from each other

### Strengthen board governance skills

Choose from 18 breakout sessions

### Review information on sessions you missed

Receive all of the handouts from this board member-only event

### Earn Award of Achievement points

Attendees receive 20 points toward the OSBA Award of Achievement



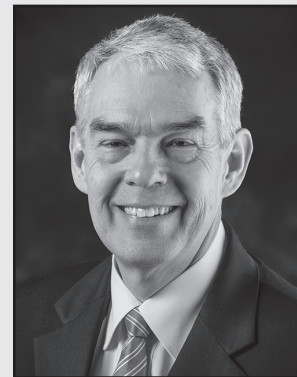
## Keynote speakers set the tone for BLI

BLI will kick off on Friday, May 2, with Dr. **Mike Thomson**. Thomson fills his high-energy talks with real-life examples and practical applications for board members. He will share strategies for saving your sanity in today's world.

OSBA has invited Ohio Sen. **Randy Gardner** (R-Bowling Green) to close BLI on Saturday, May 3. Hear an update on the General Assembly's work and how it affects local school boards.



Thomson



Gardner

## Agenda

### Friday, May 2

**8 a.m. — Registration and breakfast**

**9:15 a.m. — Opening General Session with Dr. Mike Thomson**

**10:45 a.m. — Student achievement**

- ♦ What board members need to know about value-added information in practice in Ohio
- ♦ Building trust among education leaders
- ♦ Using OLAC to increase student achievement

**Noon — Luncheon**

*Luncheon sponsored by CompManagement Inc.*

**1:30 p.m. — Finance**

- ♦ Increasing private funds to support your school district
- ♦ What is your financial data hiding?
- ♦ Learn to love forecasts and survive fiscal oversight

**3 p.m. — Critical issues**

- ♦ The board's role in preparing students for success
- ♦ The bus is at a crossroads — which way do we turn?
- ♦ The Ohio Ethics Law and school districts — making the ethics grade

**4:30 p.m. — Adjourn — dinner on your own**

### Saturday, May 3

**7:30 a.m. — Buffet breakfast**

**8:15 a.m. — Board development**

- ♦ Everyone wins with consensus building
- ♦ Six things you hope to never hear spoken in the boardroom — and what to do when it happens
- ♦ Now you're a board member — developing the art of boardmanship

**9:45 a.m. — Legal/legislative**

- ♦ What the Ohio General Assembly is doing to or for you
- ♦ Social causes and free speech — the limits of expression in public schools
- ♦ Boards and boosters — can this marriage be saved?

**11:15 a.m. — Hot topics**

- ♦ Why K-12 boards must understand technology and how it has revolutionized education
- ♦ Legal strategies for effective discipline in schools
- ♦ Ten years of school shootings, 2002 to 2012 — what have we learned?

**12:30 p.m. — Closing Luncheon with Ohio Sen. Randy Gardner**

*Luncheon sponsored by CompManagement Health Systems Inc.*

## Registration

Cost for the institute is \$240, and includes breakfast and lunch on both days and materials. Register online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops) or contact **Laurie Miller**, senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000; (800) 589-OSBA; or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).

The Hilton Columbus/Polaris is the site of the 2014 Board Leadership Institute. The Hilton is in north Columbus, is easily accessible from I-71, offers free parking and is close to many shopping and dining opportunities.



# WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

**What board members need to know about value-added information in practice in Ohio**

- ☐ April 15, Wilmington, \$50
- ☐ April 17, Nelsonville, \$50
- ☐ April 22, Ravenna, \$50
- ☐ April 24, Bowling Green, \$50

**Management Development Series #2: Student welfare — suicide prevention, key policies and more**

- ☐ April 24, Columbus, \$90

**Pupil Transportation Administrator Training Program #5: Fleet compliance**  
☐ May 7, Columbus, \$90

**Board Leadership Institute**

- ☐ May 2-3, Columbus, \$240

## OSBA Workshop Registration Form

Workshop name \_\_\_\_\_ Workshop date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attendee name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 District/firm \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or P.O.# \_\_\_\_\_ to cover \_\_\_\_\_ registration(s). Make checks payable to OSBA and mail to 8050 N. High St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235-6481; fax to (614) 540-4100; or email Laurie Miller, senior events manager, at [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org). Include a purchase order number with fax or email.



\_\_\_\_\_ *Please check here if you require special accommodations. Contact us or attach a written description of needs.*

**Please photocopy this form for each person**

## OSBA workshop registration procedures

OSBA sends email confirmation of registration if an email address is provided. Registration is open to all boards and staff of OSBA members. "Walk-in" registrations are welcome on a space-available basis only. Please call OSBA to check the status of registration before you arrive at the workshop. To register, you must have a purchase order number or a check payable to OSBA and a completed registration form. You may register with a purchase order number by phone, fax, email or Web page 24 hours a day.

### Award of Achievement/LPDC

Most workshops entitle members to Award of Achievement credits. Local Professional Development Committee certificates of attendance will be issued to all workshop attendees.

You may register on our website at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops). You will need a username and password.



**Mail**

OSBA  
 8050 N. High St.,  
 Suite 100, Columbus, OH  
 43235-6481



**Phone  
or fax**

OSBA Registration Hotline,  
 (614) 540-4000, ext. 300;  
 toll free (800) 589-OSBA,  
 ext. 300; or fax us at  
 (614) 540-4100.



Email registrations can be sent to Laurie Miller at [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org). Please include a purchase order number.

### Cancellation and refund policy

- Cancellations received by OSBA at least five workdays before the date of the workshop will receive a full refund or no charge to the district.
- Cancellations received less than five workdays before the date of the workshop will be charged half of the registration fee.
- No-shows and cancellations the day of the workshop will be charged the full registration amount.

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seeing OSBA offer more formalized programs to staff, including an annual wellness program and, most recently, a CPR/first aid certification class.

Having enjoyed his time at OSBA, he looks forward to continuing to serve members and working with his colleagues.

Keating earned a bachelor of

arts degree in history from The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., and continued his education in central Ohio, earning a juris doctor from Capital University Law School.



## NEWS

by Crystal Davis, editor

### Standards a core issue at legislative conference

"Every superintendent I've talked to believes Common Core standards are the right way to go (in Ohio), and so do most board members and teachers," said Rep. **Gerald L. Stebelton** (R-Lancaster), chairman of the House Education Committee. "A bill that would cause the withdrawal of the Common Core would be a costly mistake."

Stebelton focused most of his March 13 presentation at the State Legislative Conference on touting the benefits of implementing the Common Core standards in Ohio. More than 110 school board members, district administrators and staff listened attentively as he talked in the Statehouse Atrium, and at times, applauded his views.

"The subjects I hated most are ones I had to memorize, like mythology," said Stebelton. "The subjects I learned the most in were taught by teachers that went indepth, such as chemistry and physics. We need to teach kids more in-depth subject matter

rather than superficiality."

Stebelton was the first of three legislators who spoke at the half-day conference hosted by OSBA, the Ohio Association of School Business Officials and the Buckeye Association of School

Administrators. This is the second year in a row the annual event has been held in the Statehouse Atrium.

"We like the atrium because it is right in the center of activity and we gather the attention of many

*Continued on page 7*

### Call for nominations: Small School District Advisory Network

OSBA has a limited number of vacancies on its Small School District Advisory Network (SSDAN). This is an assembly of small school districts representative of all small Ohio district interests and includes districts representing rural, urban and suburban areas; districts of differing property tax wealth; and districts from the five OSBA regions. Board of education members from member school districts in good standing may serve on the network.

The committee provides a venue for members of the group to share concerns, ideas and suggestions with OSBA's executive director and build a network of support with other similarly sized districts. The network typically meets three times per year, with one meeting held at the OSBA offices and two meetings held as site visits at member school districts.

Small school districts wanting to join SSDAN must apply in writing to the executive director, indicating an interest in participation and the district's ability to represent small school districts. Please send interest and inquiries before April 30 to: Richard Lewis, CAE, executive director, OSBA, 8050 N. High St., Ste. 100, Columbus, OH 43235-6481.

Visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SSDAN> to learn more about the network.

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more legislators than we would if we were off-site,” said **Damon Asbury**, OSBA director of legislative services.

Association lobbyists provided updates to kick off the event before Stebelton came to the podium. Stebelton also said Ohio needs fewer standardized tests, and he expressed support for the third-grade reading guarantee, EpiPen legislation and vocational education.

“Funding is a challenge,” he

said. “We’ve put a poverty category in place based on the district and squared that number to get more funding to those districts, so I think we are moving the right way on the funding side. Ultimately, the future of this country depends on how superintendents can use dollars wisely to make sure every child reaches (his or her) full potential.”

After Stebelton answered questions, Rep. **John Patterson** (D-Jefferson) described the

Education Funding Caucus, which is in its early stages. Patterson is in his first term of office after working as a chief union officer and history teacher for 29 years.

“I feel it’s important to have difficult discussions about funding ... and our Education Funding Caucus is comprised of 21 members from the House and Senate,” he said. “We meet in a neutral setting to bargain and we’ve allowed people to build

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## Start employees on the path to success with an employee handbook



Many districts have employee handbooks, but they may be outdated or incomplete. OSBA can help your district create a concise and accurate handbook that is useful for employers and employees.

A handbook:

- provides clear notice of expectations to employees;
- is a handy reference for employees to answer questions and cover basic conditions of employment;
- supports growth and development;
- supports disciplinary actions when guidelines are not followed;
- is a reference tool for nonunion employees.

OSBA offers three options of tiered services to meet your district’s needs:

- Standard – electronic template of handbook and sample language;
- Review – electronic template of handbook, consultant guidance and more;
- Premium – most complete service to a district.

For more information, contact **Van D. Keating**, director of management services, at (614) 540-4000; (800) 589-OSBA; or [vkeating@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:vkeating@ohioschoolboards.org).



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trusting relationships for trusting discussions. In Sunday school, we call these type of discussions moments of 'intense fellowship.' Our goal is to make policy proposals, and the public is invited to attend.

"If we really want to promote Ohio in terms of jobs, we have to be able to offer students a smorgasbord of opportunities like art, music and vocational training so they can discover their place in the world. ... But to do this, we need to look at funding that is equitable, adequate and sustainable."

The caucus just had its fourth meeting, and Patterson said the issue of school choice has not come up yet. But, he said he is sure it will, in time.

"I believe in public schools, they are the first and last place where all of us are in the sandbox together, learning how to deal with radical backgrounds," Patterson said. "Our charge is to provide you with funds for what's important: our kids."

After Patterson, Senate Minority Leader **Joe Schiavoni** (D-Boardman) began discussing charter schools as soon as he stepped to the stage.

"When it comes to charter schools, there are a few good ones and bunch of terrible ones," Schiavoni said. "Kids going to charter schools are doing poorly, but it is still allowed to happen."

"Charter schools need more accountability and should be subject to the same standards as public schools. I sense ...

frustration that nothing is being done. The numbers show that public schools received over \$600 million less (funding) than in 2010. What I've done in the Senate is try to do bills to fix these issues."

After Schiavoni spoke, attendees had the opportunity to chat and eat lunch with 70 legislators and aides. The event ended after lunch, unless members had scheduled individual meetings with legislators during the afternoon.

"Holding the event at the Statehouse allows legislators to easily stop by during the day, and some stopped to hear their fellow legislators address issues," Asbury said. "Our members took full advantage of the face-to-face contact with legislators that this event has become known for."



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

compiled by Angela Penquite, assistant editor

### Promoting materials science

To help teachers bring materials science into their classrooms, the ASM International Foundation is awarding 20 grants to enhance awareness of materials science and the role of materials scientists in society. The application requires a two-page proposal describing a curriculum-based, hands-on project that involves student observation, communication, mathematics and science skills, while enhancing students' awareness of the

materials around them.

**Maximum awards:** \$500

**Eligibility:** K-12 teachers

**Deadline:** May 25

**Contact:** <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/48025>

### Christa McAuliffe Reach for the Stars award

This National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) grant is given to help classroom teachers develop and implement imaginative, innovative and

illustrative social studies teaching strategies, as well as support student implementation of innovative social studies, citizenship projects, field experiences and community connections.

**Maximum awards:** \$2,500

**Eligibility:** full-time social studies teachers currently engaged with K-12 students; NCSS membership required

**Deadline:** May 31

**Contact:** <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/37232>



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Jay Smith, deputy director of legislative services

### House committee addresses OSBA concerns in MBR bill

On April 3, the Ohio House Education Committee concluded hearings on House Bill (HB) 487, the education mid-biennium review (MBR) update proposal. Prior to voting the bill out of the committee, an omnibus amendment was accepted that included many changes to the legislation, including concerns OSBA raised before the House Education Committee.

One of the most substantial issues contained in the bill is a measure that would convert the existing postsecondary options for high school students to a new College Credit Plus (CC+) program. There are portions of the CC+ proposal that OSBA believes are improvements to the current system. However, there were two major components that the association opposed.

OSBA testified against the provision in HB 487 that would require a “floor” within the funding mechanism for CC+. The association felt this requirement could increase costs for school districts for students receiving college credit. In addition, many districts currently have agreements with institutions of higher education (IHEs) at the local level that require payments from districts that are much lower than

the required floor contained in the as-introduced version of HB 487. As a result of the omnibus amendment to the bill, districts will be able to negotiate agreements with IHEs below the floor.

OSBA also opposed the blanket prohibition against charging high school students tuition for college course credit, and instead proposed replacing it with a means-tested system.

A number of school districts receive very little funding through the state funding formula. Therefore, the costs for their students to take college courses must come from local taxes. In addition, many districts have found that parents are willing to pay a portion of the fees associated with dual enrollment courses because they are typically much more affordable than paying full tuition after the student graduates from high school.

In testimony before the committee, OSBA proposed establishing a means-tested system that enables economically disadvantaged students to participate in CC+ at no charge. The association suggested that other models to consider for guidance might be the all-day kindergarten tuition sliding scale

or the graduated income level thresholds of the EdChoice scholarship program. This item was not addressed by the omnibus amendment and remains a concern.

The bill also contained a number of other components affecting public school districts, including the requirement for boards of education to adopt “career advising” policies; provisions requiring early identification of students at-risk of dropping out; and offering career-technical programs to seventh- and eighth-graders. OSBA requested that these changes not become effective until fiscal year 2016 (the 2015-2016 school year) to allow districts to better prepare for the new requirements and also provide time for further discussion in the context of the next biennial budget process about whether additional funds are needed for implementation.

The omnibus amendment did address OSBA’s concerns, and implemented a one-year delay for these provisions.

Additions made to the bill include:

- a provision allowing seventh- and eighth-graders to take CC+ classes;

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## PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Bryan Bullock, assistant editor

### STEM education set to grow districtwide in Struthers City

**Struthers City** is working to infuse elements of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in all of its classes.

Superintendent **Joseph Nohra** said the district has been moving to a STEM-based curriculum over the years, but that process will soon accelerate.

"It's not just teaching science and math," Nohra told a local newspaper. "It starts with students coming up with problems and

ways to solve them."

Starting this fall, elementary school students will get a "taste of science and math" each day through a variety of STEM-focused assignments and activities. Fifth- and sixth-graders will take a nine-week-long STEM course that will be alternated throughout the year with other specialized classes, such as physical education and art.

In the future, the district hopes to offer seventh- and eighth-graders the opportunity to

participate in a STEM-dedicated classroom where instruction will take place all day, every day for the entire school year.

Struthers also is working with **Austintown Local (Mahoning)**, **Canfield Local (Mahoning)**, **Poland Local (Mahoning)** and **Mahoning County ESC** to create a collaborative STEM school that would house ninth- and 10th-graders.

Source: *The (Youngstown) Vindicator*

*Legislative Report, continued from page 9*

- a provision allowing out-of-state IHEs to participate in CC+;
- language allowing Cleveland Scholarship Program students to use the EdChoice voucher if the Cleveland voucher is oversubscribed;
- a provision that clarifies the reporting of expenditures for gifted education is not required or a spending mandate;
- language that would require charter school sponsors to verify the employment of a licensed school treasurer and student enrollment prior to receiving funding from the Ohio Department of Education;
- language attempting to address the prevention of a charter school

that is being forced to close from reopening in the same location under a new name;

- a provision allowing charter school students access to extracurricular activities in their district of residence;
- a requirement for students using a voucher in a private school to comply with requirements of the third-grade reading guarantee;
- language from HB 216 dealing with school debt consolidation;
- language from HB 215 allowing law enforcement to volunteer in schools for tax credit.

Once the House passes HB 487, the bill will be referred to the Senate for consideration.

OSBA will continue to analyze

the provisions amended into the bill and provide additional information as further discussions take place. However, it is important that members continue to engage legislators on these issues and begin conversations with their senators.

Pay close attention to alerts and publications sent out by OSBA with updated information on the various issues contained in the legislation.

For the latest General Assembly updates, contact the OSBA Division of Legislative Services at (800) 589-6722.

*Editor's note:* All information in this article was current as of April 4, 2014.

#### April 2014

- 15 What board members need to know about value-added information in practice in Ohio..... Wilmington
- 15 *Last day for certain board members and administrators to file financial disclosure forms with the Ohio Ethics Commission — RC 102.02.*
- 17 What board members need to know about value-added information in practice in Ohio..... Nelsonville
- 22 What board members need to know about value-added information in practice in Ohio..... Ravenna
- 24 Management Development Series #2 Workshop ..... Columbus
- 24 What board members need to know about value-added information in practice in Ohio..... Bowling Green
- 27 Southeast Region Executive Committee meeting..... Zanesville
- 28 *Last day to submit certification for August income tax levy to Ohio Department of Taxation — RC 5748.02(A) (100 days prior to the election).*
- 30 *Last day to take action on and give written notice of intent not to re-employ nonteaching employees. Note: This requirement does not apply to municipal school district employees as defined in RC 3311.71 — RC 4141.29(I)(1)(e).*

#### May 2014

- 2 *Last day to submit August emergency or current operating expenses levy to county auditor for August election — RC 5705.194, 5705.213 (95 days prior to the election).*
- 2-3 Board Leadership Institute .... Columbus
- 6 *Special Election Day; Primary Election Day — RC 3501.01 (first Tuesday after the first Monday).*
- 7 Pupil Transportation Administrator Training Program #5..... Columbus
- 7 Northeast Region Executive Committee meeting..... TBD
- 7 *Last day for school district to file resolution of necessity, resolution to proceed and auditor's certification for bond levy with board of elections for August election — RC 133.18(D); last day for county auditor to certify school district bond levy terms for August election — RC 133.18(C); last day to submit continuing replacement, permanent improvement or operating levy for August election to board of elections — RC 5705.192, 5705.21, 5705.25; last day to certify resolution for school district income tax levy for August election to board of elections — RC 5748.02(C); last day to submit emergency levy for August election to board of elections — RC 5705.195; last day to submit phased-in levy or current*

*operating expenses levy for August election to board of elections — RC 5705.251(A) (90 days prior to the election).*

- 18 Northwest Region Executive Committee meeting..... Bowling Green
- 27 BoardDocs library, packet and goal-tracking webinar

#### June 2014

- 1 *Last day to take action to nonrenew contracts of administrators other than superintendent and treasurer — RC 3319.02.; last day to take action on and give written notice of intent not to re-employ teachers — RC 3319.11(D).*
- 8 Northwest Region Executive Committee meeting..... Bowling Green
- 13 OCSBA Spring Seminar..... Lewis Center
- 18-19 OSBA Safe Schools Summer Camp: Protecting innocent targets workshop ..... Columbus
- 20 Sports Law Workshop..... Columbus
- 30 2013-2014 school year ends — RC 3313.62.

#### July 2014

- 1 2014-2015 school year begins — RC 3313.62; last day for board to notify teaching and nonteaching employees of succeeding year salaries — RC 3319.082, 3319.12.