

BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



Governor addresses mental health/social-emotional learning summit

Gov. **Mike DeWine** spoke to over 1,100 public education stakeholders at the Mental Health and Social-Emotional Learning Summit. DeWine pledged to seek more state student wellness and success program funding in the next biennial budget and said he would not sign a budget that did not include that funding. The free event, held Feb. 25 in Columbus, was organized and hosted by OSBA and nearly 20 other statewide groups. Designed to help school districts better address students' mental health and social-emotional learning needs, the summit featured keynote speakers, 24 breakout sessions and a Resource Fair. The fair was staffed by more than 40 agencies that provide mental health and social-emotional learning services and programs.

Several speakers confirmed for State Legislative Conference

Three state leaders have agreed to address the State Legislative Conference March 18 in Columbus; several others have been invited to speak. Confirmed are: Senate President **Larry Obhof** (R-Medina); Senate Education Committee Chair **Peggy Lehner** (R-Kettering); and Rep. **Don Jones** (R-Freeport), chair of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee. Gov. **Mike DeWine** and House Speaker **Larry Householder** (R-Glenford) have been invited to speak. The conference offers Ohio public school leaders the opportunity to hear legislative updates and meet one-on-one with their state legislators. It is hosted by OSBA, the Buckeye Association of School Administrators and the Ohio Association of School Business Officials. For more information and to register, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/76844>.

Opening General Session presenter announced for leadership institute

Dr. **Joe Hendershott**, who co-founded the nonprofit Hope 4 The Wounded LLC, will kick off the 2020 OSBA Board Leadership Institute (BLI) as the Opening General Session speaker. Hendershott, a former educator, is an expert at developing social-emotional practices and strategies for children who have experienced serious long-term trauma in their lives. He describes these children as "beyond at risk" and "wounded." BLI also will feature a Closing Luncheon speaker, to be announced, 18 breakout sessions and multiple networking opportunities. The institute, May 1-2 in Columbus, is open exclusively to school board members, no matter their level of experience. For details and to register, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/BLI> or contact OSBA.

OSBA shares local perspective on public education in nation's capital

A delegation of OSBA staff and Federal Relations Network (FRN) members met with Ohio's congressional representatives in Washington during the National School Boards Association Advocacy Institute, Feb. 2-4. For a recap of OSBA's participation

March 9, 2020

Volume 51 Issue 5

Contents

More news.....	2
<i>Deadline for Business Honor Roll submissions approaching; OSBA offers on-demand learning opportunities; OSBA online</i>	
Bulletin Board.....	3
News	4
Legislative Report	6
Public Schools Work!.....	7

Route workshop information to:

- ☐ Administrators
- ☐ Counselors
- ☐ Student services
directors
- ☐ Technology directors
- ☐ Transportation
supervisors

in the institute, see “OSBA visits Capitol Hill to advocate for public education” on page 4. Photos of the event are posted on OSBA’s Flickr page at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/42255>.

Deadline for Business Honor Roll submissions approaching

The deadline for districts to send their 2020 OSBA Business Honor Roll selections to the association is March 20. The program gives districts a way to thank businesses in their communities that support their schools. For more information and to submit selections, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/39803> or contact **Wanda Bloch** at (614) 540-4000 or wbloch@ohioschoolboards.org.

OSBA offers on-demand learning opportunities

OSBA knows its members can’t attend all of the workshops it presents due to packed schedules

Student-created door displays highlight safe driving

Students at **Butler Tech’s** Fairfield Township campus decorated classroom doors in an effort to keep teens safe while on the road.

Student leaders partnered with Butler County Safe Communities, which strives to reduce traffic-related crashes, injuries and fatalities through education, public awareness and community coalition building.

The program, Project Ignition, encourages students to put down their cellphones while driving, wear seat belts and obey traffic laws. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens.

Through the project, students hope to change teen behaviors.

Source: www.fox19.com

and other obligations. However, keeping members informed is a top priority, and that is why OSBA offers On-Demand Learning webinars. This training provides members a great way to explore unfamiliar topics at their convenience and pace. The webinars offer practical advice,

information and tips on wide-ranging subjects that need extended time to fully explain. Topic examples include parliamentary procedure, crowdfunding best practices and a records retention primer. For more information, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/52795>.



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

OSBA President: **Lee Schreiner**, South-Western City
OSBA Chief Executive Officer: **Richard C. Lewis**, CAE
Editor: **Gary Motz**, senior editorial manager

Managing editor, layout and design: **Katy Farson**, communication design manager
Assistant editor: **Scott Gerfen**, communication manager

A one-year subscription to Briefcase is \$145 for up to 15 subscribers. Briefcase also is available electronically by email or by fax. For more information, contact Susie Cinadr at the address or fax number above or email scinadr@ohioschoolboards.org. Briefcase is published semimonthly by the Ohio School Boards Association. Postage paid at Columbus, Ohio. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Briefcase, Attn.: Mailroom, Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 N. High St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235-6481.

© 2020, Ohio School Boards Association; all rights reserved

The appearance of an advertisement in an OSBA publication is neither a guarantee nor endorsement by OSBA of the product, service or company or the claims made for the product, service or company in such advertising.

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.

OSBA online

● www.ohioschoolboards.org
Need to know how other school districts are dealing with labor contracts amid ongoing challenges with school funding? OSBA compiles contract settlements that are included in the publication School Management News (SMN). For SMN subscription information, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/82699>. On that page, you’ll also find a link to all current public-sector collective bargaining agreements reported by the Ohio State Employment Relations Board.



BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, senior administrative assistant of communication services

OSBA executive searches

Treasurer

District

① North Olmsted City

Deadline

April 23

Contact

OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



Other searches

Position

Coordinator of special education

District

Bexley City

Deadline

March 13

Contact

[www.bexleyschools.org/
EmploymentOpportunities.aspx](http://www.bexleyschools.org/EmploymentOpportunities.aspx)

Middle school assistant principal

Bexley City

March 13

[www.bexleyschools.org/
EmploymentOpportunities.aspx](http://www.bexleyschools.org/EmploymentOpportunities.aspx)

Behavior analyst

Bexley City

March 13

[www.bexleyschools.org/
EmploymentOpportunities.aspx](http://www.bexleyschools.org/EmploymentOpportunities.aspx)

National searches

Position

Superintendent

Location

Avon, Ind.

Deadline

March 19

Contact

Dr. Michael T. Adamson, director of board services, Indiana School Boards Association, (317) 229-3270

Editor's note

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

Board changes

Central Local (Defiance) appointed **Austin L. Imm** to the board effective Feb. 13. He replaced **Roger Zeedyk Jr.**, who resigned. ●●● **Federal Hocking Local (Athens)** Board of Education member **Stephanie Wilson** announced her resignation effective Feb. 10. ●●● **Lake Local (Wood)** Board of Education member **Monica Leppenmeier** announced her resignation effective March 1. ●●● **New Miami Local (Butler)** appointed **Tari Jo Slagle** to the board due to a vacant seat effective Jan. 23. ●●● **Napoleon Area City** appointed **Ryan Crandall** to the board effective Feb. 12. He replaced **Rob M. Rettig**, who resigned. ●●● **Preble County ESC** appointed **Eric Green** to the board due to a vacant seat effective Jan. 22. ●●● **South Range Local (Mahoning)** appointed **Brian Bagwell** to the board effective Jan. 29. He replaced **Corey A. Yoakam**, who resigned.

Administrative changes

Superintendents

Brown Local (Carroll) hired **Marty Bowe** as interim superintendent effective immediately. He replaced **Scott Bowling**, who took an administrative position at **Shaker Heights City**. Bowe currently is assistant superintendent at **Stark County ESC** and will continue to serve in that role. ●●● **Galion City** Superintendent **James Grubbs** announced his retirement effective July 31. ●●● **Leetonia EV** Superintendent **Robert Mehno** announced his resignation effective Feb. 21. ●●● **Lordstown Local (Trumbull)** hired **Lewis Lowery** as interim superintendent effective Feb. 24. He replaced **Terry Armstrong**, who took the treasurer position at **Newton Falls EV**. Lowery previously was superintendent at **Mathews Local (Trumbull)**. ●●● **Milford EV** Superintendent **Nancy Catherine House** announced her retirement effective July 31. ●●● **Norwood City** hired **Mary Ronan** as superintendent effective Feb. 20.

Treasurers

Benjamin Logan Local (Logan) hired **Jennifer Sudhoff** as interim treasurer effective Feb. 2. She replaced **Mandy Gossard France**, who took the treasurer position at **Perry Local (Allen)**. Sudhoff currently is the assistant treasurer at **Lima City** and will continue to serve in that role. ●●● **Dalton Local (Wayne)** hired **Patrick McGinty** as assistant treasurer effective March 9. He replaced Interim Treasurer **Jonathan Pusateri**. Pusateri replaced **Sheryl Shaw Stewart**, who retired effective Feb. 1. ●●● **Newton Falls EV** hired **Terry Armstrong** as treasurer effective March 1. He replaced **Julie Sloan**, who took the treasurer position at **Brookfield Local (Trumbull)**. Armstrong previously was superintendent at **Lordstown Local (Trumbull)**. ●●● **Wellington EV** Treasurer **Tina Gabler** announced her retirement effective Dec. 1. ●●● **West Branch Local (Mahoning)** Treasurer **David M. Drawl** announced his resignation effective Feb. 28.

Sympathies

Former **Bellefontaine City** Board of Education member **Charles M. "Chuck" Barton** died Feb. 15. He was 92. ●●● Former **Central Local (Defiance)** Board of Education member **Elmer L. Clinker** died Feb. 14. He was 95. ●●● Former **Cory-Rawson Local (Hancock)** Treasurer **Dorothy D. Oldham** died Feb. 16. She was 77. ●●● Former **Eastwood Local (Wood)** and **Northwood Local (Wood)** Treasurer **David R. Michel** died Feb. 18. He was 68. ●●● Former **Hudson City** Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent **Gerald "Jerry" M. Reeves** died Feb. 2. He was 84. ●●● Former **London City** Board of Education member **James "Jim" Eugene Hunt** died Feb. 2. He was 76. ●●● Former **Medina City** Board of Education member **Ralph E. Waite** died Feb. 18. He was 93. ●●● Former **Newton Fall EV** Board of Education member **Ralph Raymond Gillespie** died Feb. 10. He was 84.



NEWS

by Will Schwartz, deputy director of legislative services

OSBA visits Capitol Hill to advocate for public education

Hundreds of school board members from around the nation recently participated in the National School Boards Association's (NSBA) Advocacy Institute in Washington, D.C. A

key part of the event, which ran from Feb. 2 through Feb. 4, was promoting a campaign to reauthorize and fully fund the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

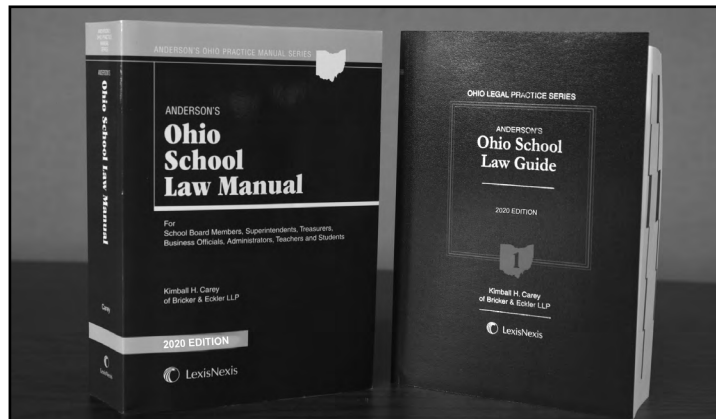
The OSBA delegation consisted of its Federal Relations Network (FRN), which is composed of two local school board members appointed by OSBA in each of

Continued on page 5

Stay up to date with the latest legal publications

Ohio's most comprehensive school law publication has been revised for 2020. Written by Kimball H. Carey, the 2020 Ohio School Law Guide, a four-volume set, offers basic, easy-to-understand interpretations of Ohio statutes and regulations that govern public school operations.

Also revised is the 2020 Ohio School Law Manual. This convenient version contains interpretive text that appears in the Ohio School Law Guide. The handbook is a perfect reference for anyone involved with education.



Title	Quantity	Limited-time price*	Price	Total
2020 Ohio School Law Guide		\$580*	\$615	
2020 Ohio School Law Manual		\$235*	\$250	
Shipping		Free	\$22.95	

* Limited-time price valid through March 27, 2020. Orders received after March 27, 2020, will be billed the full price of \$615 and \$250, plus a shipping charge of \$22.95. Limited-time price not offered on OSBA website; you must use this form to receive limited-time price.

Subtotal _____
 Sales tax (7.5%) _____
 Total _____

Name _____
 Title _____
 District name _____
 County _____
 Street address _____
 Check one: ☐ home address ☐ business address
 City/state/ZIP _____
 Phone _____

Please check one:

- ☐ Payment enclosed (sales tax applies to orders paid by personal check, personal credit card, money order or non-sales tax exempt organizations) Make check payable to: Ohio School Boards Association
☐ Purchase order # _____

Credit card information:

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Card #: _____ Expires (Mo./Yr.): _____
 Signature: _____ CVV code _____
 3- or 4-digit code on back of card

Mail this form to: Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 N. High St., Ste. 100, Columbus, OH 43235-6481 or fax form to (614) 540-3299. Please allow two weeks for delivery.

*Check out this workshop designed
for board members and district
administrators and directors*



A Deep Dive Into Alternative Funding Resources

Thursday, March 12 • 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m. • Embassy Suites, Columbus • Cost: \$180

Hear from your peers and experts about how to optimize your school district's financial health through alternative funding resources. Learn how strong partnerships among the leadership team can lead to success in your district.

8:30 a.m. Registration

9 a.m. All about grants

Discover how to locate grant opportunities and assess whether they are worth pursuing; make your district's application stand out from the crowd; and manage grants to get the most benefit for your district and students.

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Partnering with education support groups

Learn the legal basics and suggested best practices for partnering with your district's education foundation, booster groups and other education support groups to augment, supplement or enhance your district's financial resources.

12:15 p.m. Lunch (provided)

1 p.m. Partnerships for communitywide progress

Explore some of the ways districts have joined forces with established community groups to extend and create opportunities for students and staff without constraining budgets.

2:30 p.m. All about crowdfunding

Get an in-depth look at crowdfunding best practices, practical tips and OSBA's model crowdfunding policy. Review the **donorschoose.org** platform as a district-focused option that has helped the nation's public schools secure millions of dollars in resources.

3:15 p.m. Q&A and adjourn

To register

Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops or email **Laurie Miller** at Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org.



OSBA Cyberlaw Workshop

Friday, March 13, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
OSBA office, Columbus
Cost is \$170

8:30 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast

8:50 a.m. Welcome

9 a.m. Hot topics in cyberlaw

This perennial favorite will review the most recent legal issues relating to technology in school districts. Identify potential areas of concern for your district and leave with ways to combat issues.

Ryan M. LaFlamme, Esq., Ennis Britton Co. LPA

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Cybersecurity: Reducing and responding to threats

Recent legislation created Ohio Cyber Reserve and Ohio Cyber Range. Find out how these groups, staffed by volunteer cybersecurity experts, can help reduce cyberthreats and provide education to students in your district.

Mark Bell, cybersecurity outreach coordinator, Ohio National Guard Ohio Adjutant General's Department

11:45 a.m. Lunch (provided)

12:30 p.m. Protecting privacy while using online services

Schools across the state are using computer software, mobile apps and other web-based tools to foster and enhance the learning process. The use of online technologies can positively transform the educational process but comes with potential risks. Review the legal requirements, best practices and tools districts should employ and consider when evaluating the use of online educational products and services.

Sara C. Clark, chief legal counsel, OSBA

1:45 p.m. Break

2 p.m. Monitoring and responding to off-campus social media

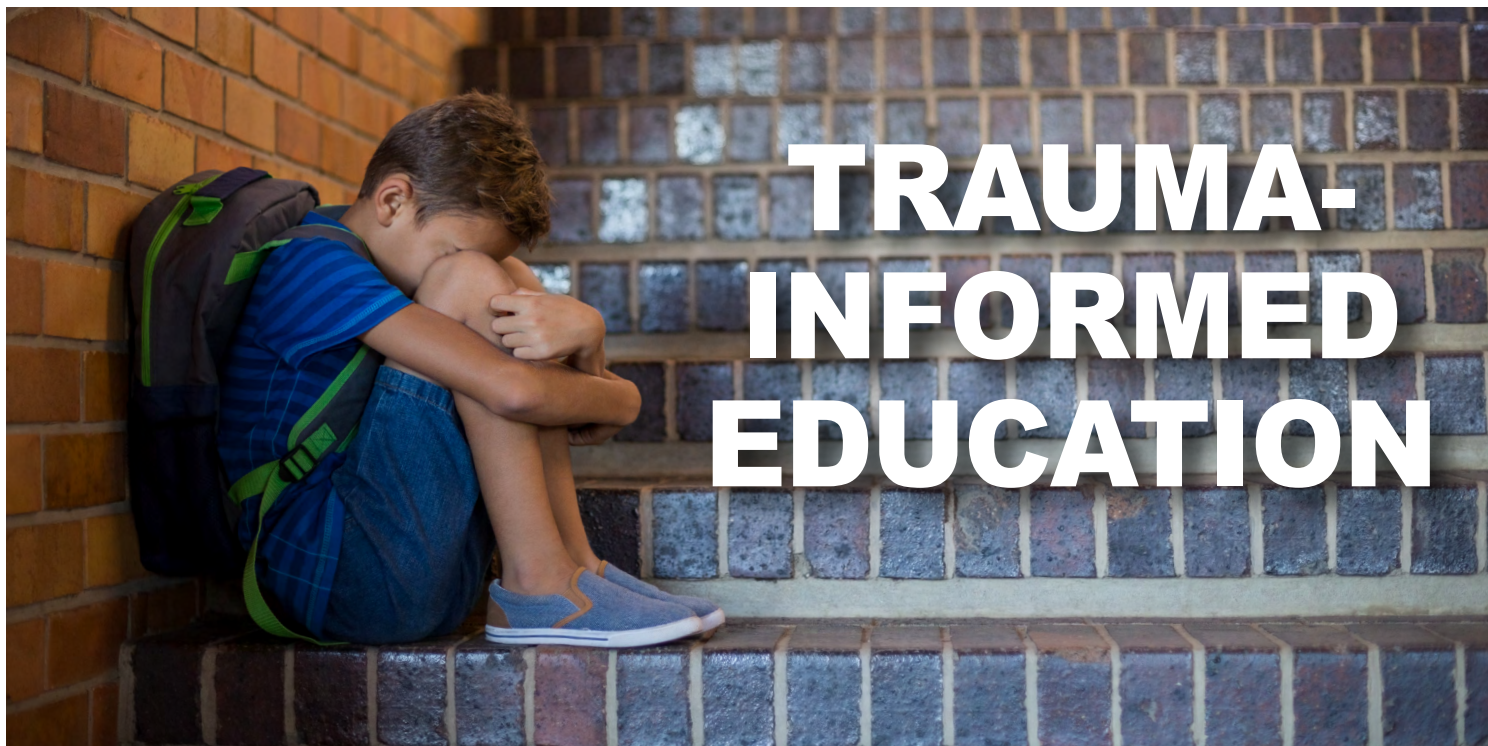
All schools want to stop school violence and cyberbullying, but does monitoring students' off-campus social media accounts fulfill the goal? Review the benefits and risks of using social media monitoring services and how a district should respond when it is alerted of potential online issues.

Derek Towster, Esq., Scott Scriven LLP

3 p.m. Adjourn

To register

Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops or email **Laurie Miller** at Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org.



TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION

Saturday, March 14 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m. • OSBA office, Columbus • Cost: \$100

Join us for this engaging and informative workshop hosted by the OSBA Black Caucus. You'll learn trauma-informed practices to support students, strategies for creating trauma-informed schools that can accelerate learning and much more.

9:30 a.m. Registration

10 a.m. Welcome and announcements

10:15 a.m. Reaching and teaching distressed students
Every day, more and more children are experiencing trauma, which has a direct impact on their ability to learn and self-regulate. Chronic trauma alters the architecture of the brain, and teachers are struggling to help these students due to a lack of tools. This session will share important research on trauma-informed teaching strategies that will enable board members to advocate for improved school environments, resulting in happier students, less teacher burnout and better state report cards.
Meryl Johnson, member, State Board of Education

10:55 a.m. Break

11:05 a.m. Don't mistake my trauma for drama
Learn how trauma impacts the students and families you serve from high-needs communities. This session will explain a new paradigm and show strategies for creating trauma-informed schools that can help accelerate learning.
Dr. Vilicia Cade, chief academic officer, Sandusky City

11:45 a.m. Lunch (provided)

12:40 p.m. A call to action: Trauma-informed practices to support students
Research has shown that when children are exposed to traumatic events they can be impacted academically, socially and emotionally. These challenges include, but are not limited to, anxiety, depression and difficulty focusing. This interactive session will take foundational information pertaining to trauma-informed practices and help participants create an action plan that they can use to integrate trauma-informed practices into their school districts.
Dr. Dakota King-White, assistant professor and school counseling coordinator, Cleveland State University

1:25 p.m. Caucus updates

2 p.m. Adjourn

To register

Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops or email **Laurie Miller** at Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org.



State Legislative Conference

Wednesday, March 18 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m. • Cost: \$145 • Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square, Columbus

Public education continues to be a hot topic at the Statehouse as we face another challenging year. The 2020 State Legislative Conference provides school board members, administrators and treasurers a great venue to meet with their state legislators and discuss issues impacting public education. It is a golden opportunity to get the message out on the importance of investing in a strong public school system and putting a local face on these issues.

During the morning session, school district leaders will hear briefings on proposed legislation that can be used in discussions with their legislators later that day. Attendees also will hear from legislative leaders about their respective views on public education and other legislative priorities.

Attendees are urged to schedule office appointments between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to meet individually with their legislators and aides following the luncheon. We also encourage you to extend a personal invitation to them to attend the luncheon.

To register

Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops or email **Laurie Miller** at Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org.

This workshop is Stop 3 in the 2020 New Board Member Passport, which includes six workshops that expose you to topics that are important to new board members in their first year.

Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/passport to learn more.



UPCOMING WORKSHOP:

Transportation State Reports and Cost Analysis

Wednesday, April 22 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m. • OSBA office, Columbus • Cost: \$100
This workshop will be available in-person or through live streaming.

Join us for a session that will delve into appropriate data collection, what you need to track and why, and how to collate that data into an accurate state report. Whether you are new to transportation or a veteran, or if you work in the transportation office or the treasurer's office, this workshop will provide the tools you need to file reports correctly and get all the funding your district is entitled to.

Key takeaways from this workshop will include:

- The data required for T1 and T2 reports.
- Instructions on reviewing the different portions of T1 and T2 reports and submitting data to the Ohio Department of Education.
- How to evaluate the funding impact of these state reports and use the data to calculate your own operating costs.

To register

Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops or email **Laurie Miller** at Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP:

Levy University

Friday, April 24 • 9 a.m.–3 p.m. • OSBA office, Columbus • Cost: \$170

Is your district discussing placing a levy on the November ballot? Then this is a must-attend event to set your district up for success.

Key takeaways from this workshop will include:

- Knowing the board's role in a levy campaign.
- The do's and don'ts for a levy campaign.
- Tips and tactics for successful levy passage.

To register

Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops or email **Laurie Miller** at Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org.

May 1-2,
2020

Columbus

Ohio School Boards Association Board Leadership Institute

Your role.

As a school board member, you're accountable for overseeing a multimillion dollar organization that serves your community's most important asset — its children.

Serving in this capacity is an enormous responsibility, one that calls for extraordinary skills.

Whether you're in your first year of board service or your 30th, the ever-changing world of public education governance requires continuing education and professional development.

That's why OSBA is proud to offer BLI: your go-to event for ongoing training specific to your role as a board member.

Your growth.

Learning doesn't stop when you're elected — it begins.

Almost all board members agree they could use more training in tackling school district issues and needs.

When asked, board members say they want training that is highly task-oriented, is concentrated, allows for networking and is led by outstanding instructors.

BLI meets all of these needs.

This unique two-day institute is designed to further your professional development by focusing on timely topics and allowing opportunities for you to speak with the experts.

Your peers.

Who better to plan a conference for board members than board members?

BLI is an event that's planned *by* board members *for* board members. Nowhere else will you find professional development tailored so specifically to your role.

What's more, BLI is your chance to network with your colleagues from around the state as well as OSBA staff and workshop presenters.

Unlike other events, BLI is only open to board members, meaning you'll get the chance to talk about issues important to you, with people who understand your role and the challenges you face.

Registration

The cost to attend this intensive two-day institute is \$290. Register online at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/BLI> or contact **Laurie Miller**, senior events manager, at Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org.

Accommodations

The Hilton Columbus/Polaris is the site of this year's Board Leadership Institute. The hotel is located in north Columbus at 8700 Lyra Drive, adjacent to Polaris Fashion Place mall, countless restaurants, additional shopping and entertainment.

Room rates

Call the Hilton Columbus/Polaris at (614) 885-1600 for reservations. Mention OSBA to get a rate of \$143 for a single or double room. Reservations must be made by Thursday, April 9, 2020, to receive this special rate.



WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

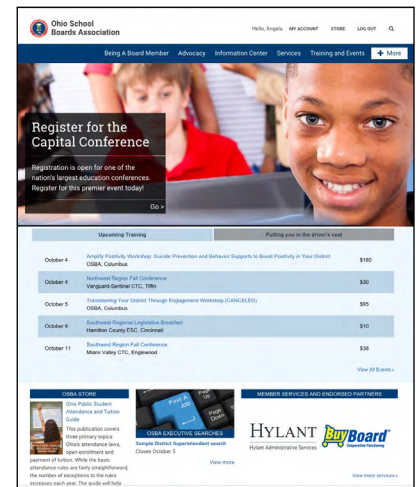
Register at www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops

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 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 Master of Transportation Administration (MTA) Program

These workshops will help those involved in student transportation better understand and perform day-to-day operations.

Offered from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the workshops include a working lunch and time for questions. Each class is scheduled twice; participants may sign up for either session. The cost is \$100 per class, or you can purchase a subscription for the series. All workshops will be at the OSBA office, 8050 N. High St., Columbus, 43235. Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/transportation-training-programs to learn about the MTA certification program.

Workshop dates and descriptions

March 11 — Emergency transportation planning

Transportation departments are required to have a viable, documented emergency plan in place. The plan includes not only the major events that we hope will never happen but also routine incidents that occur in this industry, including breakdowns, sick children and minor accidents. This class will help identify what should be included in an emergency plan, how to develop the action plan and how to write a plan that anyone can follow, even in your absence.

April 1 or 8 — Fleet management and bus purchasing

This course will review the Ohio school bus construction standards, approved options for school buses, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards requirements and the need to keep your fleet compliant. Delve into the value of a preventive maintenance plan, bus purchasing and using data to determine an effective vehicle replacement plan. Finally, we will focus on how to make the best use of the driver pretrip inspection to meet the need for safety checks and state patrol motor vehicle inspections.

To register

Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops or contact Diana Paulins at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or mta@ohioschoolboards.org. To purchase a subscription plan for all the workshops, contact Paulins for more information.

News, continued from page 4

Ohio's congressional districts. FRN members' role is to lobby their members of Congress on federal education issues. The focus of the Advocacy Institute and Ohio's FRN centers on building year-round advocacy for public education and local school board governance.

This year, 30 Ohio FRN members and five OSBA staff members joined more than 700 local school board members from other states to participate in the institute. The event presented a great opportunity for FRN members to communicate their legislative priorities and understand the impact various legislative proposals may have on their school districts.

Advocacy Institute attendees heard from national leaders, including U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education Dr. **Mitchell M. Zais** and Federal Communications Commission Commissioner **Jessica Rosenworcel**. Other speakers included NSBA legislative experts, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist **Eugene Robinson** and political advisor and television producer **Mark McKinnon**.

On the last day of the conference, school board members led a national grassroots legislative effort on Capitol Hill to urge members of Congress to make public education a top priority. Ohio FRN members met with their House of Representatives members and staff and U.S. Sens. **Sherrod Brown** (D-Ohio) and **Rob Portman** (R-Ohio). The purpose of the

meetings was to discuss key legislative priorities and the local impact they will have on students and schools.

FRN members called on members of Congress to reauthorize and fully fund IDEA, as well as a reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. During congressional meetings, members highlighted the critical need for the federal government to fulfill a long overdue promise to provide equal access to public education for all students and work with Congress to update these vital laws.

IDEA, passed into law in 1975, has not been updated since 2004. The legislation needs to be modernized to ensure that the rights of students with disabilities are protected and to help states and school districts build upon their current efforts to provide those children the support and tools they need to receive equitable educational opportunities.

Effectively serving students with disabilities and their families is a shared responsibility among the federal and state governments and local school districts. School board members have been diligently working to do their part by providing students with additional educational resources. Public schools have made numerous enhancements in this area: implementing new instructional approaches; intervening with students and their families earlier; hiring more special education specialists; providing a range of programs and services; and more.

The current law, however, fails to meet the needs of students and their families.

The federal government's contribution to serve IDEA students covers approximately 16% of the funding, which is well below the promised level of 40%. The funding gap serves as an unfunded mandate by forcing state and local governments to make up the difference. This discrepancy also impacts the amount of funding that serves students without disabilities, which is an unintended consequence of the federal government's failure to meet its obligation.

While the law needs to be reauthorized and funded fairly, state government officials and school board members have worked to make IDEA a successful investment in students with special needs. A 2018 U.S. Department of Education report documents that the percentage of students with disabilities graduating with a regular high school diploma increased by 10% between 2006 and 2016. This is a notable accomplishment among the more than 6 million students with disabilities — 13.5% of all students — in public schools.

As we proceed through the year, FRN members will continue advocating on behalf of public education in Ohio and working with their members of Congress. For more information on federal advocacy, please contact OSBA's Division of Legislative Services at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Will Schwartz, deputy director of legislative services

General Assembly recesses without an EdChoice solution

At 2:08 a.m. on Feb. 21, Rep. **Don Jones** (R-Freeport) leaned into his microphone at the Statehouse: “We’re going to adjourn. I think we need to let our minds have a little time to become unwarped and then we go from there. I think we’ve had a lot of good testimony and a lot of good questioning. I think we really need to take a real, hard thought process of where we go from here because we’ve heard some pretty compelling testimony.”

Moments later, the freshman legislator and chairman of the conference committee on House Bill (HB) 9 adjourned the panel, capping a marathon series of nine hearings over 10 days that saw 50 hours of testimony from hundreds of witnesses from across the state. More than 125 of those were school board members, superintendents and treasurers.

The topic at hand: How to resolve a stalemate between the Ohio House and Senate over the future direction of the Educational Choice Scholarship Program (EdChoice). The program provides publicly funded vouchers to pay for students’ tuition at private schools.

Jones’ conference committee did not take action on HB 9. Instead, the days continue to dwindle inexorably down to the legislature’s self-imposed April 1 deadline. On

that date, 1,227 school buildings in 426 school districts across the state will become designated as EdChoice-eligible buildings. That will permit students entitled to attend those buildings to receive \$4,650 or \$6,000 to subsidize their private school tuition. Legislative inaction will continue as lawmakers return home to their districts to campaign for the March 17 primary. The legislature is set to resume activity the week of March 23.

Before legislators departed, Gov. **Mike DeWine** met with House Speaker **Larry Householder** (R-Glenford) and Senate President **Larry Obhof** (R-Medina) on Feb. 26. They reportedly discussed solutions to the voucher issue, among other items, but their meeting did not produce an agreement between the chambers.

Prior to the meeting, DeWine told reporters, “We have to make sure that if a parent has a child who’s in a school that’s just not functioning, a school that’s not doing it for that child, we want to give that poor family an opportunity, the same opportunity that a more well-to-do family has to make a choice and go to another school. I think the basic principles that the House has and the Senate has are the same. They get there a different way.”

After the meeting, Obhof told

reporters he felt the meeting was productive and said, “I remain cautiously optimistic we’ll be able to work something out that’s amenable to everybody.” Neither Obhof nor Householder indicated support for an additional delay of the application deadline beyond April 1.

This lingering uncertainty around a solution comes as costs for the program soar both for districts and the state, each of which is required to subsidize private school tuition based on a student’s residence or family income. In fiscal year (FY) 2019, \$114 million was transferred from school districts’ budgets to fund EdChoice vouchers for roughly 23,000 students. In FY 2020, that figure increases to \$148 million and is expected to climb exponentially for FY 2021, but the amount will depend on what the legislature decides before April 1.

Meanwhile, the state directly funded private school tuition in FY 2019 to the tune of \$45 million for more than 10,800 students. In FY 2020, that appropriation amount increases to \$57 million to account for roughly 13,300 students. Due to legislative changes in HB 166 (the biennial budget bill), that appropriation amount explodes to \$121 million in FY 2021 — a 112%

Continued on page 7



PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

Northeast Ohio students challenged to tackle vaping concerns

Students at **Green Local's (Summit)** Green High School have come up with a way to combat vaping as part of a nationwide contest.

STEM class students are competing in Samsung Electronics' Solve for Tomorrow Contest, where students look to solve problems in their community.

The school currently has laser sensors, costing about \$1,000, to detect vaping in bathrooms.

However, students say they're developing new technology.

"It's going to be a lot cheaper than \$1,000, but it'll also be chemical- and thermal-based instead of just laser-based, so I think ours can be more reliable." student and project leader **Nick Breth** told a local TV station.

The project is not just about catching students in the act. Students also are developing a prevention program.

Green High School was among

100 state winners selected nationwide, including **East Cleveland City's** Shaw High School and **Fairfield City's** Fairfield Senior High School.

The contest challenges public school teachers and students in grades six-12 to show how STEM can be applied to help improve their local community.

Twenty national winners will be selected to travel to New York City for a chance to win \$100,000.

Source: spectrumnews1.com

Legislative Report, continued from page 6

increase — due to the bill's immediate phase-in of the eligible grade levels for a voucher. Just seven years before that, the appropriation was a mere \$4 million.

The key difference between the House and Senate proposals hinges on two questions: who qualifies for a voucher and who pays for the voucher?

The Senate's plan — HB 9 — would maintain vouchers based on report card ratings as well as vouchers based on a student's family income. The House's plan — Senate Bill (SB) 89 — would phase out the report card-based vouchers and shift solely to an income-based

voucher program. Both plans would require districts to fund performance-based vouchers and the state to fund income-based vouchers. However, the House plan would alter a current practice and force the state, instead of districts, to foot the voucher bill for a student who qualifies under both eligibility planks.

The Senate's income-based voucher proposal would entitle students from families earning up to 300% of the federal poverty level to receive vouchers. The House proposal would set that figure at 250%.

According to 2018 data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American

Community Survey, nearly 60% of school-aged children in Ohio would meet the Senate's 300% threshold, and almost half would meet the House's 250% proposal. Forty percent of school-aged Ohio children meet the 200% criteria, which is the current threshold. Depending on the area of the state, these percentages are likely to be higher and represent larger populations. For a family of four, 200% of the federal poverty level is an annual income of \$52,400, 250% is \$65,500 and 300% is \$78,600.

Editor's note: Information in this article was current as of Feb. 28, 2020.

March 2020

- 10 Southwest Region Spring Conference..... Lebanon 8
- 11 Central Region Spring Conference..... Columbus
- 11 OSBA Master of Transportation Administration Program: Emergency transportation planning Columbus
- 12 Northwest Region Spring Conference.....Perrysburg 22
- 12 A Deep Dive Into Alternative Funding Resources Columbus 24
- 13 OSBA Cyberlaw Workshop.... Columbus 26
- 14 Trauma-Informed Education Columbus 27
- 17 Southeast Region Spring Conference.....McArthur
- 17 Primary Election Day — RC 3501.01 (third Tuesday after first Monday).
- 18 State Legislative Conference..... Columbus
- 24 Southeast Region Spring Conference.....St. Clairsville
- 30 Northeast Region Spring Conference.....Warren
- 31 End of second ADM reporting period — RC 3317.03(A).

April 2020

- 1 OSBA Master of Transportation Administration Program: Fleet

- management and bus purchasing Columbus
- OSBA Master of Transportation Administration Program: Fleet management and bus purchasing Columbus
- OSBA Southwest Region Executive Committee meeting.....Springfield
- Transportation State Reports and Cost Analysis workshop Columbus
- Levy University Columbus
- OSBA Southeast Region Executive Committee meeting..... Zanesville
- Last day to submit certification for income tax levy to Ohio Department of Taxation for August election — RC 5748.02(A) (100 days prior to the election).

May 2020

- 1-2 Board Leadership Institute Columbus
- 1 Last day to submit August emergency or current operating expenses levy to county auditor for August election — RC 5705.194, 5705.195, 5705.213 (95 days prior to the election).
- 5 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).

- 6 OSBA Northeast Region Executive Committee meeting..... Wadsworth
- 8 OCSBA School Attorney Workshop..... Westerville
- 15 Last day for certain board members and all administrators to file financial disclosure forms with the Ohio Ethics Commission — RC 102.02(A)(4)(a).

June 2020

- 1 Last day to take action to nonrenew contracts of administrators other than superintendent and treasurer — RC 3319.02(C); last day to take action on and give written notice of intent not to re-employ teachers — RC 3319.11(D).