

# BRIEF CASE

## THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



### Board Leadership Institute just a few weeks away

Have you registered for the OSBA Board Leadership Institute? If not, act soon, because this is professional development you don't want to miss. The institute features three top-tier keynote speakers: author and character education expert Dr. **Mike Thomson**; State Rep. **Kent Smith** (D-Euclid), a former **Euclid City** school board member; and Superintendent of Public Instruction **Paolo DeMaria**. The event, April 26-27, at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris, also offers 17 breakout sessions, numerous networking venues and breakfast and lunch both days. See page 5 for more details. To register, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/33166> or contact **Laurie Miller** at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).

### Report compares high school graduation requirements across U.S.

A new report from the Education Commission of the States (ECS) provides an overview of state high school graduation requirements around the nation. Nearly all states require students to complete a certain number of units per course to earn a standard diploma, but courses, units and assessments outside of exit exams and diploma options vary. ECS researched a range of state policies, statutes, regulations, education department guidelines, standards and board of education rules to create this 50-state comparison. The report is posted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/89270>.

### OSBA launches Get on Board school board candidate campaign

School board elections are this year. To support its members, OSBA has created the Get on Board campaign to increase the number of qualified candidates running for open seats. All too frequently, board member vacancies are filled via appointments rather than through the electoral process. OSBA's campaign aims to reverse this trend by offering resources to community members who might be interested in running for a school board seat. These resources include information on school board roles and responsibilities, time commitments, structuring a campaign and candidate training opportunities. To learn more, visit [www.getonboardohio.org](http://www.getonboardohio.org).

### More than 150 participate in State Legislative Conference

More than 150 school board members, superintendents, treasurers, business officials, legislators, legislative aides and lobbyists took part in the March 19 State Legislative Conference in downtown Columbus. Hosted by OSBA, the Ohio Association of School Business Officials and the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, the event offered school district leaders a chance to meet with their state legislators and hear updates on General Assembly action. Featured speakers

**April 8, 2019**

Volume 50 Issue 7

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#### Route workshop information to:

- ☐ Administrators
- ☐ Human resources  
directors
- ☐ Transportation  
supervisors

included Senate President **Larry Obhof** (R-Medina); Speaker of the House **Larry Householder** (R-Glenford); Rep. **Louis W. Blessing III** (R-Colerain Township); and **John Patterson** (D-Jefferson). In-depth coverage of the conference begins on page 7. Photographs from the event are posted on OSBA's Flickr page at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/14751>.

### **State Board of Education member resigns**

State Board of Education member **David Brinegar** of Fulton County has resigned after several months of serving on the board. Brinegar, president and CEO of Fulton Industries Inc. in Wauseon, was appointed to the board by Gov. **John R. Kasich** shortly before Kasich left office. Brinegar resigned in March in a letter to Gov. **Mike DeWine**, who will appoint his replacement.

### **Elementary school event teaches kindness, generosity**

First-grader **Sha'niyah Carr** beamed with excitement at **Columbus City's** Moler Elementary School. As she scanned the piles of dolls, board games and other items in the school auditorium, she selected a tower filled with dolls and a lime-green water bottle.

The toys weren't for her, however. She handed them to a classmate who loved the gifts. The March Kindness celebration, organized by the Driven Foundation, taught the school's 400 students about thoughtfulness and the joy of giving. Each student picked out toys for a randomly assigned classmate.

Last month's event was part of a years-long partnership between the foundation and Moler Elementary, which has a significant number of students living in poverty.

Source: The Columbus Dispatch

### **Teacher Appreciation Week coming in early May**

The National PTA is inviting all schools and communities across the country to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week from May 6 through May 10. Teachers change the lives of millions of children every day, and their work and

impact extends far beyond the boundaries of the classroom. They play a pivotal role in children's lives, inspiring a lifelong love of learning and discovery and making a difference in their well-being and long-term success. PTA is offering certificates, fliers, thank-you cards, web ads and social media graphics to encourage everyone to "**#ThankATeacher**." For more information on how you can honor your teachers, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/11921>.



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

Photos from the seven 2019 OSBA spring regional conferences are now posted on OSBA's Flickr page. Nearly 1,500 board members, administrators, students and guests participated in the events. You can view and download photos by going to [www.flickr.com/photos/ohschoolboards](http://www.flickr.com/photos/ohschoolboards) and selecting "Albums."



# BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, senior administrative assistant of communication services

## OSBA executive searches

### Treasurer

District	Deadline	Contact
① Xenia Community City	April 25	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
② Gallia County Local (Gallia)	April 26	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



## Other searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Pymatuning Valley Local (Ashtabula)	April 17	<b>Christina Ray</b> , director of human resources, <b>Ashtabula County ESC</b> , christina.ray@ashtabulaesc.org

## National searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Lancaster County, Va.	April 17	<b>Gina Patterson</b> , executive director, Virginia School Boards Association, (434) 295-8722
Superintendent/principal	Gardner, Ill.	Until filled	<b>Mary Torgler</b> , administrative assistant, Illinois Association of School Boards, (630) 629-3776, ext. 1217

## Board changes

**Whitehall City** appointed **Zachary Wright** to the board effective March 14. He replaced **Blythe Wood**, who resigned.

### Editor's note

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

## Administrative changes

### Superintendents

**Champion Local (Trumbull)** hired **John Grabowski** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Pamela Hood**, who is retiring. Grabowski currently is the district's high school principal. ●●● **Cleveland Heights-University Heights City** hired **Elizabeth Kirby** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace Interim Superintendent **Brian Williams**. Kirby currently is the chief of school strategy and planning for Chicago Public Schools. ●●● **Crestline EV** hired **John E. Miller** as interim superintendent effective March 12. He replaced **Noreen Mullins-Brown**, who resigned effective March 11. ●●● **Hamilton City** Superintendent **Larry L. Knapp** announced his resignation effective April 8. The district hired Assistant Superintendent

**Mike V. Holbrook** as superintendent effective April 8. ●●● **Lakeview Local (Trumbull)** hired **Velina Jo Taylor** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Robert A. Wilson**, who is retiring. Taylor currently is superintendent at **Brookfield Local (Trumbull)**. ●●● **Napoleon Area City** hired **Erik Belcher** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Dr. **Stephen R. Fogo**, who is retiring. Belcher currently is superintendent at **Fayette Local (Fulton)**. ●●● **Shaker Heights City** hired **David Glasner** as superintendent effective July 1. He will replace Interim Superintendent Dr. **Stephen Wilkins**. Glasner currently is the district's executive director of curriculum and instruction and interim high school principal.

### **Treasurers**

**Dover City** hired **Andrew Bache** as treasurer effective April 1. He replaced **Marsha K. Clark**, who took the treasurer position at **East Holmes Local (Holmes)**. ●●● **Geauga County ESC** hired **L. Greg Slemons** as treasurer effective April 1. He replaced **Suzanne Sotkovsky**, who resigned. ●●● **Ridgmont Local (Hardin)** hired **Melissa Pollom** as treasurer effective April 8. She replaced **Fred Reinemeyer**, who retired. Pollom previously was assistant to the treasurer at **Tolles Career & Technical Center**.

### **Sympathies**

Former **Coldwater EV Board of Education** member **Floyd C. Winner** died March 17. He was 83. ●●● Former **Madison Local (Lake)** and **Warrensville Heights City Treasurer John Thomas Baron** died March 12. He was 89. ●●● Former **Maysville Local (Muskingum) Treasurer George Elmer Smitley** died March 12. He was 92. ●●● Former **North Ridgeville City Board of Education member Robert V. "Bob" Schmittgen** died March 23. He was 90. ●●● Former **Pike County ESC, Scioto Valley Local (Pike) and Zane Trace Local (Ross) Superintendent Ernest Hamilton** died March 10. He was 74. ●●● Former **Princeton City Board of Education member William "Bill" Hedrick Maynor Jr.** died Jan. 17. He was 83. ●●● Former **Rootstown Local (Portage) Board of Education member Burt C. Frank** died March 19. He was 95. ●●● Former **Springfield Local (Summit) Superintendent James D. Gray** died March 18. He was 79. ●●● Former **Toronto City Superintendent and Board of Education member Joseph Thomas Karaffa** died March 13. He was 94. ●●● Former **Xenia Community City Board of Education member Rev. Dr. Edwin C. Kingsbury** died March 7. He was 87.

## **OSBA MASTER OF TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION (MTA) PROGRAM**

This half-day workshop includes a working lunch and time for questions. The workshop will be held at the OSBA office, 8050 N. High St., Columbus, 43235. Visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/transportation-training-programs](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/transportation-training-programs) to learn about the MTA certification program.

### **April 10 — Hot topics — safety, trends and statistics • \$95**

Review hot topics in student transportation, including seat belts in school buses. Learn about National Transportation Safety Board accident studies, Ohio school bus accident statistics and any topics that attendees bring from their local districts. While we look at these hot topics, an underlying focus also is on how to identify the learning points in each of these areas and share them with the staff that delivers our front-line transportation services.

Register by contacting OSBA at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [mta@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:mta@ohioschoolboards.org).





## INFORMATION

by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

### Board Leadership Institute delivers diverse sessions, endless learning for school board members

For nearly two decades, OSBA's Board Leadership Institute (BLI) has set the standard for high-quality board development. The 3,500 school board members who've graduated from BLI since its inception in 2002 can attest to the spring event's relevant and diverse agenda.

Held over two days — April 26 and 27 at the Hilton Columbus/ Polaris in north Columbus — this unique, in-depth training opportunity is designed by board members for board members. The curriculum, based on recommendations from the Board Leadership Institute Focus Group,

held during the OSBA Capital Conference, delivers leadership training critical for new and veteran board members.

"One of the best trainings I have attended," one attendee said following last year's sessions. "The sessions were strong, and the topics were all relevant."

Another added, "As a new board member, it is nice to know we have such resources at our disposal."

Whether in your first year of board service or 50th, professional development remains of the utmost importance with public education's ever-changing

landscape. Learning what it takes to be an effective school board member has been estimated to take at least two years, and the learning never ends.

BLI coordinator **Cheryl W. Ryan**, OSBA's director of board and management services, said this year's event offers one of the most varied lineups of presenters and speakers.

Spread among 17 breakout sessions and six learning tracks, attendees can develop the skills and strategies needed to meet the demands of school district governance. BLI also ensures

*Continued on page 6*

### OSBA communication design specialist position available

The Ohio School Boards Association is seeking a communication design specialist whose primary responsibility will be planning, writing and design of OSBA print publications and digital media projects. Print projects will include promotional and marketing materials and membership publications. Digital projects will include association websites, digital ads and graphics, new media and assisting with association AV productions.

The ideal candidate must have a strong background in web design and content management systems, graphic design, writing, photography and a solid knowledge of the Adobe Suite. Video experience is a plus. Candidates should have a degree in journalism, communication or a related field with a minimum of two years experience.

OSBA offers a competitive salary, benefits and a retirement plan. Please send cover letter, résumé and salary requirements to: Communication Design Specialist Search, OSBA, 8050 N. High Street, Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235 or email the information to: [apply@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:apply@ohioschoolboards.org). Application deadline is April 15, 2019. Cover letters and/or résumés without salary expectations will not be considered. EOE.





# Nominate a student program or performing group for the 2019 OSBA ★ Student Achievement Fair

Monday, Nov. 11, 2019  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Greater Columbus Convention Center

Do you want to see your district students involved in the OSBA Capital Conference? The Student Achievement Fair, held in conjunction with the Capital Conference, highlights outstanding student performance groups and fresh, innovative initiatives from public school districts across the state.

## Student Achievement Fair performing groups

OSBA will choose one performing group from each of the association's five regions to perform during the Student Achievement Fair. Past performances have included cheerleaders, choirs, bands, orchestras and percussion ensembles. Each group will perform for 20 minutes.

Submit a nomination at <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/saf-nominations> and email an electronic video audition or YouTube link to **Gwen Samet**, administrative assistant of board and management services, at [gsamet@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:gsamet@ohioschoolboards.org). Only electronic recordings will be accepted. The nomination deadline is Friday, May 24.

## Student Achievement Fair district programs

OSBA is accepting nominations for programs that showcase exemplary student achievement. Examples of previous presentations include graphic design demonstrations, world languages, industrial technology projects, career center culinary arts programs, STEM projects and outdoor education.

View the list of 2018 Student Achievement Fair district programs at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/60021>.

Each program will be featured in a 10-by-10-foot booth, which can accommodate up to five people. Please note, electricity is available but internet access IS NOT provided. The 2018 daily rate for Wi-Fi was \$80 per device and can be purchased with a credit card from the convention center on the day of the fair. One hundred programs will be chosen and nominations will be accepted until all booths have been filled.

## Have questions?

Contact **Gwen Samet** ([gsamet@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:gsamet@ohioschoolboards.org)) or **Teri Morgan** ([tmorgan@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:tmorgan@ohioschoolboards.org)) at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA with any questions.

Visit <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/saf-nominations> to nominate a student performing group or district program today!



# Diversity and Inclusion Workshop

**Friday, April 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. • Cost \$170**

OSBA office, 8050 N. High St., Columbus, (614) 540-4000

**8:30 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast**

**8:50 a.m. Welcome**

**9 a.m. Handling and preventing sexual harassment claims**

As conversations in the media about sexual harassment and assault increase due to the #metoo and #timesup movements, districts have questions about the adequacy of their sexual harassment policies and procedures. They also have questions about how to properly handle claims of sexual harassment or assault, particularly those that may have occurred many years ago. Learn what your policies, procedures and practices should include and how your school district should prepare for the possibility of allegations from the past.

*Tabitha Justice, Esq., Subashi, Wildermuth & Justice*

**10:15 a.m. Break**

**10:30 a.m. Implementing a trauma-informed school program**

Ohio school districts are implementing trauma-informed programs and developing trauma-informed school buildings to help drug-endangered students and students experiencing other childhood traumas. Learn the legal and practical implications of implementing a trauma-informed program in your school. Hear about necessary tools schools can use to implement trauma-informed programs to better serve students.

*Melissa McClain, community education program coordinator, Akron Children's Hospital*

**11:45 a.m. Lunch (provided)**

**12:45 p.m. Training staff to recognize the signs of human trafficking in schools**

Human trafficking is prevalent in Ohio, but are your staff members prepared to recognize the signs and act appropriately to protect students? Learn the signs and appropriate procedures to support staff and protect students.

*Brent Currence, Missing Persons Unit director, Ohio Attorney General's Office; Bryttani Debro, anti-human trafficking coordinator, The Salvation Army; and Melanie Kenworthy Deis, executive director, Stand Together Against Trafficking*

**1:45 p.m. Break**

**2 p.m. Diversity, inclusion and equity training for your board and staff**

You're here today, but how do you take what you've learned back to your district and share those valuable tools and resources with staff? Hear practical solutions for creating and growing diversity, inclusion and equity training and programs in your district so the skills you've learned reach your main client: the student.

*Kimberly Brazwell, chief executive officer, KiMISTRY*

**3 p.m. Adjourn**

*This program has been approved by the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education for 4.25 total CLE hours instruction.*

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). Unauthorized audio recording or videotaping of any session is strictly prohibited.

Take your leadership to the next level at the

# Board Leadership Institute

April 26-27, 2019 • Hilton Columbus/Polaris

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. Learning what it takes to be an effective school board member has been estimated to take at least two years of board service. The challenge to stay effective is not only for new board members, it's ongoing.

Whether you're in your first year or your 50th, the ever-changing world of public education governance is one in which continuing education and professional development are critical. So, where does a board member go for ongoing training?

**OSBA's Board Leadership Institute!**

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

Almost all board members agree they could use more training, and they want training that is highly task-oriented, takes a short period of time, is done in small groups and is led by outstanding instructors.

To meet these requests, OSBA works with board members across the state to develop the annual Board Leadership Institute. This two-day institute is designed specifically *by* board members *for* board members and focuses on numerous timely topics.

### Keynote speakers enhance BLI

BLI will kick off Friday, April 26, with Dr. **Mike Thomson**, who will share "Strategies for Saving Your Sanity," revealing a trove of tips, secrets and strategies on how to save your sanity as a school board member. State Rep. **Kent Smith** (D-Euclid) will share an update from the Statehouse during the Friday afternoon session. His prior service as an **Euclid City** school board member gives Smith a unique perspective on the challenges facing Ohio's schools.



Thomson



Smith



DeMaria

Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction **Paolo DeMaria** will close BLI on Saturday, April 27. Join DeMaria for his presentation, "Create a culture of improvement and excellence in Ohio education."

### Registration

The tuition for this intensive two-day institute is \$285. Register online at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/33166> or contact **Laurie Miller**, senior events manager, for registration information at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).


### Location

This event will be held at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris, located in north Columbus at 8700 Lyra Drive, Columbus, OH, 43240. Parking is free.





# Schedule of events

## Friday, April 26

8 a.m.	<b>Registration and breakfast</b>
9 a.m.	<b>Opening General Session with Dr. Mike Thomson</b> <i>Welcome — Rick Lewis, chief executive officer, OSBA</i> <i>Pledge of Allegiance, remarks and introduction of speaker — John W. Halkias, OSBA president; board member, Plain Local (Stark)</i>
10:15 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
10:30 a.m.	<b>Student achievement concurrent sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leading together: Ohio's SOAR network of visionary leaders</li><li>• Trauma-informed approaches to engaging low-income students</li></ul>
11:30 a.m.	<b>Networking luncheon</b> <i>Luncheon sponsored by  compmanagement</i>
12:30 p.m.	<b>Legal and legislative concurrent sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Education foundations as a local funding initiative</li><li>• News from the Statehouse</li><li>• Janus and the two faces of union dues</li></ul>
1:30 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
1:45 p.m.	<b>An update from the Statehouse — State Rep. Kent Smith</b>
2:30 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
2:45 p.m.	<b>Critical and current issues concurrent sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Connecting the board to the building</li><li>• Look good, feel good, do good</li><li>• Assessing your district's financial health</li></ul>
3:45 p.m.	<b>Adjourn</b>

## Saturday, April 27

7:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>
8:15 a.m.	<b>Board leadership concurrent sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What's next? The board's role in good succession planning</li><li>• Improving the relationship between the board and local government</li><li>• How good boards make impactful decisions</li></ul>
9:15 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
9:30 a.m.	<b>Student care and wellness concurrent sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Helping students who live in poverty: It's a mindset</li><li>• Student welfare policies: Are you on track?</li><li>• Lessons from the schoolhouse</li></ul>
10:30 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
10:45 a.m.	<b>Critical and current issues concurrent sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working with your State Board of Education</li><li>• Hot topics in school law for board members</li><li>• Measuring and communicating employability skills using the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal</li></ul>
11:45 a.m.	<b>Closing Luncheon with Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria</b> <i>Introduction of speaker — John W. Halkias</i> <i>Luncheon sponsored by  compmanagement</i>  <small>a sedgwick company</small>
1 p.m.	<b>Adjourn</b>



# WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

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

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

## How to log in

Click on “Log in to your account” on 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.



# Levy University

Tuesday, May 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
OSBA office, Columbus • Cost is \$170

## Agenda

**8:30 a.m. Registration**

**9 a.m. Welcome**

**9:15 a.m. Board roles and responsibilities**

Review the board's unique role in preparing the district and community for putting a levy on the ballot.  
*Cheryl W. Ryan, director of board and management services, OSBA*

**10 a.m. Levy campaign do's and don'ts**

This session will cover school board responsibilities and legal requirements as well as begin the discussion on campaign best practices. Learn more about legislation that allows a district to place a special levy on the ballot focused only on school safety and security initiatives.

*Jerry Rampelt, executive director; Michael Collins, Ryan Collins and Andrea Kruse, consultants, Support Ohio Schools Research and Education Foundation; and Nathan Miner, president, Momentum Strategy Group*

**11:30 a.m. Working lunch (provided)**

**11:45 a.m. Campaign best practices**

This session will continue with best practices that districts can use with any district-support organization. It will include practical guidance on volunteer recruitment; planning and organization; polls and surveys; community involvement; effective messaging; fundraising; social media campaigns; and effective printed materials.

*Jerry Rampelt, Ryan Collins, Andrea Kruse, Michael Collins and Nathan Miner*

**3 p.m. Adjourn**

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).



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attendees have quality time to network with other board members, public education experts from around the state and OSBA staff.

"We have expertise from speakers in important areas, including student mental and emotional health, legislation and school finance, board governance and student achievement," Ryan said. "From our Opening General Session speaker, Dr. **Mike Thomson**, to our Closing Luncheon speaker, State Superintendent **Paolo DeMaria**, a deep and wide variety of learning opportunities await each BLI participant."

Thomson, known nationally as Dr. Mike, has spoken to audiences in school seminars, international

conferences and on radio and TV for more than 35 years.

The award-winning host of the PBS series "In Search of Character," as well as "The Learning Lunchbox," also has authored 15 books and lectured to more than 2.5 million people worldwide. His BLI presentation, "Strategies for Saving Your Sanity," will reveal a trove of tips, secrets and strategies on how to save your sanity as you serve your district.

DeMaria's address will focus on creating a culture of improvement and excellence in public education. As the superintendent of public instruction, he oversees Ohio's education system of nearly 3,600 public schools and approximately 1.7 million students. He has a

25-year record of public service in Ohio, including serving as a policy adviser to former Ohio Gov. **Bob Taft** and as director and assistant director of the Ohio Office of Budget and Management.

On Friday afternoon, state Rep. **Kent Smith** (D-Euclid) will provide an update from the Statehouse. Before being elected to the Ohio House of Representatives, he served as a **Euclid City Board of Education** member for 12 years. Smith was first elected to the Ohio House in 2014 and re-elected in 2016. He is the Democratic minority whip and serves on the House Commerce and Labor; Financial Institutions; Public Utilities; and Rules and Reference committees. Having served as a

*Continued on page 7*



## Transportation State Reports and Cost Analysis

Wednesday, April 24 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. • Cost is \$100  
OSBA office, Columbus

Your district transportation funding depends upon the reports you fill out and submit to the state — including the T-1 and T-2. An error on either of these reports can have a significant impact on your district's funding.

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. We will review the calendar deadlines and best practices needed to successfully file your reports and get accurate funding. We also will share how to use this data to perform a district cost analysis and show you where to find the state average data from the previous year to determine if your district is operating efficiently.

Whether you are new to transportation or a veteran, or if you work in the transportation office or the treasurer's office, this class will provide the tools you need to file reports correctly and get all the funding your district is entitled to.

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).

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school board member and state representative, Smith has a unique perspective on the challenges facing Ohio schools.

The cost to attend this intensive professional development event is \$285, which includes breakfast and lunch both days and workshop materials. CompManagement and CompManagement Health Systems are sponsoring the luncheons.

Note that handouts will be

online-only through the OSBA website, [www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org). Bring a device to access them during the event. Beginning April 23, you can print the handouts by logging into your account on the OSBA website, clicking on "My Training" and choosing Board Leadership Institute.

Attendees also will receive 20 credits toward OSBA's Award of Achievement and Master Board

Member awards.

A brochure with more details about BLI, including breakout session topics and titles, was mailed to board members in late March.

Register at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/33166> or contact **Laurie Miller**, senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).



## NEWS

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by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

### School-funding discussion highlights legislative conference

More than 150 school board members, administrators, legislators and legislative aides took part in the March 19 State Legislative Conference in Columbus. And, most of the school district leaders were encouraged by what they heard from legislators.

The annual event — hosted by OSBA, the Buckeye Association of School Administrators and the Ohio Association of School Business Officials — provides a forum for gathering with state representatives and senators to discuss key education issues. It provides attendees the opportunity to meet face to face with legislators and their aides.

"It's great to hear the direction

and focus our state legislators want us to go," **Lakota Local (Butler) Superintendent Matthew J. Miller** said. "I truly feel like this is a momentum shift for us. It seemed like a few years ago it was a lot of us versus them and pointing fingers, but I see that changing now in making a better Ohio for our kids."

A group of legislative speakers addressed many issues impacting public education, including school funding and academic distress commissions. Those who offered perspectives were:

- Sen. **Larry Obhof** (R-Medina), Ohio Senate president;
- Rep. **Larry Householder** (R-Glenford), Ohio House speaker;
- Rep. **Louis W. Blessing III**

(R-Colerain Township), chair, House Primary and Secondary Education Committee;  
● Rep. **John Patterson** (D-Jefferson), co-chair, House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education.

The \$69 billion two-year budget Gov. **Mike DeWine** unveiled March 15 proposes adding \$300 million for school districts with children living in poverty. The funds are designed to support student wellness and success in schools. Schools will receive funding for mental health counseling, wraparound supports, mentoring, after school programs and more.

Aside from the additional

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funding, every district will receive what it received in 2018 for a total of \$16.5 billion.

"I think they've made a pretty clear statement about what their priorities are and what the needs are in directing the new money to districts and how they serve economically disadvantaged kids," school-funding expert Dr. Howard Fleeter said of the governor's budget proposal. Fleeter is a consultant for the Ohio Education Policy Institute.

The Ohio House, led by the newly elected speaker, has been working on its version of the next biennial budget.

"We all have a responsibility to take care of all of Ohio's kids," Householder told attendees. "That's our responsibility as legislators, it's the responsibility of the taxpayers and it's the responsibility of each and every one of you as school board members."

With nearly 1.7 million students, Ohio's public education system is one of the largest in the nation, Householder said, noting that the 612 school districts are all different, which makes it difficult as a legislator to craft a plan that works for everyone.

"What we have to look at are ways to give more local control to all you folks so you can make decisions," he said, encouraging attendees to have an open mind during the budget process.

Householder also said he wants to give schools more safety options.

Rep. **Bob Cupp** (R-Lima) and Patterson have been working with school treasurers, superintendents and others around the state to determine the cost of a sufficient education and to find a more effective way to distribute funding. The Cupp-Patterson workgroup's proposal was unveiled after this article's publication.

Blessing and Patterson also discussed legislation aimed at changing Ohio's academic distress commissions. Under Ohio law, when a district has been declared in academic emergency, a chief executive officer (CEO) appointed by the state takes control of the district from the local school board.

Reps. **Kent Smith** (D-Euclid) and **Stephen Hambley** (R-Brunswick) have sponsored House Bill (HB) 127, which would prohibit the creation of any new academic distress commissions. Senate Bill (SB) 110, sponsored by Sen. **Nathan H. Manning** (R-North Ridgeville), includes changing the makeup of academic distress commissions, mandating evaluations for a school district CEO and requiring the CEO to appear before the local school board when requested.

Reps. **Joe Miller** (D-Amherst) and **Don Jones** (R-Freeport) are working on HB 154. This legislation would repeal academic distress commissions and replace them with a requirement that districts meeting the criteria implement wraparound services in

a community learning center.

**Anton M. Hocevar**, ESC of **Northeast Ohio**, asked if legislators would consider using ESCs as facilitators in helping poor-performing districts.

In responding, Patterson said, "If we really want to address the charge that we want to make a difference for our kids in those communities, we must involve the local organizations. It's trauma education, it's awareness, it's getting the parents involved, the public involved and the ESCs are a valuable resource to ignite those activities to take place."

**Twinsburg City and Cuyahoga Valley Career Center** board member **Mark H. Curtis** said he was happy to see broad support for changing the law, HB 70, which created academic distress commissions.

"We all know that's something that's not beneficial to locally elected school boards, and it's also not helpful to students and the communities involved," he said. "I'm encouraged by the conversations we're having."

Obhof told attendees he was ready to work collaboratively with public education stakeholders and pointed to last summer's passage of SB 216, sponsored by Sen. **Matt Huffman** (R-Lima), as an example of joint efforts.

"(Huffman) traveled the state, meeting with superintendents and asked them, 'How many unfunded mandates do you have? What kinds of burdens has the

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legislature put in your way?" Obhof said. "Let's talk about those. Let's put them on a piece of paper and repeal them."

Following the morning speakers, attendees had lunch with lawmakers and their aides and held further discussions later in

the day.

*Editor's note:* Information in this article was current as of March 25, 2019.



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Jay Smith, deputy director of legislative services

### Legislators taking close look at academic distress commissions

Over the last few weeks, a few bills have been introduced in the Ohio General Assembly seeking to repeal or make changes to academic distress commissions. Interest from both caucuses has grown significantly with the arrival of Gov. **Mike DeWine**. At this point, the legislature is poised to move forward with providing a substantial rewrite to undo the negative effects of House Bill (HB) 70 from the 131st General Assembly.

HB 127, sponsored by Reps. **Kent Smith** (D-Euclid) and **Stephen Hambley** (R-Brunswick), would simply prohibit the creation of any new academic distress commissions. Those commissions that are already established at **Youngstown City, Lorain City** and **East Cleveland City** would not be affected by this proposal.

Senate Bill (SB) 110, sponsored by Sen. **Nathan H. Manning** (R-North Ridgeville), proposes to make the following changes to the academic distress commission law:

- A district board of education will

appoint a treasurer to serve the district and also serve as the district's chief fiscal officer.

- Restructure the membership of a commission's five members, giving one of the state superintendent of public instruction's appointees to the mayor. This would provide the mayor and the state superintendent with two appointees each. The district board of education would have one appointment of a teacher employed by the district.

- The academic distress commission would be required to conduct an annual performance evaluation of the chief executive officer (CEO) and submit it to the district board. The district board could request up to three additional performance evaluations of the CEO per year.

- The CEO would be required to appear before the district board to make quarterly reports on the progress of the district and answer any questions from the board. The CEO also must, at the request of the board, appear at any regularly

scheduled board meeting.

- The state auditor would be required to conduct a performance audit of the school district in each year that it is subject to an academic distress commission.
- The Ohio Department of Education would be required to conduct an annual site evaluation for districts with an academic distress commission.

Reps. **Joseph A. Miller** (D-Amherst) and **Don Jones** (R-Freeport) also are working on legislation. Their bill, HB 154, proposes repealing academic distress commissions and replacing them with a requirement that districts under academic distress implement wraparound services in a community learning center.

In addition, Sen. **Peggy Lehner** (R-Kettering) has expressed an interest in preparing legislation to address academic distress commissions. She is talking with stakeholders to determine what should be included in her bill.

We expect that one or more bills

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# PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

## Lakota Local students design board game for special needs kids

Four engineering students at **Lakota Local's (Butler)** Lakota East High School have created a board game that doesn't require any pieces or pawns.

The game's design is meant for special needs students who have limited use of their hands.

**Grace Silverberg, Mackenzie Novean, Lisa Biehle and Logan Fox** teamed up for their senior capstone project. A requirement was that the project had to help someone at the school.

"I kind of felt like butterflies in my stomach actually getting to see people play the game and seeing how our hard work paid off," Fox told a local TV station.

The game, similar to Candy Land, has an underwater sea theme, with a purple octopus and a turtle and jellyfish. Players press a button on a spinner to determine how many spaces they can move. Then they press one of five buttons on a control panel to activate LED lights that serve as game pieces

and move the player up and down the board.

Work on the project didn't come without trial and error.

"That's how you engineer anything," Silverberg said. "You just fail many, many times and end up with a final product that we like."

The students researched patents as part of their project, with the hope of mass-producing the game for other special needs children.

Source: WKRC-TV

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*Legislative Report, continued from page 9*

will be passed to deal with districts currently in academic distress and districts that are in danger of being in academic distress in the future. We believe that an integral part of any HB 70 "fix" will be resources for intervention and support to address student needs.

Since the passage of HB 70, OSBA has been talking with lawmakers about the consequences of this legislation and asking for changes. With the benefit of hindsight and a new governor, Ohio is now ready to move toward those changes. In its conversations with legislators, OSBA has focused on the following:

- Improving the process for children and communities by

restoring the powers and duties of the locally elected board to provide a community voice in the decisions being made.

- Moving to a system that looks at buildings rather than an entire district.

- Should the state continue to use academic distress commissions in some form, the law should require more accountability for the CEO when it comes to spending fiscal resources. These are community resources, and the community should have a voice in how they are spent.

- Moving to a system of supports and intervention rather than the punitive, destructive system that exists today. The state should

provide funding for buildings to create a turnaround model and work with tools of their choice, such as wraparound services, peer-to-peer review, education reform companies and other resources.

Please continue to communicate with your legislators about the need to make changes soon to restore locally elected boards and the voice they provide for their communities. These changes need to encompass all districts, including those currently being overseen by academic distress commissions.

*Editor's note:* Information in this article was current as of March 26, 2019.

## April 2019

- 8 Last day for voter registration for May election — RC 3503.01, 3503.19(A) (30 days prior to election).
- 10 OSBA Master of Transportation Administration Program: Hot topics — safety, trends and statistics .... Columbus
- 12 Diversity and Inclusion Workshop..... Columbus
- 24 Transportation State Reports and Cost Analysis Workshop ..... Columbus
- 26-27 Board Leadership Institute .... Columbus
- 28 Southeast Region Executive Committee meeting..... Zanesville
- 29 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).

## May 2019

- 1 Northeast Region Executive Committee meeting..... Wadsworth
- 3 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).
- 7 Special Election Day; Primary Election Day — RC 3501.01 (first Tuesday after first Monday).
- 8 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).

- 14 Levy University..... Columbus
- 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).
- 18 OSBA Black Caucus Committee Meeting ..... Columbus

## June 2019

- 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); 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)(f).

- 6 Reasonable Suspicion Training..... Columbus
- 7 OCSBA School Attorney Workshop..... Westerville
- 23 Northwest Region Executive Committee meeting..... Bowling Green
- 28 Sports Law Workshop ..... Columbus
- 30 2018-19 school year ends — RC 3313.62; end of third ADM reporting period — RC 3317.03(A).

## July 2019

- 1 2019-20 school year begins — RC 3313.62; last day for board to notify teaching and nonteaching employees of succeeding year salaries — RC 3319.12, 3319.082; board may begin to adopt appropriation measure, which may be temporary — RC 5705.38(A) and (B); treasurer must certify available revenue in funds to county auditor — RC 5705.36(A)(1).