

BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



Voters OK over three-fourths of school tax issues on primary ballot

Voters across Ohio approved 78% of the school tax issues on the May 7 primary election ballot. The passage of 81 of 104 issues marked an increase from the 2018 May primary election, when voters approved 63 of 92 school tax issues for a passage rate of 68%. Sixty percent of new tax requests were approved May 7, with 31 of 52 issues passing. In last year's May primary election, voters approved 13 of 33 new tax issues for a 39% passage rate. Strong support for renewal school tax proposals continued, with 50 of the 52 issues earning approval, a 96% passage rate. That was an increase from the 2018 May primary election renewal passage rate of 85%. In that election, 50 of 59 renewal issues were approved.

National state legislatures group releases school safety best practices

States are implementing a wide range of approaches to address the difficult challenges of ensuring school safety and preventing violence. Tools and strategies used in this effort include threat assessments; coordinating mental and behavioral health services; improving school climate and culture; technology and infrastructure enhancements; and holistic approaches to prevention. The National Conference of State Legislatures recently released a summary of steps districts can take to make their schools more safe and secure. The summary is posted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/48660>.

Study provides insights into expanding STEAM opportunities

Adding the arts to STEM learning can enhance teaching and student achievement and provide more opportunities for students to engage in the creative process while meeting objectives in all subject areas. STEAM education fosters the skills students need to apply creativity and innovation to solving real-world problems. Learn how to advance STEAM education and boost student participation by increasing access, tapping into federal and state funding and coordinating efforts at the state level in a new Education Commission of the States policy brief. The brief is posted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/53575>.

OSBA 2019 Capital Conference schedule taking shape

The keynote speakers have been confirmed for the Capital Conference, and the learning sessions lineup is nearly set. Headlining the Nov. 12 General Session is award-winning film, TV and stage actress **Laura Linney**. She is known for her roles in the films "Sully," "Mystic River" and "The Truman Show" and the TV series "Ozark," "Tales of the City" and "The Big C." She also is a powerful advocate for the charity Stand Up To Cancer. The Nov. 10 General Session speaker is **Jason Latimer**, a world-

May 27, 2019

Volume 50 Issue 10

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Route workshop information to:

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

class magician, curator of the Fleet Science Center and co-host of the Science Channel series "SciJinks."

Dr. Frederic Bertley, chief executive officer of the Center of Science and Industry (COSI) in Columbus, speaks at the Nov. 11 Conference Luncheon. Prior to joining COSI, Bertley was a top leader at the renowned Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, where he directed visionary initiatives in STEM learning. The Nov. 12 Conference Luncheon speaker is former Ohio State University football star **Maurice Clarett**. Also known for his troubled life outside of football that led to his imprisonment, Clarett now speaks at prisons and juvenile detention facilities and works with youth football camps to share his story and help prevent others from repeating it. The Capital Conference runs from Nov. 10 through Nov. 12 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in

Fourth-graders' knitting has special purpose

While it may have been your grandmother's favorite hobby, fourth-graders at **Mansfield City's** Malabar Intermediate School have been learning how to knit for a good cause.

The students created two blankets for a raffle, with the proceeds benefitting a Richland County Park District nature center.

Local hair salon owner **Blake Anthony** visited the school once a week to teach the basics of knitting. He's been knitting for 22 years.

"Knitting helps with eye-hand coordination and concentration," Anthony told a local newspaper. "We talked about the history of knitting as we worked."

Teacher **Stephanie Uhde** said she's grateful for the partnership with the community.

Source: www.richlandsource.com

downtown Columbus. It features over 170 workshops, seminars and information sessions, several receptions and plenty of opportunities for networking. For more information, visit <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/2019>. Conference registration opens in July.

OSBA Pocket Calendar being sent to district treasurers

The 2019-2020 OSBA Pocket Calendar is being mailed to district treasurers. The calendar contains a list of important Ohio Revised Code dates and deadlines and contact information for all OSBA staff members. Board members who don't receive their calendar should contact their treasurer.

OSBA online

● www.ohioschoolboards.org

Need just the right gift to recognize your district's leaders and staff at the end of the school year? Then visit the online OSBA Store. The store offers customized plaques, awards and miscellaneous items that are perfect for singling out people in your district for recognition. In addition, over 200 publications covering a wide range of school governance topics are available for purchase. To shop at the store, visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/catalog.



Briefcase

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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.



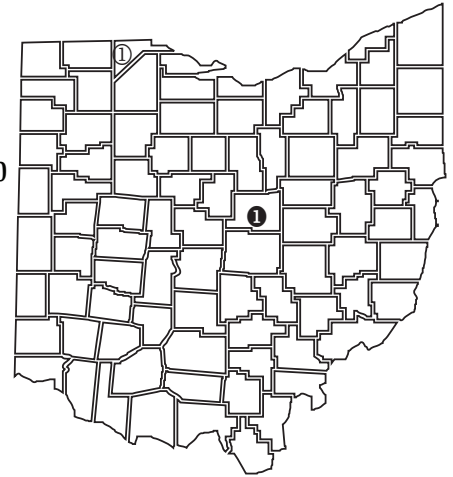
BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, senior administrative assistant of communication services

OSBA executive searches

Superintendent

District	Deadline	Contact
① Fredericktown Local (Knox)	June 28	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



Board changes

Fairfield City Board of Education member **Dan Hare** resigned effective May 16. He is moving out of the district.

Administrative changes

Superintendents

Canton City hired Dr. **Jeffrey M. Graham** as superintendent effective in June. He will replace Interim Superintendent **Barb Maceyak**. Graham currently is a regional superintendent at **Cleveland Municipal**. ●●● **Georgetown EV** Superintendent **Christopher Burrows** announced his resignation effective July 31. He has been hired as the principal at **Southern Hills Career & Technical Center**. ●●● **Graham Local (Champaign)** Superintendent **Kirk Koennecke** announced his resignation effective June 30. He has taken the superintendent position at **Indian Hill EV**. He will replace Dr. **Mark T. Miles**, who resigned. ●●● **Wauseon EV** Superintendent **Larry Brown** announced his resignation effective Dec. 31.

Treasurers

Chagrin Falls EV hired **Ashley Brudno** as treasurer effective June 3. She will replace Interim Treasurer **Candi Lukat**. Brudno currently is treasurer at **Chardon Local (Geauga)**. ●●● **Fremont City** hired **Ira D. Hamman** as treasurer effective April 22. He replaced **Amelia R. Gioffredo**, who took the treasurer position at **Amherst EV** in August. ●●● **Kenston Local (Geauga)** Treasurer **Phillip D. Butto IV** announced his resignation effective July 31. He has taken the treasurer position at **Hudson City**.

Editor's note

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

Sympathies

Francis A. Singer, a former board of education member at **Central Local (Defiance)**, **Four County Career Center** and the former **Defiance County** district, died May 9. He was 96. ●●● Former **Champion Local (Trumbull)** Board of Education member **Jane Elizabeth Wake** died May 3. She was 96. ●●● Former **Columbus City** Board of Education member **Ray H. Blair Jr.** died May 1. He was 89. ●●● Former **Columbiana EV** Board of Education member **John S. Kimpel** died April 30. He was 88. ●●● Former **Eaton Community City** and **Fairfield City** Superintendent Dr. **Charles Wiedenmann** died April 26. He was 69. ●●● Former **Orange City** Treasurer **Roger L. Fink** died April 27. He was 93. ●●● Former **Osnaburg Local (Wood)** Board of Education member **Katherine I. "Kate" Mottice** died May 25. She was 88. ●●● Former **Ridgewood Local (Coshocton)** Board of Education member **Deborah Susan Crye** died April 27. She was 62. ●●● Former **Southwest Licking Local (Licking)** and **Urbana City** Superintendent **Ralph L. "Pete" Nix** died April 7. He was 82. ●●● Former **Spencerville Local (Allen)** Board of Education member **Joseph A. Whitney** died May 6. He was 83. ●●● Former **Struthers City** Board of Education member **Dean A. Burns** died May 7. He was 84. ●●● Former **Walnut Township Local (Fairfield)** Board of Education member **Robert "Bob" Tanton** died April 29. He was 69. ●●● Former **Western Reserve Local (Huron)** Board of Education member **Benjamin R. Brown** died April 25. He was 73.



Is a superintendent or treasurer search in your future?

OSBA went beyond all expectations we could have imagined. The process allowed us to think about our district's future. Our staff and community were very pleased with the amount of involvement afforded to them. Thanks to our consultant and OSBA, we hired a person who also believed in our district vision.

— Pamela Freshour,
Pleasant Local (Marion)

OSBA's searches are:

- ✓ Led by professional search consultants with school board experience
- ✓ Customized to your district's needs
- ✓ Affordable
- ✓ Offered with the OSBA guarantee*

*In the unlikely circumstance you are unable to make a clear decision, OSBA will reopen the search and work with you until the right choice is made.

Need more information?

OSBA Search Services
8050 N. High Street, Suite 100 • Columbus, OH 43235
(614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA
www.ohioschoolboards.org/osba-search-services



NEWS

by Angela Penquite, managing editor

Board members learn, share at 2019 Board Leadership Institute

Nearly 170 school board members from across Ohio gathered at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris in north Columbus on April 26-27 for the 18th annual OSBA Board Leadership Institute (BLI).

Attendees enjoyed two days of outstanding keynote speakers, first-rate learning and a wealth of sharing with colleagues from around the state. And, they headed home refreshed and motivated to put what they had learned into practice in their own school districts.

"The sharing and networking add to the value of a smaller event like BLI," said **Rick Lewis**, OSBA chief executive officer. "Attendees can share their experiences and learn from their colleagues to improve education for all students across Ohio."

The Friday-Saturday event featured 17 learning sessions organized in six learning tracks: student achievement; legal and legislative; critical and current issues; board leadership; student care and wellness; and critical and current issues. Workshops covered trauma-informed care; educational foundations for local funding; assessing your district's financial health; succession planning for school boards; student welfare policies; social-emotional learning;

and hot topics in school law.

Between sessions, attendees browsed at an on-site branch of the OSBA Bookstore, met with regional managers to learn how they could become more involved in regional activities and learned about OSBA endorsed programs. Board members also networked during the luncheons, which were sponsored by CompManagement and CompManagement Health Systems.

"Attendees have said this is one of their favorite things to do as board members," said **Cheryl W. Ryan**, OSBA director of board and management services and BLI coordinator. "With a program that's relevant and current, board members appreciate the opportunity to learn from each other and consult with OSBA staff."

Each year, board members meet during the OSBA Capital Conference to share potential topics for the next BLI. Ryan encouraged interested board members to attend the session — the OSBA Board Leadership Institute Focus Group — and offer session topics that would be beneficial for their school boards.

"The focus group is open to all board members who want to attend," she said. "We'd love to have more members participate to

discuss programming that would be relevant to them.

"We're looking forward to another strong Board Leadership Institute in 2020."

Three keynote speakers highlighted the 2019 BLI. Following are recaps of their presentations.

Opening General Session

Dr. Mike Thomson

'Strategies for saving your sanity'

"How many are interested in learning a strategy to save your sanity?" asked Dr. **Mike Thomson**, eliciting laughter from attendees at the BLI Opening General Session.

The key to saving your sanity, Thomson said, is to wake up to a passion and a purpose rather than to an alarm clock.

"We're in the kid business. If you're not in it for the kids, where's the passion? You're waking up to an alarm clock. Wake up to a passion and a purpose."

He asked attendees to write the words, "Be someone's reason."

"In your school district, be some kid's reason to come to school. Be some kid's reason to get good grades today. Be some kid's reason to graduate from your school district ... be some kid's reason to stay alive."

Continued on page 6

News, continued from page 5

Anyone in the school can make a difference in a child's life, whether a school board member, principal, teacher, custodian or bus driver, he explained. Talking with students, greeting them and telling them you'll see them tomorrow can show students someone cares about them.

"You can be some kid's reason," Thomson said. "Some kids run to school to get away from what they might be living in. Be someone's reason."

Better known as "Dr. Mike," Thomson has dedicated his career to educating and helping people. The internationally acclaimed author and speaker has worked as a psychologist, consultant, coach, educator and university professor. He is the host of the award-winning PBS series "In Search of Character" as well as "The Learning Lunchbox." The author of 15 books has delivered presentations to more than 2.5 million people worldwide.

Thomson is the CEO of the Moral Compass Foundation, which focuses on teaching students leadership, character and civility. The nonprofit foundation strives to promote the fundamental values of personal responsibility and citizenship to ensure that athletes align their moral compasses to point in the direction of the Golden Rule.

The foundation also hosts civility summits that bring together teams of staff and students from 15 to 20 districts along with "hometown heroes,"

including community leaders, business owners and first responders, to focus on character and leadership lessons. Attendees can use those lessons to change the culture and climate in their district and community.

One of the topics of the summits is "Better me — better you — better us."

"Focus on you becoming a better me," Thomson said. "You can't change this guy or that guy, but you certainly can change yourself."

The airline industry spells this out clearly when they tell you to put your face mask on first, Thomson said. Likewise, we need to focus on becoming a better person first, then we can influence others.

The role of a school board is to be a good guide, he reminded attendees. He shared four questions that drive successful school boards:

- What can we learn from this?
- What's possible?
- What if?
- What's best for our district?

School board members, he said, need to take the 30,000-foot view of every problem they're involved with.

"You hired the superintendent, you hired the treasurer," Thomson said. "You set the district policies. You're a good guide."

"Your job is to let the superintendent drive the bus. You're in the bus, you're holding the GPS and helping the superintendent guide the district."

He advised attendees to build

relationships and strive to know the people working in their districts.

"You know why people are bullied or get fired? Because people don't know them," Thomson said. "That's why we don't get along."

"Wake up to a passion, wake up to a purpose, wake up to a reason. Go to your school board meeting and say 'This is who I am. I'm going to focus on me being a better me. I'm going to influence my district. I'm going to help people in my district. That's my mission.'"

"Everyone can be a better version of yourself today than you were yesterday."

Afternoon keynote

State Rep. Kent Smith

'An update from the Statehouse'

State Rep. **Kent Smith** (D-Euclid), a former **Euclid City** school board member, acknowledged that it was an honor and a challenge to address BLI attendees.

"The challenge is because I've sat in those chairs," he said. School board members, he explained, understand public education policy and how it impacts districts.

"Ohio's public schools must provide every child with the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential," he said. "Each one needs and deserves personal instruction. To accomplish these things, two things are needed: fully qualified professional teachers and adequate funding levels."

Continued on page 7

Reasonable Suspicion Training



OSBA is offering a reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol training program for supervisors. Completion of this course is required for all supervisors of safety-sensitive (commercial driver's license) drivers, including school bus drivers. Best practice is that each district have at least two administrators trained in this requirement.

The course meets the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration DOT requirements, and attendees will receive a certificate of completion.

Details: This workshop is Thursday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to noon at the OSBA office. The cost is \$50.

Registration: Online at www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops or contact **Laurie Miller** at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org



Advocating for public education

Kids PAC gives board members the opportunity to belong to a political action committee (PAC) whose members are aware of the challenges facing public education and whose goals are aimed at dealing with these issues.

With a PAC, we have a voice and can advocate for the future of public education. *Kids PAC* allows OSBA to advance its legislative platform by supporting candidates who believe in its goals.

Why is *Kids PAC* important?

Kids PAC supports candidates who are involved with and passionate about public education. It also raises the visibility of school board members' views, interests and concerns among influential legislators.

Join *Kids PAC* today!

Invest in their future

To be active advocates for Ohio's children, we need a strong PAC. Contribute to *Kids PAC* today! Contributions can be made online, by personal check made payable to *Kids PAC* or by cash up to \$100. By law, school district and corporate checks cannot be accepted. *Kids PAC* is a political action committee, and contributions are not tax deductible. Learn more at www.kidspac.org.

Kids PAC
because kids count



Ohio School
Boards Association



THE 42ND ANNUAL OHIO COUNCIL OF SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEYS

SCHOOL ATTORNEY WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, JUNE 7 • 9 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

TUITION IS \$220

RENAISSANCE COLUMBUS WESTERVILLE-POLARIS HOTEL, WESTERVILLE

Agenda

- 8:30 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast**
- 8:50 a.m. Welcome**
- 9 a.m. Protect and serve is not enough: SROs in schools**
Creating and maintaining a safer school environment is the primary reason school districts have school resource officers (SROs). Learn how their presence has improved staff and student protections while creating new legal requirements, such as MOUs and the U.S. Department of Education body camera guidance.
Hollie F. Reedy, Esq., and Giselle S. Spencer, Esq., Ennis Britton Co. LPA
- 10:30 a.m. Break**
- 10:45 a.m. Is *Janus* a glancing blow or coup de grace for unions?**
How have Ohio's school unions reacted to the *Janus* decision, and what should boards of education expect, both at the bargaining table and in their day-to-day relationship with their unions? Two attorneys well-versed in national and state union issues will discuss the *Janus* decision and where labor-management is headed.
Beverly Meyer, Esq., and Nicole Donovan, Esq., Bricker & Eckler LLP
- Noon OCSBA Annual Business Meeting**
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch (provided)**
- 1:15 p.m. Understanding HB 70 and academic distress commissions**
House Bill (HB) 70 established a new structure of governance for school districts that fall into the state's academic distress rating. Created in 2015, the law is complicated and has been challenged. A panel of attorneys experienced with academic distress commissions will discuss their experiences representing school districts subject to state oversight through HB 70.
Ted Roberts, Esq., Ed Ostrowski, Esq., and Christine Z. Papa, Esq., Roth, Blair, Roberts, Strasfeld & Lodge
- 2:15 p.m. Break**
- 2:30 p.m. Student and staff issues in administering medications**
Schools can be a challenging environment for those taking medications for health conditions. Multiple federal and state laws restrict the who, what, where and when of taking prescription drugs at school. Now, issues such as the legalization of medical marijuana have further complicated matters. What schools legally can and cannot do with respect to students, staff and medication is the focus of this latest legal update.
Jyllian Bradshaw, Esq., Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP
- 3:30 p.m. Working with parent advocates: Ethical and practical considerations**
School attorneys have increasingly found themselves working with parent advocates/pro se representatives in a variety of school settings. In every case, a lawyer should be aware of the rules of professional conduct that may affect their actions or the proceeding and cognizant of myriad practical issues stemming from working with non-lawyers in an education setting.
Tabitha Justice, Esq., Subashi & Wildermuth LPA
- 4:30 p.m. Adjourn**

This program has been approved by the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education for 5.75 total CLE hours, with 1.0 hour of attorney professional conduct instruction.

This workshop is open to OCSBA members, school board members and in-house counsel of school districts that are members of OSBA. Unauthorized audio recording or videotaping of any session is strictly prohibited.

The workshop will be held at the Renaissance Columbus Westerville-Polaris Hotel, 409 Altair Parkway, Westerville, OH 43082. The phone number is (614) 882-6800. Register online at www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops or contact **Laurie Miller**, OSBA senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org.



Become a voice for Ohio students

A guide for 2019 school board candidates

Ohio's school board members, one of the largest groups of elected officials in the state, are charged with one of the major responsibilities in government — providing the best educational opportunities possible for Ohio's youth and managing and controlling the political subdivision of the school district.

What does a school board member do?

The broadest definition of a school board's role is that it acts as the governance team for the school district. It is important that the board serves as a positive and responsible liaison between the school district and community. School boards adopt policy and oversee the district's policy manual. The board's most important role is to employ the superintendent and treasurer and work closely with them to establish and set policy, vision and long-range goals and be accountable for the fiscal health and opportunities provided to the district's students and families.

School board members need to be strong district ambassadors to the community and work to build public support and understanding of public education. Remember, individual board members do not hold authority unless it has been delegated to them. The board's legal authority is held by the governing body as a whole and is exercised through voting in public meetings.

Board member responsibilities

The role and function of board members often are misinterpreted by the public. The board is a policymaking body and members are the chief advisers to the superintendent on community attitudes. Board members do not manage the day-to-day operations of a school district; they see to it that the system is managed well by professional administrators.

Board members do not evaluate staff, other than the superintendent and treasurer, nor do they typically become involved in employment interviews, other than those of the superintendent, business manager and treasurer. Board members may be consulted during the hiring process for other positions, such as assistant superintendent.

KEY DATES

Aug. 7 nominating petition must be filed with county board of elections by 4 p.m.

Nov. 5 Election Day

Jan. 1 Newly elected board members take office



Ohio School Boards Association

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(614) 540-4000 • (800) 589-OSBA • fax: (614) 540-4100

What is a good board member?

We often hear that one person is a good board member or another is a bad board member, yet we seldom hear a clear definition of what constitutes a “good” board member.

In reality, there are about as many philosophical theories about boardmanship as there are board members. However, there are some acceptable guidelines. Members must recognize that people usually don’t react to the same problem in an identical manner, so flexibility is necessary.

As a start, the following guidelines are offered. A good board member:

- Knows that he or she can legally act as a board member only when the board of education is in session. No single person, unless authorized, should speak on behalf of the board.
- Avoids administrative decisions or attempting to second-guess the administration. The superintendent is the chief administrator, and the board has no administrative function.
- Is well acquainted with school policies.
- Votes at all times in the best interests of the school district.
- Is flexible and realizes there are times when changes must be made, when tradition cannot be honored and when pressure must be ignored.
- Remembers that board business often requires confidentiality, especially in processes involving students, personnel, land acquisition, negotiations and security.

What makes a good school board member?

- public education advocate
- skilled decision-maker
- courage to stand up for your convictions
- willing to devote time and energy to your elected position
- a good team player

- Is interested in obtaining facts, but also remembers that the administration is responsible for operating the schools and cannot spend all its time making reports to an individual board member.
- Is a good listener at board meetings, in the community or anywhere else, but never commits himself or herself, the board or the administration.
- Knows that the reputation of the entire school district is reflected in his or her behavior and attitude.
- Is able to support a decision when it is made.

It’s a rewarding service. And you’ll have the satisfaction of watching students receive their diplomas, knowing that you helped shape tomorrow’s citizens and leaders.

Learn about being a board member at a free workshop

OSBA will be conducting a free, two-hour Pre-Board Candidate Workshop on Saturday, July 13, 2019, in Columbus. The session will run from 10 a.m.–noon at OSBA’s office (8050 N. High St., Columbus, OH, 43235), and will be led by veteran staff members.

This workshop is for people who are thinking about running for their school board and current board of education members who were appointed to office.

Space is limited, so register online at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/preboard-candidate-workshop> or call (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA to register.

What is the Ohio School Boards Association?

The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) was founded in 1955 to serve the needs of the state’s local boards of education. The nonpartisan, not-for-profit association’s mission is to lead 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 is an association of member boards of education. Members have a wide range of services available to them, including training, advocacy, legal assistance, administrator searches, negotiation assistance, transportation consulting and policy development, among others.

OSBA’s website (www.ohioschoolboards.org) is an excellent source for boardmanship information, including the latest in education-related legislation and issues.

Running for your local board of education

What you need to know

Eligibility requirements

To run for a school board seat you must be:

- a U.S. citizen;
- at least 18 years old;
- a resident of the school district for at least 30 days preceding the election;
- registered to vote in the school district for at least 30 days preceding the election.

Conflicts of interest

There are conflicts of interest of which all board members must be aware to prevent jeopardizing their reputation or that of the school district. In addition to actions and relationships prohibited by school statutes, other prohibitions are set out in criminal statutes and statutes enforced by the Ohio Ethics Commission. Please note that these statutes need to be read together. Even though under one statute there may not be a conflict, there could be a conflict under another.

Among the statutory prohibitions are:

- No member shall have, directly or indirectly, any pecuniary interest in any contract of the board or be employed for compensation by the board of which he or she is a member (*Ohio Revised Code Section (RC) 3313.33*).
- No member of a school board may knowingly authorize or employ the authority or influence of his or her office to secure authorization of any public contract in which he or she, a member of his or her family or any of his or her business associates have an interest (*RC 2921.42*).
- No board member may use or authorize the use of

School Board ELECTIONS

FILING DEADLINE 4 P.M. ON AUG. 7

the authority or influence of his or her office to secure anything of value, or the promise of anything of value, to himself or herself, or solicit or accept anything of value that is of such a character as to manifest a substantial and improper influence upon him or her with respect to his or her duties (*RC 102.03*).

The above listing is neither all-inclusive nor does it list the many exceptions to these rules. They also are subject to interpretation by the courts, Ohio Attorney General's Office and Ohio Ethics Commission. If you think you may have a potential conflict of interest, please check with your board counsel, county prosecutor or city law director, or contact the Ohio Ethics Commission at (614) 466-7090.

Compatibility of public offices and positions

If you already are a public employee or officeholder, a position on a board of education may be incompatible with your current position. Before seeking election, potential candidates should make certain they are eligible to serve. An index of compatibility of offices opinions is available on the Ohio attorney general's website (www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov). Contact the Ohio attorney general at (800) 282-0515 or OSBA at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA for more information.

Election

Members are elected on a nonpartisan ballot on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November in odd-numbered years. The term of office is four years, although in certain instances, two-year terms must be filled to complete an unexpired term. When elected, your term begins on the first day of January after the election and expires on Dec. 31. Most boards of education have five members; however, some larger districts have seven. Two members (or four on a seven-member board) are elected at one general election and three members are elected at a general election two years later.

How to become a school board candidate?

- You must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and both a resident of your school district and registered to vote in your school district for at least 30 days prior to the election.
- You can obtain an election packet from your county board of elections office that includes the necessary forms and petitions required to become a candidate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT GETONBOARDOHIO.ORG

Running for your local board of education

Getting started

Filing your petition

A candidate must file a petition to run for a seat on a board of education. This petition must be filed with his or her county board of elections by 4 p.m. on Aug. 7, 2019, the 90th day before the Nov. 5 general election (RC 3513.254, 3513.255). As of March 2019, the filing fees were \$30.

The number of registered voters' signatures needed varies:

Type of school district	Number of signatures required
Local and exempted village	25
City (population less than 20,000)	25
City (population 20,000 to 49,999)	75
City (population 50,000 to 99,999)	150
City (population greater than 100,000)	300
Educational service center (ESC)	50

Candidates may obtain the petition forms and discuss questions about filing with their county board of elections or the Ohio secretary of state.

Campaigning

After filing your petition, it's time to begin gathering support. Candidates for boards of education must comply with all requirements for political campaigns. For instance, you must periodically file an itemized statement of campaign contributions and expenditures. Also, most campaign advertising must include a disclaimer with the phrase "paid for by" followed by the name of the candidate's campaign committee (RC 3517.20). For further information on campaign laws, contact your county board of elections or the Ohio secretary of state (elections section) at (614) 466-2585 or visit www.sos.state.oh.us.

Every member of, or candidate for, a board of education of a school district or ESC having an average daily membership (enrollment) of 12,000 or more students (as most recently certified by the Ohio Department of Education) must file a financial disclosure statement with the Ohio Ethics Commission. Candidates for boards of education (including incumbents) must file such statements no later than Oct. 7, 2019. Write-in candidates must file no later than Oct. 15, 2019.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE TRAINING

Attend a Board Candidate Workshop or Webinar for insight on running your campaign

OSBA will be conducting five **Board Candidate Workshops** in September. Veteran staff will lead candidates through a concise and valuable program to help them better understand the everyday roles and responsibilities of school board members and the legal aspects of campaigning and of being a board member. The cost to attend is \$50.

The dates and locations are:

Sept. 4 — ESC of Northeast Ohio, Independence
Sept. 5 — Southern Ohio ESC, Wilmington
Sept. 11 — Wood County ESC, Bowling Green
Sept. 12 — Muskingum Valley ESC, Zanesville
Sept. 14 — OSBA office, Columbus

All sessions (except Sept. 14) run from 6 p.m.–9 p.m. The session on Sept. 14 runs from 9 a.m.–noon. Registration begins a half hour before the workshop.

On Monday, Sept. 16, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., OSBA will

hold an online version of a condensed board candidate workshop. The first half hour of the **Board Candidate Webinar** will focus on board roles and responsibilities and the second half hour will cover campaign finance and legal issues. The cost to attend the webinar is \$50.

After Sept. 16, the webinar will be available for purchase to watch at your convenience.

Workshop and webinar registrants will receive a Board Candidate Kit, which includes *Candidate: A practical guide to running for school board*; a subscription to the OSBA Journal, the premier bimonthly magazine for school board members; and a subscription to Briefcase, a semimonthly newsletter.

Registration information is available at www.getonboardohio.org/board-candidate-workshops. Visit that website to register online or contact **Laurie Miller**, OSBA senior events manager at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT GETONBOARDOHIO.ORG



Sports Law Workshop

Friday, June 28

9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Embassy Suites, Columbus

Cost is \$190 (includes one book)

Agenda

8:30 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast (provided)

9 a.m. OHSAA legal update
The workshop kicks off with a discussion by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) about new initiatives. Hear OHSAA's thoughts and recommendations, including recent OHSAA bylaw changes.
Jerry Snodgrass, executive director, and Steve Craig, Esq., legal counsel, OHSAA

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Top legal issues impacting athletic programs
Hear about the hottest legal topics impacting school district athletic programs. Two experienced school attorneys will walk attendees through the legal issues that every athletic director should think about and be prepared to address.
Pamela A. Leist, Esq., and William M. Deters II, Esq., Ennis Britton Co. LPA, Cincinnati

Noon Lunch (provided)

12:45 p.m. When good coaches make bad choices
An experienced school attorney reviews examples of negligence and other problematic coach behaviors. Hear best practices for dealing with coaching issues, including disciplinary action, and when and how to terminate employment when necessary.
Sandra R. McIntosh, Esq., Freund, Freeze & Arnold LPA, Columbus

1:45 p.m. Break

2 p.m. Athletics, drugs and drug testing
Whether your district has a policy about drug-testing student athletes or you're considering one, learn about the legal aspects of testing student athletes, including the impact medical marijuana legalization in Ohio could have on your current policies and procedures.
Derek Towster, Esq., Scott Scriven LLP

3:15 p.m. Adjourn

Register online at www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops or contact **Laurie Miller**, senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org. The Embassy Suites is located at 2700 Corporate Exchange Drive, Columbus, 43231. Unauthorized audio recording or videotaping of any session is strictly prohibited.



WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

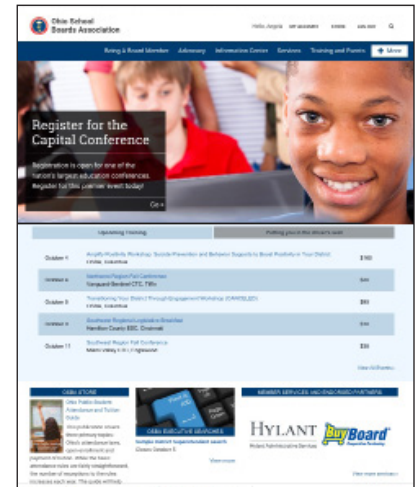
Register at www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops

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.



Hot summer special!

Receive a discount of up to \$200 on customized board development workshops scheduled this summer

Does your board of education team plan to use the summer to further develop its governance skills? Are you looking for an opportunity to discuss topics such as goal-setting, evaluation, communication, board processes and protocols or strategic planning?

If so, a customized board development workshop for your leadership team should be on your to-do list this summer. OSBA's board and management services consultants will work with you on an agenda to bring about real results.

Districts scheduling a customized leadership team workshop to take place between June 1 and Aug. 15 will receive a \$150 discount on three-hour workshops (\$700 from \$850) and \$200 off full-day retreats of six hours or more (\$1,400 from \$1,600).



Call OSBA at (614) 540-4000 for more information or to schedule your workshop today

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Smith served on the Euclid City Board of Education for 12 years before being elected to the Ohio House of Representatives. Now in his third term in the House, he serves on the House Commerce and Labor; Financial Institutions; Public Utilities; and Rules and Reference committees. He also is the Democratic minority whip.

Reading from the report, *A Punishing Decade for School Funding* (<http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/30844>), released in November 2017 by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Smith noted that since the Great Recession, Ohio is among states that fund public education under their 2008 funding levels when adjusted for inflation. The report pointed out that the country's future depends heavily on the quality of its schools. The health of the nation's economy depends on the creativity and intellectual capacity of its citizens. The report stated that "if we neglect our schools, we diminish our future."

"I try to remind my colleagues that education is an investment; it is not an expenditure," he said. "As a general statement, I'm supportive of increasing the level of investment in education at all levels, from early education to the K-12 system and to make college more affordable."

"Public education goals need to align with accountability measures and state budget allocations. Currently, there is far too much accountability and not nearly enough funding."

He pointed out that Ohio spends almost \$1 billion on charter schools, while 90% of charter schools underperform when compared to public school districts. In light of this, Smith would support sending 90% of the charter school funding back to K-12 education.

"This was introduced as a

competition model," he said. "A generation of competition has occurred, and public schools have won 9 out of 10 of those fights."

Public school districts also suffer because of school-funding formulas. The problem, he said, is not just charter schools, but also how we fund our public schools.

Continued on page 8



OSBA Survey Service

The solution for your survey needs

Community and staff input and feedback are among the best ways to drive your strategic decision-making process, resulting in higher-impact outcomes. A quality survey takes time to create, distribute, collect and analyze. OSBA's online survey service does this work for you.

Count on OSBA's knowledgeable staff to work with you to create customized survey questions, disseminate the survey and collect the data. Additionally, a team of communication and board services professionals can analyze survey results, provide customized recommendations and deliver a final report as well as suggested actions after the survey.

For more information, contact Cheryl W. Ryan at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA.

News, continued from page 7

He gave an overview of the Cupp-Patterson report and the efforts of the workgroup to improve Ohio's school-funding model.

Attendees applauded when Smith said state takeovers of public school districts aren't working and should be stopped. He emphasized the need to restore local control and a better path forward that "lets teachers teach, children learn ... the skills they need to succeed."

"The Columbus-knows-best approach doesn't work in places like Youngstown, Lorain and East Cleveland and the 10 districts that are teetering on academic distress."

Smith provided an overview of students at **East Cleveland City Schools**. According to the Ohio Department of Education, 97.4% of students in the district are economically disadvantaged, and 27.9% have a special education

designation, which is nearly three times the state average.

In spite of these challenges, East Cleveland City has made progress, including improving on 15 of the 21 performance measures on the most recent state report card; reducing its suspension rate 47% over the last three years; and seeing its career-tech program earn a B in post-program outcomes. This progress is due, he said, to extremely talented teachers and administrators who should be recognized for their efforts, "not subjected to a takeover by an out-of-town entity that has zero knowledge of the community and no accountability to East Cleveland voters."

Early in his speech, Smith referenced two important dates when Ohioans made history. The first — Dec. 17, 1903 — was when the Wright brothers flew for the first time. On July 20, 1969, **Neil**

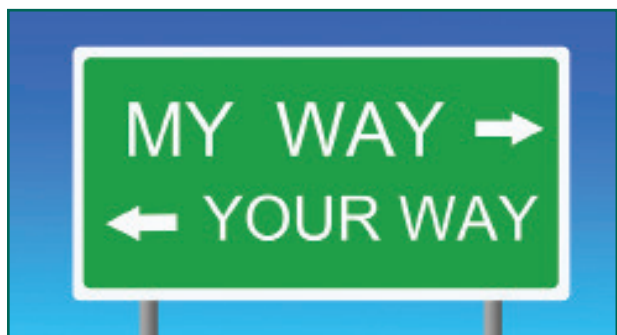
Armstrong walked on the moon. He pointed out the 66-year gap between the dates, equal to one lifetime.

"In one lifetime, we went from a species tethered to the Earth to walking on the moon," he said. "The impossible is within our reach or at least that should be our hope or our goal or vision. I believe that every Ohio child can change the world. Perhaps the next great Lordstown innovation is currently in a Youngstown classroom. Perhaps the solution to the Lake Erie algae crisis will be discovered by a Lorain student. Perhaps the next great civil rights leader is walking down an East Cleveland school hallway today.

"These kids — our kids — can do great things. But to ensure their potential is fully realized, local voters and local school boards should be in control."

Continued on page 9

Negotiations headed in the wrong direction? Let OSBA help!



OSBA can offer you expertise and extensive experience when your district has found itself at an impasse. OSBA professionals can represent your district for all arbitration and SERB matters — **for one flat rate**. Let us help you by:

- offering advice on strategy;
- working with mediators;
- helping you present and package remaining issues;
- providing a second opinion to help you see the big picture;
- meeting with you in person or consulting with your district behind the scenes.

Contact **Van D. Keating**, senior staff attorney, at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA to take advantage of these quality services.

News, continued from page 8

Closing Luncheon

Paolo DeMaria

'Each child, our future: Creating a culture of improvement and excellence in education'

Before speaking to attendees at the BLI Closing Luncheon, Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction **Paolo DeMaria** spent the morning at the Ohio Science Olympiad State Tournament, where 1,600 students competed in 23 science events. In addition to team members supporting each other, he recognized that the teams were supported by teachers, advisers, school boards and their communities.

"It was such a great encapsulation of the kinds of things we want to see in every part of the state for every child," he said. "I'm ever so proud and humbled by the amazing nature of students and what they are able to accomplish."

As the superintendent of public instruction, DeMaria oversees Ohio's pre-K-12 education system of nearly 3,600 public schools and approximately 1.7 million students. He has a quarter-century record of public service in Ohio, including serving as a policy adviser to former Ohio Gov. **Bob Taft** and director and assistant director of the Ohio Office of Budget and Management.

In August 2018, the Ohio Department of Education launched a five-year strategic plan, *Each Child, Our Future* (<http://education.ohio.gov/about/eachchildourfuture>). The plan

focuses on ensuring that each student is challenged, prepared and empowered for his or her future by way of an excellent pre-K-12 education.

A strategic plan, DeMaria said, allows you to be productive and determine what you want to accomplish. The challenge, he said, is implementing the plan, because change is difficult.

"Implied in change is that what you're doing now is wrong or bad, but it's not," DeMaria explained. "People who are great or who are doing good things don't sit back on their laurels and say, 'I'm done.' ... The great keep trying to get better."

The plan is focused on one goal: annually increasing the percentage of high school graduates who, one year after they graduate, are enrolled and succeeding in a post-high school learning experience; serving in a military branch; earning a living wage; or engaged in a meaningful, self-sustaining vocation.

The goal, DeMaria said, is about future success after the work of the pre-K-12 system. The plan focuses on educating students in four learning domains: foundational knowledge and skills; leadership and reasoning; well-rounded content; and social-emotional learning. Three core principals — equity, partnership and quality schools — support the whole child, who is at the center of the strategic plan.

Schools are not one-size-fits-all, DeMaria said. Part of the challenge is to shift culture.

"Culture eats strategy for lunch," he said. "You can have the best plans, you can have the most research-based, evidence-based strategy program ever, but if you try to deploy that in a culture that is dysfunctional, you aren't going to be successful."

DeMaria shared key points from the book *"The Culture Code: The Secrets of Highly Successful Groups,"* by **Daniel Coyle**. The book identifies three fundamental components of great culture: build safety and a sense of belonging in an organization; share your vulnerability and admit when you don't have the answers; and establish purpose and share your story.

"We in the education system don't tell our story nearly well enough about our successes and the great things we're doing," he said. "The more we tell our story better, the more we will be able to build that cohesiveness not just within our organizations but across the entire state."

He encouraged school board members to use the Twitter hashtag #MyOhioClassroom to tweet their districts' success stories, from academics, athletics and the arts to community service activities and extracurricular pursuits.

"Share your stories," DeMaria said. "I hope you're telling the good news about what's going on in your school district all the time. Project that sense that amazing things are happening in Ohio schools."



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Jay Smith, deputy director of legislative services

Other legislation added to budget bill impacts schools

The Ohio Senate is holding hearings on the state's biennial budget bill following its May 9 approval in the House. Prior to passage, legislators added several amendments to Amended Substitute House Bill 166 (HB 166) that may considerably impact local school districts.

However, no substantial changes were made to the school-funding provisions aside from the Student Wellness and Success (SWS) funding proposed by Gov. **Mike DeWine**. The House

increased SWS funding to \$275 million in fiscal year (FY) 2020 and to \$400 million in FY 2021. The House also provided \$20 million for a school bus purchasing program to be administered by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission.

Outside of the general funding provisions, other legislation often finds its way into a budget bill. The following is now included in the House-passed version of HB 166:

- HB 23 would authorize any student from a country or province outside of the U.S. to participate in interscholastic athletics if the student holds an F-1 visa.
- HB 75 would change the county board of revision (BOR) process when a school district files a complaint or counter-complaint on either residential or commercial property. The language in HB 166 requires the local school district to notify property owners of a challenge to the current valuation of their property. This is a redundant mandate since the BOR already notifies affected property owners. Following notification, the local board would be required to pass a resolution for each property being challenged. This process would effectively politicize decisions on which properties are

ultimately challenged.

- HB 118 would prohibit school districts from reducing transportation that it provides to students after the first day of the school year.

- HB 149 would offer a tax exemption to residential home developers. The proposed language would freeze the taxable value on property for up to three years or until the sexennial reappraisal is completed or until construction begins or the property is sold. This language is an attempt to usurp local decision-making on land use, community planning and economic development incentives with a one-size-fits-all mandate.

- HB 154 would dissolve current academic distress commissions and require schools that receive an F on the building's report card in the previous year to be designated as "in need of improvement" by the state superintendent of public instruction. Districts would then be required to assemble an improvement team and begin implementing an improvement plan for the building.

- HB 187 would eliminate the August special election unless a district is in jeopardy of moving into fiscal emergency. Ultimately, the language undermines the

Continued on page 11



OSBA Contract Analysis Service

OSBA provides a cost-effective professional analysis of both certified and classified collective bargaining agreements. These written reviews serve as a critique of current contract provisions, suggest potential pitfalls regarding legal compliance and provide specific recommendations as you go into your next round of collective bargaining.

Contact **Van D. Keating** at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA for more information.



PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

Students gain real-life experience on district-leased farm

Sixty acres of farmland in southeast Ohio's Perry County is providing real-world opportunities for more than 350 members of **New Lexington City's** National FFA chapter.

The New Lexington school board signed a 20-year lease in 2018 for the acreage, now known as the New Lexington FFA Farm.

"The board and administration had a vision of what this could become and saw the benefit this can have for our students and

community," New Lexington FFA adviser **John Lindsey** told a local newspaper. The paper said the chapter is the largest in the state and second-largest in the nation.

Wet weather has kept students from planting corn or beans so far this spring, but they harvested 12 varieties of corn last fall.

"The chance to have more hands-on work that could further mine and anyone's education is great," junior **Danae Shaw** said. "Being able to use what we learn

in the classroom and apply it here is a huge opportunity."

Shaw shows farm animals, like goats, cows and lambs, at the county fair. Her mother is a veterinarian, a path she hopes to follow.

A \$200,000 government grant supported initial improvements to the farm, Superintendent **Casey H. Coffey** said. The district also worked with the Perry County commissioners on the lease.

Source: Times Recorder

Legislative Report, continued from page 10

school district's ability to raise funding necessary to support students and build or improve school facilities.

The House also added several other provisions:

- A requirement, phased in over two years, for schools that have at least 50% of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals to participate in a school breakfast program.
- A provision allowing school districts more flexibility when required to transport private and charter school students. A district would be permitted to drop off students up to 30 minutes before the bell and pick up students up to 30 minutes after the end of the

school day.

- A provision allowing ESCs to participate in the Ohio Medicaid Schools Program.
- A provision that exempts a school district that has entered into an agreement with an ESC from competitive bidding requirements for the purchase of supplies, materials, equipment or services.
- A provision removing a tax exemption to the school district earned income tax that was inadvertently applied when the small business income tax exemption was established.

The Senate Finance Committee is expected to wrap up public testimony on HB 166 on Wednesday, May 29.

Now is the time to reach out to your local senator and discuss the impact of the provisions contained in HB 166 on your local district. Please contact OSBA's Division of Legislative Services if you have questions on the budget bill or any other legislation moving through the legislature.

Make sure to check out OSBA's BillTracker webpage for the latest information on proposed legislation at www.ohioschoolboards.org/billtracker.

Editor's note: Information in this article was current as of May 17, 2019.

June 2019

- 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); 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
- 26 Levy University Columbus
- 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 3319.082, 3319.12; board may begin to adopt appropriation measure,

which may be temporary — RC 5705.38(B); treasurer must certify available revenue in funds to county auditor — RC 5705.36(A) (1).

- 8 Last day for voter registration for August election — RC 3503.01, 3503.19(A) (30 days prior to election).
- 10 OSBA Urban Network meeting Columbus
Last day for termination of teaching contract by a teacher without consent of the board of education — RC 3319.15.
- 13 Pre-Board Candidate Workshop Columbus
- 15 Last day to adopt school library district tax budget on behalf of a library district — RC 5705.28(B)(1).
- 19 Refocusing your board from conflict to kids Columbus
- 29 Last day to submit certification for November income tax levy to Ohio Department of Taxation — RC 5748.02(A) (100 days prior to election).
- 31 Central Region Executive Committee Meeting Columbus
- 31 Last day for board of education to adopt a plan to require students to access and complete online classroom lessons ("blizzard bags") in order to make up hours for which it is necessary to close schools — RC 3313.482(A)(1); semiannual

campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates (by 4 p.m.) detailing contributions and expenditures made through June 30, 2019 — RC 3517.10(A) (4).

August 2019

- 1 Last day to file statistical report with Ohio Department of Education — RC 3319.33; last day to submit November emergency, current operating expenses or conversion levy to county auditor for November general election — RC 5705.194, 5705.195, 5705.213, 5705.219(C) (95 days prior to election).
- 2 Attendance, Tuition and Custody Law Workshop Lewis Center
- 6 Special Election Day — RC 3501.01 (first Tuesday after the first Monday).
- 7 Last day to file (by 4 p.m.) a nominating petition as a board of education candidate for the November general election — RC 3513.254, 3513.255; 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 November election — RC 133.18(D); last day for county auditor to certify school district bond levy terms for November election — RC 133.18(C); last day to submit continuing replacement,