Democratic lieutenant governor candidate meets with leading education groups

COLUMBUS — Democratic Ohio lieutenant governor candidate Betty Sutton met Monday with leaders from the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA), Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) and Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) at OSBA’s office in Columbus.

Sutton is gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray’s running mate. Cordray, a former Ohio attorney general, most recently served as director of the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. They are opposing Republican gubernatorial candidate and Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and his running mate Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted in the November elections.

Sutton, who served in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Ohio House, shared the Cordray-Sutton team’s priorities for public education in Ohio. They include creating a fair and equitable school-funding system; narrowing the socio-economic divide among school districts; reining in the expansion of charter schools and holding them to the same standards as public schools; working to reverse House Bill 70, which allows for state takeovers of school districts; promoting universal prekindergarten; reducing the amount of regulations being thrust upon public schools and educators; and revising the state report cards to reflect meaningful measures of student progress.

Sutton also told attendees that their expertise is needed at the table as state leaders work toward improving Ohio’s educational system.

“We will sit down and talk together, and we will come up with a plan that is multidimensional and we will focus like a laser on uplifting public education so that all of our kids can get the education they deserve,” she said.

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Among the attendees were members of the OSBA Executive Committee and OSBA Board Member Cabinet. Reporters are encouraged to check the following names to see if any of the individuals are from their coverage area.

OSBA Executive Committee members participating were:
• OSBA President Randy Smith, a school board member at Forest Hills Local Schools in Hamilton County. Smith also serves on the OSBA Board Member Cabinet.
• OSBA 2019 president-elect nominee Lee Schreiner, a school board member at South-Western City Schools in Franklin County.

Representatives from the OSBA Board Member Cabinet included these school board members:
• Jackie Arendt, North Royalton City Schools and Cuyahoga Valley Career Center;
• Renda M. Cline, Mansfield City Schools;
• Millicent Gaiter, Warrensville Heights City Schools;
• Al Long, North College Hill City Schools and Great Oaks Career Campuses;
• Dr. Nancy Nestor-Baker, Westerville City Schools;
• Bruce D. Nottke, Tri-County Career Center in Athens County;
• Thomas C. Patterson, Sandusky City Schools;
• Vincent B. Popo, Walnut Township Local Schools in Fairfield County;
• Chris Varwig, Toledo City Schools.