

# BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



## OSBA offering School Board Recognition Month resource kit

January is School Board Recognition Month and OSBA has created a Web-based resource kit to help districts recognize their board members. The kit is filled with ideas and tools for honoring board members and letting communities know of their dedication and contributions. It also includes a proclamation from Gov. **John Kasich** and a poster. In addition, OSBA will send personalized certificates in December for districts to present to their school board members. Download the kit at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/school-board-recognition-month](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/school-board-recognition-month).

## Nearly 10,000 attend 56th annual Capital Conference

Attendance at the 2011 OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show was 9,819. Keynote speakers at the second-largest education convention in the nation were **Dan Rather, Wes Moore, Jamie Vollmer, Murray Banks, Stacey Bess** and **Lyn St. James**. See the next issue of the *OSBA Journal* for complete conference coverage, and mark your calendars for Nov. 11-14, 2012, the dates of next year's event.

## OSBA bestows its top honor on five exemplary school board members

OSBA named the 2011 class of the All-Ohio School Board during the recent Capital Conference. Recognized with the association's top award were: **Walter S. Armes, Whitehall City; John L. Boyer, Waverly City; Donna J. Myers, Northwestern Local (Clark) and Springfield-Clark Career Technology Center; Roger L. Samuelson, Champion Local (Trumbull) and Trumbull Career & Technical Center; and David Spridgeon, Arcadia Local (Hancock).**

## Assembly selects Worthington City's Wilson as 2012 OSBA president-elect

The OSBA Delegate Assembly elected **Charlie Wilson** as 2012 president-elect at its annual business meeting at the Capital Conference. Wilson is in his fifth year on the **Worthington City** school board. He will become OSBA president in 2013, following his term as president-elect. Current President-elect **Sharon E. Manson, Waverly City** and **Pike County Career Technology Center**, becomes president on Jan. 1, 2012.

## Take note of election date changes for 2012

House Bill 318 significantly changed the 2012 election calendar. The legislation eliminates the Aug. 7, 2012, election and adds a new election on June 12, 2012. Due to these changes, the OSBA pocket calendar mailed to members in May is no longer reflective of the possible election dates. Instead, school districts now have three opportunities in 2012 to place levies on the ballot: March 6, June 12 and Nov. 6. OSBA members can access an updated dates and deadlines calendar that takes into account

Dec. 12, 2011

Volume 42 Issue 22

### Contents

More news.....	2
<i>Coalition's William Phillis wins third President's Award; BuyBoard program offers districts volume discounts; This month in OSBA history; OSBA online</i>	
Bulletin Board.....	3
Legal Briefs .....	5
Legislative Report .....	6
Public Schools Work!.....	7

### Route workshop information to:

- Administrators
- Human resource directors
- Principals

these changes at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/ORC-dates](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/ORC-dates).

### Coalition's William Phillis wins third President's Award

School-funding reform leader **William L. Phillis** is the 2011 OSBA President's Award honoree. Phillis, executive director of the Ohio Coalition for Equity & Adequacy of School Funding, received the award for an unprecedented third time. OSBA President **Cathy Johnson, South-Western City**, recognized him during the Capital Conference. The award honors those who have had a tremendous impact on Ohio public education.

### BuyBoard program offers districts volume discounts

OSBA has partnered with the National School Boards Association and several other state school boards associations to roll out BuyBoard, a competitive bidding process that allows

### Students step up to revamp rescue vehicle

Findlay is prone to flooding, and now, thanks to the work of a high school class, rescuers will be better able to reach victims when the water rises.

Welding students at **Findlay City's** Millstream Career Center spent two weeks recently modifying a Findlay Fire Department truck to make it a more efficient rescue vehicle. The department provided about \$500 in supplies and equipment for the project.

Students added steel steps to make it easier for people to climb onto the back of the truck. They also installed lights along the side of the vehicle to make it easier to find victims and read addresses after dark. And, an engine snorkel was fitted to the truck that enables it to drive through water up to eight feet deep.

Source: *The (Findlay) Courier*

districts to get volume discounts via Web-based shopping. This program saves school boards and other government entities time and money on purchases ranging from pencils to portable classrooms. For details, contact OSBA's **Amanda Finney** at (800) 589-OSBA or [afinney@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:afinney@ohioschoolboards.org).

### This month in OSBA history

A special feature of the 10th annual OSBA Capital Conference in 1965 was a series of sessions called "The Time Machine." The December OSBA *Journal* offered this description: "Amid the whirl of rocket motors, flashing lights, voices emanating from echo chambers, an authoritative voice electronically ushering passengers to their seats, conference-goers took five journeys into the future. They heard predictions of rapid economic and population growth, of social and technological pressures not dreamed of 10 years ago, of challenges to every public school system in the state."

### OSBA online

● [www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)  
Handouts from many of the breakout sessions and other workshops at the 2011 OSBA Capital Conference are posted online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/2011-conference-handouts](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/2011-conference-handouts).



## 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)

OSBA President: **Cathy Johnson, South-Western City**

OSBA Executive Director: **Richard Lewis, CAE**

Editor: **Crystal Davis Hutchins**, deputy director of communication services

Managing editor: **Gary Motz**, editorial manager

Assistant editor, layout and design: **Angela Penquite**, communication design manager

*A one-year subscription to Briefcase is \$110 for up to 15 subscribers. Briefcase also is available electronically by email or by fax. For more information, contact Ann Herritt at the address or fax number above or email [aherritt@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:aherritt@ohioschoolboards.org).*

*Briefcase is published semimonthly by the Ohio School Boards Association. Postage paid at Westerville, Ohio. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Briefcase,*

*Attn.: Mailroom, Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 N. High St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235-6481*

© 2011 Ohio School Boards Association

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



# BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, administrative assistant of communication services

## Searches

Position	District	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Ohio School for the Deaf	Dec. 16	Apply online at <a href="http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/39293">http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/39293</a>
Superintendent	Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington Local (Brown)	Jan. 17	James V. Frazier, superintendent, Brown County ESC, (937) 378-6118
Superintendent	South Euclid-Lyndhurst City	Jan. 20	Paul Pendleton, (216) 225-2787, or Dave Kircher, (440) 666-4889, Finding Leaders/Ohio Schools Council

## Board changes

Cleveland Municipal appointed Lisa Thomas to the board of education effective Nov. 10. She replaced Natalie Peterson, who resigned in June. ●●● Crooksville EV Board of Education member Wendy Gorby announced her resignation effective Oct. 1. The board appointed Samuel L. Zinn to the board effective Nov. 1. ●●● Mason City appointed Matthew Steele to the board effective Nov. 18. He replaced John Odell, who died in October.

## Administrative changes

### Superintendents

London City hired Thomas E. Ben as interim superintendent effective Jan. 2. He will replace Donald Steven Allen, who is retiring Dec. 31. ●●● Mayfield City Superintendent Dr. Phillip G. Price announced his retirement effective July 2012. ●●● Nardon Hills City Superintendent J. Wayne Blankenship announced his resignation effective Oct. 31. He has taken a position with the Summit County ESC. The board appointed Assistant Superintendent Dr. Joe Clark as interim superintendent effective immediately. ●●● Richmond Heights Local (Cuyahoga) hired Robert J. Moore as interim superintendent effective Nov. 7. He replaced Linda T. Hardwick, who resigned. ●●● Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington Local (Brown) hired Charles P. Kimble as interim superintendent effective Dec. 17. He will replace Charles B. Birkholtz, who announced his resignation effective Dec. 16. ●●● South Euclid-Lyndhurst City hired Dr. James F. Costanza as interim superintendent effective Nov. 17. He replaced William Zelei, who took a position with the Ohio Department of Education. ●●● Valley Local (Scioto) Superintendent J. Paul White announced his resignation effective Nov. 7. The district hired Patricia L. Cirasco as interim superintendent effective Nov. 22.

### Treasurers

Amherst EV hired Barbara J. Donohue as treasurer effective Jan. 1. She will replace Shirley Antel, who is retiring

### Editor's note

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

effective Dec. 31. Donohue is currently the treasurer at **Mount Vernon City**. ●●● **Avon Lake City** hired **Autumn Streng** as treasurer effective March 1. She will replace **Denise Holcomb**, who is retiring in February. Streng is currently the district's assistant treasurer. ●●● **Cardington-Lincoln Local (Morrow)** hired **Scott Osborne** as treasurer effective Nov. 30. He replaces interim treasurer **Ryan Cook**. ●●● **Cleveland Municipal** hired **John Scanlan** as chief financial officer (treasurer) and administrative officer effective Jan. 1. He replaces Chief Financial Officer **James Fortlage**, who retired. ●●● **Paint Valley Local (Ross)** Treasurer **Robert J. Ward** announced his retirement effective Jan. 1. The board hired **Darren Meredith** as new treasurer effective Jan. 1. Meredith currently works in the Ohio Auditor of State Office. ●●● **Struthers City** hired **Arthur J. Ginnetti III** as treasurer effective Jan. 1. He will replace Dr. **Michael Evanson**, who is retiring. Ginnetti was the fiscal manager for the Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association. ●●● **Vanguard-Sentinel Career Center** hired **Alan W. Binger** as treasurer effective March 1. He will replace **Jay T. Valasek**, who is retiring effective Feb. 29. Binger is currently treasurer at **Clyde-Green Springs EV**.

### **Sympathies**

Former **Austintown Local (Mahoning)** Superintendent **Merlin "Bo" H. Valot** died Nov. 10. He was 80. ●●● Former **Batavia Local (Clermont)** Board of Education member **Jim Bushman** died Nov. 12. He was 72. ●●● Former **Bloom-Carroll Local (Fairfield)** Board of Education member **James Robert "Bob" Claypool** died Oct. 29. He was 89. ●●● Former **Boardman Local (Mahoning)** Board of Education member **Leroy E. Olson** died Nov. 12. He was 85. ●●● Former **Lancaster City** Board of Education member **Robert H. Seeley** died Nov. 23. He was 89. ●●● **Harold R. Bateson**, a member of the former **Liberty School Board** in Wood County, died Nov. 8. He was 86. ●●● Former **Lucas Local (Richland)** and **Richland County ESC** Board of Education member **Earl H. Oaklief** died Nov. 12. He was 88. ●●● **Mason City** Board of Education member **John Odell** died Oct. 27. He was 62. ●●● Former **New Riegel Local (Seneca)** Board of Education member **Cyril H. "Bud" Elchert** died Nov. 20. He was 86. ●●● **Harold Cullar**, a former member of the **South Range Local (Mahoning)** and the former **North Lima** school boards, died Nov. 22. He was 83. ●●● Former **Northwest Local (Hamilton)** Board of Education member **James Harold Benedict** died Oct. 26. He was 89. ●●● Former **Norton City** Board of Education member **Walter "Walt" Ritzman** died Nov. 1. He was 79. ●●● Former **Norwalk City** Board of Education member Dr. **Joseph Edward Geoghan** died Nov. 10. He was 87. ●●● Former **Solon City** Board of Education member **Vincent D. Marek** died Nov. 7. He was 78. ●●● Former **Summit County ESC** Board of Education member **Betty Ellis** died Oct. 22. She was 87. ●●● Former **United Local (Columbiana)** Board of Education member **Carl Thomas** died Nov. 5. He was 86. ●●● Former **Warrensville Heights City** Board of Education member **Byron Lee Giles** died Nov. 13. He was 75.

## **OSBA communication coordinator position available**

The Ohio School Boards Association is seeking a communication coordinator whose primary responsibilities include contributing to association publications. The ideal candidate must have a strong background in writing and editing; creating and maintaining Web pages; graphic design and photography. Candidates should have a degree in journalism, communication, public relations or related field with a minimum of two years of experience. Evening and weekend work along with travel required. Send résumé, writing samples and salary expectations to Communication Coordinator Search, OSBA, 8050 N. High St., Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43235-6481. Application deadline is Dec. 14, 2011. Electronic applications will not be accepted. EOE

# OSBA webinars

*Learning delivered to your computer*

Learn about issues relevant to public education through OSBA's webinars. These sessions offer an informal, convenient way to learn in your office or home. All you need is a telephone and computer to participate.



To register for these webinars, contact Laurie Miller at (800) 589-OSBA, (614) 540-4000 or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org). You also can register by visiting [www.ohioschoolboards.org/event\\_listing](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/event_listing).

## Upcoming webinars include:

**The cost of losing – facing the consequences and “weatherproofing” your district**

Monday, Dec. 12, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Free webinar

Looking at a possible levy in 2012? Before making the decision about when to go to the voters, think about this: The old “two-bites-at-the-apple” thinking can hurt your credibility and chances for success. Communication can help! Join us for the latest Levy University webinar on the consequences of losing, how to deal with a levy loss and when to start communicating with your public about the future. With the right plan in place, you've got a great shot at winning the first and only time.

**Power standards leading to Blue Ribbon success**

Thursday, Jan. 19, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Cost is \$35

Learn how an underperforming school with a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students received national recognition as a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School in 2009 and a National Title I Distinguished School in 2010. The webinar will be led by Roger Knight, principal, and Jerry Julian, TAG/EDGE teacher, at Clear Fork Valley Local's (Richland) Butler Elementary School.

## Like putting money in the bank

OSBA services and programs have saved districts more than \$10 million so far this year. Here are just three examples:

- districts using our eGovernance solution (BoardDocs paperless solution) have saved more than \$140,000;
- districts enrolled in Power4Schools (an electricity discount program) have saved more than \$4 million;
- districts enrolled in Ohio SchoolComp (a workers' compensation program) have saved more than \$5.5 million.



**OSBA membership —  
a sound investment**



**New board members:**

**Trying to maneuver the maze of boardmanship?**

# **Find your way at the New Board Member Academy**



- **Designed for new board members**
- **Plenty of networking opportunities**
- **Intensive, day-and-a-half academy held in four locations:**
  - *Jan. 7-8 — Marriott Northeast, Mason*
  - *Jan. 7-8 — Airport Marriott, Columbus*
  - *Jan. 14-15 — Findlay Inn & Conference Center, Findlay*
  - *Jan. 14-15 — Embassy Suites, Independence*

School boardmanship is more complex and demanding than ever. To carry out their leadership duties effectively, new school board members must begin moving from the role of an involved citizen to that of a responsible elected official as soon as possible. High-quality board member education, designed specifically for newly elected board members, can help you become a more effective educational leader in your community.

These intensive day-and-a-half academies will focus on:

- the world of boardmanship
- communicating effectively
- board policy 101
- how Ohio schools are funded
- collective bargaining and employee relations issues
- the Sunshine Law and executive sessions

Cost for the academy is \$190 per board member. Four books are included with workshop tuition: *Boardmanship*, *Board-Treasurer Partnership*, *Board-Superintendent Partnership* and *Board-Legislature Partnership*.

To register, call (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA. More information can be found at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/event\\_listing](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/event_listing).



# Become a better board member

## *Attend the Board Presidents Workshop*

Two dates and four locations to choose from:

- **Saturday, Jan. 28 at the OSBA office in Columbus or the Findlay Inn & Conference Center, Findlay**
- **Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Dayton Marriott, Dayton, or the Northeast Ohio Medical University, Rootstown**

**9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

These workshops, led by experienced OSBA staff, will present all the tools you need to improve your boardmanship skills and effectively lead your district. You don't have to be the board president to attend; board members looking to increase their leadership skills also can benefit.

School board presidents serve critical leadership roles in their districts. The president is the visible leader of the board and responsible for the efficient and legal operation of board business.

Unfortunately, too many board presidents attempt to fulfill these roles by going it alone and feel that on-the-job training is all that is needed to responsibly lead the board. It is to your advantage and a benefit to your school district to be well-informed and skillful enough to perform your leadership duties effectively. Bring your questions about your leadership roles.

Topics to be covered include legal issues affecting board members; effective board meetings; using parliamentary procedure effectively; dealing with controversy and public participation; open meetings and executive sessions; successful communications; working as a team; consensus building; indicators of an effective board; and networking with your colleagues.

Cost for the workshop is \$155 per board member, and includes a copy of the *Board Presidents' Handbook*. To register, contact Laurie Miller, events manager, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org). You can register online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/event\\_listing](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/event_listing).





# WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

**OSBA Levy University webinar  
#6: The cost of losing**  
 Dec. 12, free

**New Board Member Academy**  
 Jan. 7-8, Columbus, \$190  
 Jan. 7-8, Mason, \$190  
 Jan. 14-15, Findlay, \$190  
 Jan. 14-15, Independence, \$190

**Board Presidents Workshop**  
 Jan. 28, Columbus, \$155  
 Jan. 28, Findlay, \$155  
 Feb. 4, Dayton, \$155  
 Feb. 4, Rootstown, \$155

**Power standards leading to Blue  
Ribbon success webinar**  
 Jan. 19, \$35

## OSBA Workshop Registration Form

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

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



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

**Please photocopy this form for each person**

## OSBA workshop registration procedures

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

### Award of Achievement/LPDC

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



Mail

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



Phone  
or fax

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



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

You may register on our Web page at [www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org). Events are listed at the bottom of the page. You will need a username and password.

### Cancellation and refund policy

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





## LEGAL BRIEFS

by Jessica L. Spears, staff attorney

### New OAG opinion: Boards may not vote by secret ballot

The Ohio attorney general (OAG) recently issued advisory opinion 2011-038 (2011 Op. Att’y Gen. No. 038) in response to a question raised by State Board of Education President **Debe Terhar**. The question asked was whether the State Board of Education could vote by secret ballot in an open meeting. The attorney general concluded that the State Board may not vote in an open meeting by secret ballot.

As a state agency, the State Board of Education meets the statutory definition of a public body and is subject to Ohio’s open meeting law, which requires all meetings of any public body to be public meetings open to the public at all times (Ohio Revised Code

(RC) 121.22).

In its opinion, OAG stated that the purpose of the law is to ensure openness and accountability in government and referenced the ruling in *Manogg v. Stickle*, (April 9, 1998), Licking Cty. Ct. of Common Pleas Case No. 97 CA 104, unreported. In that case, the court found that a board of township trustees meeting was not “open” for purposes of the open meetings law when the trustees whispered among themselves so that “the majority of the discussion was inaudible” and that the trustees’ actions “intentionally prevented the audience from hearing or knowing what business was being conducted at the meeting.” The attorney general

determined that voting by secret ballot was comparable to public officials whispering or passing documents among themselves, because members of the public would be prevented from knowing a critical part of the public body’s decision-making process.

The attorney general further concluded that a secret ballot vote during an open meeting is comparable to a vote taken during an executive session, which is a violation of RC 121.22. In addition to concluding that the State Board of Education was prohibited from voting by secret ballot, OAG overruled a previous opinion, 1980 Op. Att’y Gen No.

*Continued on page 6*

## OSBA staff attorney position available

The Ohio School Boards Association is accepting applications for the position of staff attorney in the Division of Legal Services. Duties include providing education law information to public school boards, writing, public speaking, research, drafting leases and contracts, monitoring federal and state law and regulations, and supporting other divisions within the association. Experience in the field of education law, representation of nonprofit or public entities, and/or in-house counsel experience preferred. Candidate must be admitted to the Ohio Bar. Occasional evening and weekend work are required. Suburban Columbus office, competitive salary and excellent fringe benefits. Résumé and cover letter accepted by mail only until Dec. 31, 2011, to: Ohio School Boards Association, Legal Division, 8050 N. High St., Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43235-6481. EOE

Legal Briefs, continued from page 5

80-083 (syllabus, paragraph 4), which advised that RC 121.22 did not prohibit voting at a public meeting via secret ballot.

What effect does this have on

public school boards of education? Because school boards are public bodies subject to Ohio's open meetings law, board members may not vote using secret ballots.

A copy of the advisory opinion is available for download at the following link: [www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Legal/Opinions/2011-Opinions/2011-038](http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Legal/Opinions/2011-Opinions/2011-038).



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Michelle Francis, deputy director of legislative services

### State legislature returns with full agenda

The General Assembly returned after the November elections with a busy agenda. Several bills are expected to receive attention before the holiday break. Following is an update on some recent action.

#### Associations continue push against House Bill 136

On Dec. 1, OSBA, the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) and the Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) issued a press release and an analysis outlining the significant costs that would likely accompany House Bill (HB) 136. The legislation proposes the statewide Parental Choice and Taxpayer Savings Scholarship Program (PACT). HB 136, sponsored by Rep. **Matt Huffman** (R-Lima), would dramatically change Ohio's school voucher policy, a program that uses public tax dollars to subsidize private and parochial school tuition.

The three school management organizations commissioned the Education Tax Policy Institute (ETPI) to conduct the analysis to help school district leaders educate their own legislators about the negative effects HB 136 would have on Ohio public education. The ETPI analysis, conducted by consultants **William Driscoll** and **Howard Fleeter**, determined that HB 136 could create approximately \$480 million in *new* costs for Ohio's education funding system as the bill's provisions are phased in over a very short period of time. The additional costs would come as students who already attend private schools suddenly become eligible for taxpayer-subsidized vouchers.

OSBA, BASA and OASBO also issued a call to action to school board members, superintendents and treasurers with this new information and are encouraging school district leaders to contact General Assembly members. Now is the time to share this

information with your state legislator. HB 136 is not dead. In fact, it is rumored that the sponsor of HB 136 is circulating amendments in the caucus to garner votes for the bill. It could be on the House floor for a vote as early as the week of Dec. 12.

We believe it is impossible to amend such flawed legislation. We need your help in continuing to send the message that HB 136 is bad public policy and bad for students. Contact your legislators, even if you have made previous contacts. It is extremely important that you keep up the pressure to defeat HB 136.

We have received almost 200 copies of school board resolutions opposing HB 136. If you haven't already taken that step, please do so now. If you have passed a resolution, be sure to share it with legislators, OSBA and the news media in your area. Follow up with another contact now to reiterate your opposition to

*Continued on page 7*



## PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Gary Motz, editorial manager

### Kenston students get moving with 'brain breaks'

**Kenston Local (Geauga)** teachers are re-energizing and refocusing their students with "brain breaks." The breaks are part of the school district's Play Blue initiative that emphasizes individual fitness and participation, rather than just team sports or traditional games.

Kenston High School Principal **Jeremy McDevitt** told a local newspaper that brain breaks are critical to keeping students focused during the 85-minute classes that

are part of the school's block scheduling system. He said some teachers assign specific activities while others simply give students time to stand and stretch.

A French teacher incorporates physical activity into her classes by having students act out meanings of newly learned words. Some teachers have their students walk laps in time with music for 10 minutes before taking a test.

The activity model is beginning to extend beyond the students to

include staff members, who often take brain breaks during meetings.

"I think it's great, even from an adult perspective," McDevitt said. "I go to workshops all the time and when you sit there for long periods your mind starts to wander and you start to get fidgety."

Or, as an educational consultant who recently visited the school put it: "Instead of no child left behind, it should be no child left on their behind."

Source: *The News-Herald*

*Legislative Report, continued from page 6*

subsidizing private school tuition with public tax dollars and tell them it will add \$480 million in *new* costs to education. Please watch for updates and calls to action on this bill.

Visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/13501> to access the sample board resolution; ETPI analysis; talking points to use with legislators; OSBA, BASA, OASBO press release; and list of districts passing resolutions against the bill. These items are posted under the "Additional Documents" heading.

#### Dyslexia pilot project

House Bill 96, sponsored by Rep. **Ted Celeste** (D-Columbus) and Rep. **Andrew Brenner**

(R-Powell), would designate dyslexia as a specific learning disability and require a pilot project to provide early screening and intervention services for children with dyslexia.

Specifically, the legislation would create a pilot project in a rural, urban and suburban school district where the districts can partner with libraries to provide screenings and intervention services. Several amendments were recently added to the bill in the Senate Education Committee. Amendments include:

- making the partnership between a library and district optional in the pilot program;
- specifying that the state

superintendent of public instruction could consult any recognized dyslexia association or multi-sensory structured language program;

- changing the term "treatment" to "treatments" to recognize there are multiple forms of multi-sensory structured learning programs;
- requiring parental notification of a child's inclusion in the program.

The bill was reported out of committee and now heads to the full Senate for a vote.

For the latest legislative updates, please contact the OSBA legislative services division at (800) 589-6722.

*Editor's note: All information in this article was current as of Dec. 2.*

**December 2011**

- 12 OSBA Levy University webinar #6
- 31 *Last day for treasurer to canvass the board to establish a date of the organizational meeting — RC 3313.14.*

**January 2012**

- 7-8 New Board Member Academy ..... Columbus
- 7-8 New Board Member Academy ..... Mason
- 14-15 New Board Member Academy ..... Findlay
- 14-15 New Board Member Academy ..... Independence
- 15 *Deadline for boards of education of city, exempted village, vocational and local school districts to meet and organize — RC 3313.14; last day for boards of education of city, exempted village, vocational and local school districts to adopt tax budgets for the coming school fiscal year — RC 5705.28(A) (1).*
- 19 Power standards leading to Blue Ribbon success webinar
- 20 OSBA Capital Conference Planning Task Force meeting ..... Columbus

- 20 OSBA Executive Committee meeting ..... Columbus
- 20 *Last day for boards of education to submit fiscal tax-year budget to county auditor — RC 5705.30.*
- 21 OSBA Board of Trustees meeting ..... Columbus
- 28 Board Presidents Workshop ..... Columbus
- 28 Board Presidents Workshop ..... Findlay
- 31 *Annual campaign finance reports due (by 4 p.m.) detailing contributions and expenditures through Dec. 31, 2011 — RC 3517.10(A)(3) (last business day of January); deadline for educational service center (ESC) governing boards to meet and organize — RC 3313.14.*

**February 2012**

- 4 OSBA Board Presidents Workshop ..... Dayton
- 4 OSBA Board Presidents Workshop ..... Rootstown
- 4-5 NSBA Leadership Conference ..... Washington D.C.
- 5-7 NSBA Federal Relations Network (Washington D.C.)
- 6 *Last day for voter registration for March*

- election — RC 3503.01, 3503.19(A) (30 days prior to the election).*
- 8 OSBA Central Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... Columbus
- 12 OSBA Southeast Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... Logan
- 12 OSBA Northwest Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... Bowling Green

**March 2012**

- 1 *Last day to take action and deliver written notice of nonrenewal of superintendent's contract — RC 3319.01; last day to take action on and deliver written notice of nonrenewal of treasurer's contract (contracts entered into after March 30, 2007) — RC 3313.22.*
- 5\* *Last day to submit certification for June income tax levy to Ohio Department of Taxation — RC 5748.02(A) (100 days prior to the election).*
- 6 *Presidential Primary/Special Election Day — RC 3501.01*
- 6 Southeast Region Spring Conference ..... Ironton
- 8 Southeast Region Spring Conference ..... Crooksville