

# BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



## Ohio's largest for-profit charter school firm ordered to release records

Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge **John F. Bender** has ordered White Hat Management to release records on how it has spent the taxpayer dollars of 10 charter schools the firm is contracted to run. The schools sued **David Brennan's** Akron-based firm last year, seeking records of how the firm has spent the 96% of their state funding that White Hat receives under its contracts with the schools. Bender ruled that even though White Hat and its school operators are private corporate entities, they also are "public officials" because they receive public money and are authorized to operate public schools. White Hat is appealing the ruling.

## State files \$1.4 million judgment against ex-charter school treasurer

Ohio Attorney General **Mike DeWine** has ordered a former charter school officer to repay some northeastern Ohio public school districts more than \$1 million. The ruling against **Hassina Shabazz**, former treasurer of the defunct International Preparatory School, is based on a state audit that found the Cleveland charter school inflated enrollment figures to overbill the Ohio Department of Education by \$1,407,983. Any funds recovered would go to **Cleveland Municipal Schools** and other northeast Ohio districts whose state funding supports local charter schools.

## ODE opens nominations for Ohio Teacher of the Year award

Superintendents and principals are invited to submit nominations for the 2012-2013 Ohio Teacher of the Year award. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) program was revised this year so that honorees are selected for a school year, rather than a calendar year. There also have been some changes to the nominating process. The program honors, promotes and celebrates excellence in teaching. For details, deadlines and to submit nominations, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/43223>.

## OSBA announces second Board Leadership Institute keynote speaker

Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction **Stan W. Heffner** will speak at the OSBA Board Leadership Institute Closing Luncheon. The institute, set for April 13-14 in Columbus, offers a comprehensive program of outstanding speakers, breakout sessions and networking opportunities. For details and to register, visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/board-leadership-institute](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/board-leadership-institute).

## Education department seeking sponsors for summer food program

The Ohio Department of Education is seeking local sponsors and sites to operate the 2012 Summer Food Service Program. Schools and nonprofit organizations may qualify to participate if their program sites are in areas where 50% of the children

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### Route workshop information to:

- ☐ Administrators
- ☐ Assistant treasurers
- ☐ Human resources directors
- ☐ Principals

qualify for free and reduced-price school meals. The program provides children with nutritious meals during summer break, when they do not have access to school meals. For details and deadlines, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/27511> or call (800) 808-6325.

### **New members take seats on OSBA Board of Trustees**

Seven new OSBA Board of Trustees members were sworn in at the board's Jan. 21 meeting in Columbus. The new members are: **Ginger Baylor, Akron City; Eric Germann, Lincolnview Local (Van Wert); Albert Haberstroh, Trumbull County ESC; Hanifah Kamboon, Columbus City; Gail Martindale, Cedar Cliff Local (Greene) and Greene County Career Center; Randy Reisling, South-Western City; and Lisa Sobecki, Toledo City.** The board, OSBA's official governing body, meets three times a year.

### **New Boston students make their marks on the future**

**New Boston Local (Scioto)** students, from kindergartners through seniors, recently took time out of their day to leave their marks on a new school being built in the southern Ohio district.

Nearly 500 of them turned out at the site of the district's new K-12 facility to sign their names to a large support beam for the building. Weighing nearly a ton, the 44-foot long steel beam was to be installed at the end of the stage in the new building's cafetorium. Superintendent **Mike Staggs** told a local newspaper that people standing on the stage will be able to look up and see the signatures.

The facility is the first new school built in New Boston in nearly 100 years. The district/Ohio School Facilities Commission project is expected to be ready for students for the 2012-2013 school year.

Source: *Portsmouth Daily Times*

### **NSBA's National Affiliate Program offers free webinars**

The National School Boards Association National Affiliate Program is hosting a series of free quarterly webinars. On March 14, from 3 p.m.-4 p.m., the program will present "Building a stronger relationship with your community:

the power of engagement." Space is limited, so reserve your place now at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/15201>.

### **Legislative Platform book mailed to treasurers**

The OSBA 2012 Legislative Platform books have been mailed to district treasurers. The platform informs legislators, policymakers, the public and the news media about OSBA's positions on education issues. For additional copies, contact OSBA's **Ann Herritt** at [aherritt@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:aherritt@ohioschoolboards.org) or (614) 540-4000. The book also is posted online at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/21310>.

### **OSBA online**

● [www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)

OSBA's BillTracker lets you follow the bills OSBA is tracking in the state legislature. Visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/billtracker](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/billtracker) to keep up-to-date on the latest legislation affecting schools.



## **Briefcase**

Ohio School Boards Association  
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Columbus, OH 43235-6481  
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fax: (614) 540-4100 ● [www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)

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*A one-year subscription to Briefcase is \$125 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).*

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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 and creative solutions.



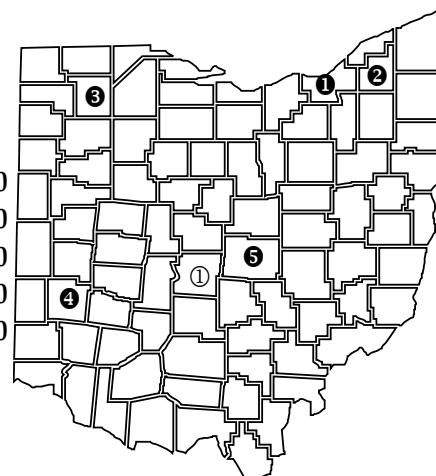
# BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, administrative assistant of communication services

## OSBA executive searches

### Superintendent

District	Deadline	Contact
① Chagrin Falls EV	March 12	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
② Chardon Local (Geauga)	March 16	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
③ Liberty Center Local (Henry)	March 23	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
④ Miami Valley Career Center	April 20	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
⑤ Southwest Licking Local (Licking)	TBD	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



① = Superintendent

① = Treasurer

### Treasurer

District	Deadline	Contact
① Whitehall City	TBD	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000

## Other searches

Position	District	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Little Miami Local (Warren)	Feb. 29	John Lazares, superintendent, Warren County ESC, (513) 695-2901
Superintendent	Pike-Delta-York Local (Fulton)	March 9	Kenneth L. Jones, interim superintendent, Pike-Delta-York Local, (419) 822-3391
Superintendent	Valley Local (Scioto)	March 14	Lowell Howard, superintendent, South Central ESC, (740) 354-0266
Superintendent	Miamisburg City	March 16	Frank DePalma, superintendent, Montgomery County ESC, (937) 225-4598
Treasurer	Massillon City	Feb. 27	Larry L. Morgan, superintendent, Stark County ESC, (330) 392-8136, ext. 1350

### Editor's note

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

## National searches

Position	District	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Payson Unified School District, Ariz.	March 12	<b>Karen Beckvar</b> , director of leadership development, Arizona School Boards Association, (602) 254-1100, ext. 101
Superintendent	Amphitheater Unified School District, Ariz.	March 21	<b>Karen Beckvar</b> , director of leadership development, Arizona School Boards Association, (602) 254-1100, ext. 101
Superintendent	Halifax County, Va.	March 23	<b>Gina Patterson</b> , assistant executive director, Virginia School Boards Association, (434) 295-8722
Superintendent	King George County, Va.	until filled	<b>Gina Patterson</b> , assistant executive director, Virginia School Boards Association, (434) 295-8722
Superintendent	Richmond County, Va.	until filled	<b>Gina Patterson</b> , assistant executive director, Virginia School Boards Association, (434) 295-8722

## Board changes

**Orange City** appointed **Jennifer Cohen** to the board effective immediately. She replaced **Stanley Morganstern**, who resigned effective Jan. 16. ●●● **Plain Local (Stark)** appointed **Ambrose S. Perduk Jr.** to the board effective Feb. 1. He replaced **Christopher Cugini**. ●●● **Rossford EV** appointed **James "Doug" Miller** to the board of education effective Feb. 4. He replaced **Diane McKinney**, who resigned effective Jan. 23.

*Continued on page 5*

# 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.

To register for these webinars, contact Laurie Miller at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA 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).

### Involving the public in facilities planning

Friday, March 2, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Cost is \$35

Working with Lorenz Williams Clinton and Fanning/Howey Associates Inc., **Huber Heights City** involved the community in the construction process for all new schools through the development of a district master plan in 2008. The transparency of decision making remains constant throughout the life of the project. Learn how important it is to listen and act on what the community wants. The webinar will be led by **William E. Kirby**, superintendent, Huber Heights City.

### School boards and booster groups: Avoid and address issues

Thursday, March 29, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Cost is \$35

Booster groups play an important role in the school community. Learn about their legal structure, relationship with the district and ways to regulate and monitor groups. OSBA Deputy Director of Legal Services **Sara C. Clark** reviews common issues, such as coach payment, donations, fundraising and more.

*Bulletin Board, continued from page 4*

## Administrative changes

### Superintendents

**Canton City** Superintendent Dr. **Michele D. Evans** announced her resignation effective Feb. 6. The district hired **Christopher Smith** as interim superintendent. Smith is currently director of curriculum and instruction for the district. ●●● **Ledgemont Local (Geauga)** hired **Julie Ramos** as interim superintendent effective April 1. She will replace **Ronald J. Donatone**, who is resigning effective March 31. Ramos will continue in her role as school improvement coordinator at **Geauga County ESC**. ●●● **Washington County Career Center** Superintendent **Roger Bartunek** announced his retirement effective June 30.

### Treasurers

**Clyde-Green Springs EV** hired **Joyce Dupont** as treasurer effective Feb. 6. She replaced **Alan W. Binger**, who took the treasurer position at **Vanguard-Sentinel Career Center**. Dupont previously was treasurer for **South Central Local (Huron)**. ●●● **Massillon City** Treasurer **Teresa L. Emmerling** announced her resignation effective Jan. 31. The district appointed **Tamra Hurst** as interim treasurer effective immediately. Hurst also is the director of business for **Stark County ESC**. ●●● **Pickerington Local (Fairfield)** Treasurer **Dan Griscom** will retire effective Feb. 29.

## Sympathies

Former **Amherst EV** Board of Education member **Gerald N. Moore** died Feb. 1. He was 74. ●●● Former **Buckeye Local (Ashtabula)** Board of Education member **Forde E. Page** died Jan. 31. He was 91. ●●● Former **Canfield Local (Mahoning)** Board of Education member Dr. **B. Patrick Brucoli** died Feb. 6. He was 78. ●●● Former **Hamilton City** Board of Education member **Carl Morganstern** died Feb. 19. He was 90. ●●● Former **Ironton City** Board of Education member Dr. **Kenneth Fairchild** died Jan. 29. He was 76. ●●● Former **Madeira City** Superintendent **Herbert L. Dericks** died Feb. 14. He was 93. ●●● **Taylor Groff**, a member of the former **Madison Mills** Board of Education in Fayette County, died Feb. 16. He was 93. ●●● Former **Olentangy Local (Delaware)** Board of Education member **Donald W. Cutler** died Feb. 14. He was 79. ●●● Former **New Lexington City** Board of Education member **Nancy Dearborn Blake** died Feb. 7. She was 86. ●●● Former **Pickaway County ESC** Superintendent **Donald L. Dowdy** died Feb. 5. He was 79. ●●● Former **Warren Local (Washington)** Board of Education member **Raymond Elton Gessel** died Feb. 6. He was 73.

## Administrative salary analysis

Need help determining how to compensate your administrators? It's more complicated than most people think, and OSBA has considerable experience in this area. We are able to assist school districts with a variety of important initiatives, including:

- compensation/classification system design
- job description creation/modification
- performance evaluation system design

For more information, contact Van D. Keating, director of management services, at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA, ext. 241; or [vkeating@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:vkeating@ohioschoolboards.org).



## NEWS

by Angela Penquite, communication design manager

### Make your voice heard at the State Legislative Conference

Being a school board member means being an advocate for your district. It is up to you to tell legislators how the decisions they make impact your students.

Last fall, board members and district administrators shared with legislators the potentially devastating effects that House Bill (HB) 136, the school voucher bill, would have on their districts. Boards of education passed resolutions in opposition to the bill, and those resolutions and other letters written in opposition sent a strong message to members of the General Assembly.

Now is the time to build upon those successful advocacy efforts. Legislators rely on your input. That's why public education leaders must step up to ensure that their representatives are fully informed. Events such as the State Legislative Conference ensure you're up-to-date on the latest legislative issues and help you reach out to legislators so they know the impact their decisions have on your district.

The 2012 State Legislative Conference — hosted by the Ohio School Boards Association, Buckeye Association of School Administrators and Ohio Association of School Business Officials — is scheduled for

Wednesday, March 28, at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Columbus. The event provides school board members, administrators and treasurers the opportunity to meet with their state legislators and discuss issues affecting public education.

This year's conference will feature a new format and location. The conference will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Renaissance Hotel, where speakers will address vital public education issues that affect every school district in the state, with a particular focus on the future of education in Ohio. Following lunch, the hosting associations' lobbyists will provide updates on the issues.

The agenda includes a discussion of education issues with Sen. **Peggy Lehner**, chair of the Senate Education Committee; Rep. **Gerald Stebelton**, chair of the House Education Committee; and Dr. **Richard A. Ross**, director of the Governor's Office of 21st Century Education. Rep. **Ron Amstutz**, chair of the House Finance Committee, will review the mid-biennial budget and what's in store for school funding.

After lunch, association lobbyists will cover current issues

and lobbying 101. Attendees are encouraged to make appointments to meet with their legislators between 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., prior to a legislative reception at the Capital Club from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The reception will provide an additional opportunity for you to share your concerns with legislators.

Registration for this event is \$125 per person for OSBA-member district representatives and Ohio Council of School Board Attorneys members. The fee covers registration, materials, lunch and the reception.

To register, contact **Laurie Miller** at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org), or visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/89142>. Registration forms and further details also are available in this issue of the *Briefcase*.

Although the education associations will invite legislators and their aides to the legislative reception, attendees are encouraged to personally invite them as well. If you need help making contacts with your legislators or setting up meetings with them, please contact the OSBA legislative services division at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA for assistance.





# Ohio School Boards Association Capital Conference and Trade Show

Nov. 11, 12, 13 & 14, 2012 • Greater Columbus Convention Center

Share your expertise and experience. OSBA invites you to submit a presentation overview for the 2012 OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show. OSBA's Capital Conference Planning Task Force will evaluate and select presentations based on criteria such as high interest and relevance; creativity and innovation; success supported by positive results; and solid, practical, how-to information. Creative formats and student involvement in programs are encouraged. Final selections will be made in May. To nominate a speaker or propose another topic, please use the form on the next page. Duplicate the form if you would like to make multiple nominations. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to, those listed below. Learning tracks are in bold.

## Selected learning topics

### Administration

Crisis planning  
Dealing with demanding board members  
Impact of professional development  
Measuring value-added services  
Ohio Leadership Advisory Council assessment and profile development  
Policy implications of House Bill 153 (teacher evaluations)  
Shared services  
Treasurer and business manager evaluations

### Board development

Board member 102 (sophomore boardmanship)  
The board's role in student achievement  
Dealing with demanding board members  
Developing a strategic plan for your district  
Effective board meetings  
Dysfunctional boards  
Effective superintendent and treasurer evaluations  
Lobbying 101  
Micromanaging — understanding roles and boundaries  
OSBA services overview  
Prioritizing budget cuts — academics, athletics, arts  
Professional development for board members  
Understanding and responding to teacher ratings and reports  
Role of your superintendent and treasurer  
Student board members  
Understanding school finance  
Who's the boss?

### Career education/ESC

Best school-to-work models  
Building effective community relations  
Career centers give back to the community  
Career-tech report cards  
Career-tech/higher education partnerships  
Employing students  
ESC consolidation  
High Schools That Work  
Partnering with JVS/D associate districts

### Community relations

Accommodating the public — how far is too far?  
Business/community partnerships  
Communicating about student achievement (report cards, value-added)  
Dealing with disruptive citizens  
Educational foundations  
Effectively using advisory committees  
Garnering support for levies  
Role of social media — marketing and communication  
Selling your district to the community

### Finance/facilities

Classifying event workers  
Consolidation issues  
Environmentally friendly buildings  
Ethics for treasurers  
Fiscal emergency/fiscal watch  
Impact of home schooling on district finances  
Levy campaigns and the use of public funds  
Levy competition and timing  
New construction guidelines in House Bill 153

### Ohio School Facilities

Commission — when will my number come up?  
Prioritizing cuts  
School district rankings  
School finance for board members  
School vouchers  
School-funding trends  
Special education issues and their impact on finances  
Success with tax issues  
Workers' compensation fraud

### Hot topics

Assault on public schools  
Dealing with teacher reports  
Diversity and inclusion programs  
Home schoolers — potential voucher implications  
Leasing mineral rights  
No Child Left Behind Act federal waiver update  
Ohio Green Ribbon schools pilot program  
Release time for religious instruction  
Retire/rehire — pros and cons  
Shared services

### Human resources

Arbitration 101 — a mock hearing  
Contracts — are you paying too much?  
Contract trends  
High-deductible health plan  
Maximizing HR efficiencies (analyzing capital)  
Performance-based evaluations  
Putting together health insurance committees that work  
Reductions in force  
Working harmoniously with your unions

### Instruction

Best senior project ideas  
College credit options  
The Common Core Standards  
Credit flexibility  
Keeping the arts strong in a tough economy  
Online assessments  
Urban best practices  
What do I do with all this data?

### Legal

Caretaker bill  
Community and booster groups  
Effective use of legal counsel  
Ethics violations  
Executive session use  
Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act  
How to deal with threatening social media issues  
Keeping your board on track amid controversy  
Public records requests — email usage

### Organizational outlook

Looking at HR resources

### Safety and wellness

"Action for Healthy Kids"  
Adolescent sleep deprivation  
Body mass index  
Bullying  
Child sex abuse  
Human trafficking and our students  
Integrating the student sex offender back into the school  
Nutrition and childhood obesity  
Police partnerships  
Strong antidrug initiatives

### Student achievement

The board's role in student achievement

Creatively integrating the fine arts  
Creative strategies for early elementary  
Four-year graduation opt out  
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services  
Ohio Improvement Process  
Special education vouchers  
Special education/individualized education program impact on adequate yearly progress  
Update on early learning  
Value-added

### Student issues

Autism  
Conversation with Ohio High School Athletic Association  
Discipline — what's working?  
Engaging high-performing students  
Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program  
Not in my backyard — homelessness, drug abuse, sex offenders, human trafficking, gangs  
Parental involvement  
Students in poverty or homeless students

### Technology

Blended learning (hybrid learning)  
District website design  
Effective use of social media  
Electronic textbooks  
Online courses  
Technology and the board member  
21st century technology

### 21st century learning

Bring your own device  
Defining 21st century learning  
Digital learning  
Race to the Top initiatives  
What brain research tells us

# 2012 Capital Conference speaker nomination form

## We want you!

### Speak and share your knowledge at the 2012 OSBA Capital Conference

Nov. 11–14 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center



**Title of breakout presentation:** \_\_\_\_\_ (please limit to 40 characters)

Select a learning track from the list on the previous page that best describes the topic: \_\_\_\_\_

**Main contact's name:** \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (day): \_\_\_\_\_  
District/firm: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (cell): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list all co-presenters' names and information:**

<b>Name:</b> _____	<b>Name:</b> _____
District/firm: _____	District/firm: _____
Title: _____	Title: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, ZIP: _____	City, ZIP: _____
Phone (day): _____	Phone (day): _____
Email address: _____	Email address: _____

<b>Name:</b> _____	<b>Name:</b> _____
District/firm: _____	District/firm: _____
Title: _____	Title: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, ZIP: _____	City, ZIP: _____
Phone (day): _____	Phone (day): _____
Email address: _____	Email address: _____

**In 50 words or fewer, describe the presentation and specific skills or knowledge participants will gain by the end of your session. OSBA reserves the right to edit the description for use in the *Conference Guide*. (Please feel free to submit additional material that describes your program.)**

<b>Submitted by:</b> _____	<b>Title:</b> _____
(Please inform the speaker(s) as to your submission)	Phone (day): _____
District/firm: _____	Phone (cell): _____
Address: _____	Email address: _____
City, ZIP: _____	

#### Rules for proposal submissions

1. Submit as many ideas as you wish. Just make sure each overview incorporates all the requested information (use a separate sheet of paper if necessary).
2. Your proposal must be complete (title, short description and up to two pages of supporting information) to qualify for consideration.
3. Proposals must be received in the OSBA office by **5 p.m., March 19, 2012**. You are encouraged to submit your proposal as soon as possible. Use one form per topic. This page may be duplicated.
4. Speakers agree to supply OSBA with handout material for distribution to attendees by **Oct. 12, 2012**.
5. **Internet drops and computers will not be available for the presentation.**
6. Presentations must be product- and vendor-neutral **and** include a member school district.
7. **Selected presenters are required to register with their district or exhibiting company for the conference.**

Please return this form to **Judy Morgan**, senior administrative assistant of school board services.

Please contact **Rob Delane**, deputy executive director, or Judy Morgan with questions.

Send to OSBA, 8050 N. High St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235-6481 or fax to (614) 540-4100.

**USE ONE FORM PER TOPIC/RECOMMENDATION. THIS PAGE MAY BE DUPLICATED.**



# Questions about workers' comp rates? Get answers at the SchoolComp Workshops!

Hear the latest on the SchoolComp program, Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) changes and experience review. These sessions meet BWC's two-hour safety training requirement.

The workshops will be held at five sites around Ohio, beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m. While there is no fee, registration is requested to accommodate those attending.

- 8 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast
- 8:15 a.m. Welcome and introductions  
*Tony Sharrock*, association manager, CompManagement Inc.; *Van D. Keating*, director of management services, Ohio School Boards Association; and *Kim Laugherty*, director of membership services, Ohio Association of School Business Officials
- 8:30 a.m. Safety committees  
Get an overview of safety committees and how they can help your district actively manage workplace safety and health.  
*Janet Strausbaugh*, CompManagement Inc.
- 9:15 a.m. Managed care organization — return to work  
Employee health and productivity are key ingredients for successful business outcomes.
- 10 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. Unemployment compensation update  
Learn what you need to know to properly defend an unemployment compensation claim.  
*Roger Baker*, CompManagement Inc.
- 11 a.m. Rating plans — BWC updates  
Review current BWC rating programs and get tips on how to best evaluate competing program options and performance.  
*Tony Sharrock*
- 11:45 a.m. Public Employment Risk Reduction Program — fatal facts  
Case studies of workplace tragedies that could have been prevented.
- 12:30 p.m. Closing



## Dates and locations:

Program members should mark their calendars now to attend one of the following workshops:

- **Friday, March 9**  
Ohio University Inn and Conference Center, Athens
- **Wednesday, March 14**  
Owens Community College, Findlay
- **Thursday, March 15**  
Northeast Ohio Medical University, Rootstown
- **Thursday, March 22**  
Holiday Inn I-275 North, Cincinnati
- **Tuesday, March 27**  
OSBA office, Columbus

For registration, contact Laurie Miller at (614) 540-4000; (800) 589-OSBA; or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).

## Management Development Series #1: Impasse, implementation and midterm bargaining: Three topics you need to understand!

**Wednesday, April 18**  
**OSBA office, Columbus**

**10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**  
**Cost is \$85**

In the last couple of years, issues such as impasse, implementation and midterm bargaining have evolved from being considered quaint and archaic to cutting-edge. What was considered important in reaching impasse is now less important than what is involved in being at ultimate impasse. Similarly, implementation used to be an afterthought in bargaining, now it is a prime consideration. In 2013, with the new Ohio Teacher Evaluation System set to become a reality, districts may face an unanticipated midterm bargaining situation that they are ill prepared for. This workshop will cover these important issues, what Ohio law and the State Employment Relations Board has to say about them, discuss important trends and offer practical advice for dealing with them. Presenters will be Van D. Keating, OSBA director of management services; Renee L. Fambro, OSBA deputy director of labor relations; and George M. Albu, Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service commissioner.



## Agenda

- |            |                              |            |                              |
|------------|------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| 9:30 a.m.  | Registration                 | Noon       | Lunch (provided)             |
| 10 a.m.    | Welcome and overview         | 12:30 p.m. | Mid-term bargaining          |
| 10:10 a.m. | Impasse and ultimate impasse | 1:30 p.m.  | Break                        |
| 11 a.m.    | Break                        | 1:45 p.m.  | Effects bargaining           |
| 11:15 a.m. | Implementation               | 2:30 p.m.  | Closing thoughts and adjourn |

# Special Education Law Workshop

Friday, March 23, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Doubletree Hotel Columbus/Worthington  
Cost is \$145



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

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

**9 a.m. Ohio Department of Education (ODE) update**  
Hear about the changes and initiatives at the Office for Exceptional Children and what's ahead for special education in Ohio in 2012 and beyond.  
*Thomas Lather*, interim director, Office of Exceptional Children, ODE

**9:45 a.m. Issues and investigations in special education scholarships**  
The Autism Scholarship Program and Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program present some legal issues for school districts. Join an attorney and an ODE expert to review how the issues are being addressed.  
*Laura G. Anthony*, Esq., Bricker & Eckler LLP, Columbus; and *Susan Cosmo*, associate director, Center for Quality School Choice and Funding, ODE

**10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:40 a.m. Achieving procedural perfection**  
A former director of special education and a special education attorney share strategies on how to smoothly, efficiently and accurately manage the paperwork and deadlines of the job, avoid procedural "traps" and overcome hurdles caused by uncooperative team members.  
*Christina H. Peer*, Esq., and *Bobbe Miller*, M.Ed., education consultant, Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP, Cleveland

**11:30 a.m. Lunch (provided)**

**12:15 p.m. The special education discipline process: Obstacles and opportunities**  
Discuss confiscating weapons and other prohibited items; interim alternative setting placements; providing instruction; conducting manifestation determinations; and implementing behavioral intervention plans.  
*William M. Deters II*, Esq., Ennis, Roberts & Fischer Co. LPA, Cincinnati

**1:15 p.m. Break**

**1:25 p.m. Health care needs in schools: Achieving clarity**  
Questions about providing health care pursuant to an individualized education program or 504 plan may arise in the context of the scope of services, medical and assistive equipment, aides, transportation and participation in activities. The author of OSBA's *Special Education Law Guide* explores these issues in a presentation geared toward providing clarity on related services.  
*Susan E. Geary*, Esq., Bricker & Eckler LLP, Columbus

**2:25 p.m. Addressing serious social and persistent behavioral issues**  
Challenges to educating students with disabilities with social and behavioral deficits have become even more evident in light of the changing legal and social landscape — including social media. Explore options and strategies in the struggle to meet the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act's mandate that appropriate interventions and supports be provided to those students whose behavior impedes learning.  
*Giselle S. Johnson*, Esq., Britton, Smith, Peters & Kalail Co. LPA, Cleveland

**3:25 p.m. Adjourn**

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

The Doubletree Hotel Columbus/Worthington is located at 175 Hutchinson Ave. in north Columbus. Take I-270 to exit 23/US 23 north toward Delaware. At the first traffic light, turn right onto East Campus View Boulevard. Turn right at the next light onto High Cross Boulevard. When High Cross ends you will be facing the Doubletree Hotel Columbus/Worthington.



*Photo courtesy of the Ohio Statehouse Photo Archive*

# State Legislative Conference

Wednesday, March 28

Cost is \$125

## New location and format:

- 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. — Learn about the latest legislative issues at the Renaissance Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus
- 4:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m. — Reception with legislators at the Capital Club, 41 S. High St., Columbus

School district leaders from across Ohio have proven that we can make a difference! Your legislative involvement with House Bill 136, the private school voucher bill, has sent a strong message to state leaders. Let's keep up the momentum in support of public education with a strong showing at the annual State Legislative Conference!

Several key issues await your attention at this year's event:

- What's all the talk about shared services?
- The governor's proposed mid-year budget review bill — what's included?
- Is the voucher bill still a threat?
- Is there a new school-funding formula just waiting to be released?

Key legislators and members of the governor's office will discuss their views on these important issues and what can be expected in the coming months.

## Event agenda

### 10 a.m. — Registration

#### 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. — Education issues: Key education policy leaders discuss the General Assembly's education agenda

Sen. Peggy Lehner, chair, Senate Education Committee; Rep. Gerald Stebelton, chair, House Education Committee; and Dr. Richard A. Ross, director, Governor's Office of 21st Century Education

#### 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Mid-biennial budget review (MBR) — What's included? What's in store for school funding in the future?

Rep. Ron Amstutz, chair, House Finance Committee

### 12:30 p.m.-1:15 p.m. — Lunch

#### 1:15 p.m.-2:30 p.m. — Current issues and lobbying 101

OSBA, OASBO and BASA lobbyists

### 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. — Reception with legislators at the Capital Club

Register today and schedule your individual meetings with your legislators from 2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m., prior to the legislative reception. If you need help contacting your legislators, call the OSBA legislative services division for assistance.

OSBA will invite legislators and their aides to the reception at the Capital Club, but we ask that you personally invite them to join you for the reception.

To register, contact **Laurie Miller**, OSBA senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000; (800) 589-OSBA; or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org). Register online at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/89599>.

# Board Leadership Institute

*Organizational leadership for tomorrow's schools*

April 13-14, 2012 • Hilton Columbus/Polaris, north Columbus

## Benefits:

- ◆ Participate in a program designed exclusively for and by board members
- ◆ Experience a comprehensive two-day training event
- ◆ Hear nationally acclaimed speakers
- ◆ Strengthen board governance skills
- ◆ Choose from 18 different breakout sessions
- ◆ Network with other board members
- ◆ Receive a CD with all of the handouts from this board member-only event

## Good decisions require informed decision makers.

As a member of your school district's governing body, you are called on at every meeting to make decisions. Some decisions are easy; others complicated. So, what can be done to improve board member development?

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

To meet these requests, OSBA worked with board members from across the state to develop the 11th annual Board Leadership Institute. The two-day workshop is specifically designed for board members and will focus on multiple topics. Participants will have the opportunity to hear keynote speakers, choose from among 18 breakout sessions and network with each other.

Twenty points will be awarded for attendance at the institute, which may be applied toward receiving OSBA's Award of Achievement and Master Board Member award.

## Keynote speakers set the tone for BLI

BLI will kick off on Friday, April 13, with Dr. **Stephen M. Gavazzi**, a professor of human development and family science at The Ohio State University; dean and director of the university's Mansfield campus; and author of *Strong Families, Successful Students: Helping teenagers reach their full academic potential*. Gavazzi will share how to increase educational outcomes by building family strengths.

Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction **Stan W. Heffner** will close BLI on Saturday, April 14. Hear from Heffner how we can ensure students are ready to compete for the jobs of the future.



Gavazzi



Heffner

## Registration and hotel details

BLI will be held in Columbus on April 13 and 14. Cost for the institute is \$240, and includes continental breakfast and lunch on both days, a networking reception and materials. To register, contact **Laurie Miller** at (614) 540-4000; (800) 589-OSBA; or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).

The Hilton Columbus/Polaris will be the site of the 2012 Board Leadership Institute. The Hilton is in north Columbus,

near the Polaris Fashion Place mall. This facility is easily accessible from I-71, offers free parking and is close to many dining opportunities. To reserve your hotel room, contact the Hilton Columbus/Polaris at (614) 885-1600. A reduced hotel room rate of \$121 is available through March 6.

For more details, visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/board-leadership-institute](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/board-leadership-institute).



# 2012 Student Achievement Fair

## OSBA Capital Conference

### Nov. 13, 2012

#### OSBA invites your school district to:

- *Showcase an outstanding performing group!*
- *Showcase the exemplary programs that are improving student achievement in your district!*
- *Show us your best programs and tell us about your best practices!*

The OSBA Capital Conference Student Achievement Fair highlights outstanding initiatives from school districts across the state. OSBA is seeking another round of fresh, innovative programs or practices your district is willing to share with thousands of Ohio school district representatives. Programs and practices will be selected based on creativity and impact on student achievement. While multiple programs may be submitted for consideration, no more than two per district will be selected, so districts should prioritize their submissions.

Performing groups also will be selected to entertain attendees during the Student Achievement Fair. To be considered, submit an audio or video recording of the performing group.

#### Student Achievement Fair application

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012 ● 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is a concise title and description of our **student achievement program** in 25 words or less, including what we think others will learn from our booth. (You may submit additional material that describes your program.)

Will you need electricity? ☐ Yes ☐ No

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is a title and description of the **performing group** that we would like to showcase at the Student Achievement Fair. (**Include a DVD video recording of the performing group or email a video or MP3 of a performance.**)

Title of program or performing group: \_\_\_\_\_

Description (please limit description to 25 words): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please inform the contact person as to your submission.)

Daytime phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

School district: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Ohio ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

If selected, your district's program will be showcased in a 10x10-foot booth that can accommodate up to five people. (More details to follow). Applications may be submitted online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org), or mail **student achievement program** applications to Debby Hoopes, administrative associate of search services, OSBA, 8050 N. High St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235. Mail your completed **performing group** application, with recording, to Cheryl W. Ryan, deputy director of school board services, at the above address. Visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)/SAF for specific details regarding the Student Achievement Fair. **Application deadline is Friday, May 25, 2012.**





# WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

## Involving the public in facilities planning webinar

☐ March 2, \$35

## Special Education Law Workshop

☐ March 23, Columbus, \$145

## Board Leadership Institute

☐ April 13-14, Columbus, \$240

## SchoolComp Workers' Compensation Workshop

☐ March 9, Athens, free

☐ March 14, Findlay, free

☐ March 15, Rootstown, free

☐ March 22, Cincinnati, free

☐ March 27, Columbus, free

## State Legislative Conference

☐ March 28, Columbus, \$125

## School boards and booster groups: Avoid and address issues webinar

☐ March 29, \$35

## MDS #1

☐ April 18, Columbus, \$85

## 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



Phone  
or fax



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

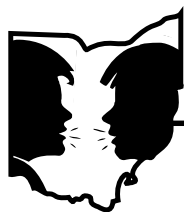
OSBA Registration Hotline,  
(614) 540-4000, ext. 300;  
toll free (800) 589-OSBA,  
ext. 300; or fax us at  
(614) 540-4100.

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.



## TALKING POINTS

by Jay Smith, lobbyist

### Grassroots lobbying is key to OSBA advocacy efforts

As we move through the second half of the 129th General Assembly it is very important to continue establishing relationships with your local legislators. Grassroots networking and mobilization will continue to be an essential component in getting our message broadcasted to this General Assembly.

OSBA needs your assistance and active support to engage the public and every legislator in Ohio, regardless of political party affiliation, to continue to educate them on the importance of public education and how it's affected by decisions made at the Statehouse. The key to this process starts at the grassroots level and with you, the board members and district administrators, actively participating in the legislative process with an overarching goal of preserving the interests of Ohio's public schoolchildren.

The state budget, expansion of vouchers, special elections, pension reform, shared services and collective bargaining reform are all hot issues being dealt with by this General Assembly. Undoubtedly, there will be many additional proposals and suggestions as the legislature moves through the second half of

this legislative session. Grassroots mobilization will most certainly play an important role in OSBA's influence on legislation.

You may ask yourself, What can I do to help? What can my role be as a local school board member? How can I help my association further our legislative platform and be an active

participant in this political climate? The key is grassroots mobilization.

The goal of grassroots lobbying is to actively engage the public in support of public education, while also creating a community awareness for decisions being made at the Statehouse that have negative effects on our education system. You are the experts in the field and have the responsibility to educate your constituents on legislation that impacts their school districts.

Following are some tips on how you can contribute to OSBA's

grassroots efforts:

- Districts should encourage discussion of an issue with other local community leaders, especially when a "call to action" has been sent out. Build a list or network of grassroots contacts in your community and engage these

*Continued on page 8*

### Where can you find the *real* facts?



#### The Education Tax Policy Institute

(ETPI) continues to be the *only* organization in Ohio dedicated to research and analysis of education public policy issues.

Become a **member** of ETPI to help make future research possible. For more information, visit **[www.etpi-ohio.org](http://www.etpi-ohio.org)**.

Ohio's Resource for Reliable Data & Analysis

**ETPI**

8050 N. High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43235 • (614) 540-4000

*Talking Points, continued from page 7*

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individuals when you get a call to action from OSBA.

- Attend and discuss issues at a town meeting on a regular basis. Keep the public informed.
- Maintain relationships with legislators and take action when alerts are sent out. Don't rely on an email — make personal contacts.
- Post legislative updates on social networking websites.
- Build and maintain working relationships with local media contacts.
- Regularly submit op-ed pieces to your local newspapers.

● Call into a local radio talk show and discuss legislative impacts on your district. Or, call to brag about positive things your district is doing.

● Take advantage of local school events to spread the word and create a buzz about an issue.

By having a strong grassroots lobby, OSBA will have more input during critical decision-making meetings. We need to be able to carry your voice and local public concerns, not just in the legislator's backyard, but all the way to the Statehouse.

Over the course of this General

Assembly session, OSBA will be calling on you for various action items. When we put out a call to action, it is necessary to follow up on the call in order to stay connected and involved in the process. It is important to review the "Facts in a Flash" e-newsletter, as well as other legislative updates issued by the association to keep abreast of current Statehouse activities.

The OSBA legislative services division is at your disposal. If you have any concerns or questions don't hesitate to contact us at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA.



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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by Michelle Francis, deputy director of legislative services

### Disposal of school district property bills being considered

There are two bills currently being considered by the General Assembly that would make changes to how school districts dispose of real property. Following is an overview of the legislation.

#### **HB 381 — public/state universities**

House Bill (HB) 381, sponsored by Rep. **Lynn Slaby** (R-Copley), would provide state universities the right of first refusal to purchase school district property. Under current law, start-up community (charter) schools

located within the district's territory have the right of first refusal when a school district decides to dispose of real property worth \$10,000 or more.

Under HB 381, if a school district decides to dispose of real property, the board must offer the right of first refusal to purchase that property to any of the 14 state universities having its main campus or a branch campus within the district's territory. The legislation would apply to the University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, Central State University, University of

Cincinnati, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, Miami University, Ohio University, The Ohio State University, Shawnee State University, University of Toledo, Wright State University, Youngstown State University and Northeast Ohio Medical University.

The district's offer to a state university may be either or both of the following ways:

- Exchange the property, specifically in an "as-is" condition, in return for agreed-upon, in-kind

*Continued on page 9*

Legislative Report, continued from page 8

services, educational programs or other assistance provided by the university to the district with an aggregate value “reasonably related” to the property’s appraised fair market value;

- For money at a price that is not higher than the property’s appraised fair market value.

If the university does not accept either offer, or if an agreement is not entered into between the district and university within 60 days after the offer is made, the district then must offer the property for sale to start-up charter schools located within the district in the same manner as it would under current law. If there is no state university that has a campus within the district’s territory, the district would proceed directly with an offer of right of first refusal to purchase

the property for charter schools.

HB 381 is currently being considered by the House Education Committee.

### **HB 375 — private/nonprofit institutions**

HB 375, sponsored by Rep. **James Butler Jr.** (R-Dayton), would allow school districts to sell real property to private, nonprofit institutions of higher education. As mentioned earlier, under current law, charter schools located within a district’s territory have the right of first refusal when a school district decides to dispose of real property worth \$10,000 or more.

HB 375 would not give private institutions priority over charter schools. It would simply add private, nonprofit institutions of higher education that hold a certificate of authorization from

the Ohio Board of Regents to the list under current law that allows direct sale of school district property to the adjutant general, state colleges and universities or their branch campuses, political subdivisions, taxing authorities, park commissioners and school library districts.

Therefore, under HB 375, a district could sell property to a private nonprofit institution of higher education only if no charter schools opt to purchase it or if there are no start-up charter schools located in the district.

HB 375 has been reported out of the House Education Committee.

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 Feb. 17.*



## COMMUNICATIONS

by Margaret Peterson, APR, communications consultant

### **Producing a year-end report at little or no cost**

As school districts nationwide find ways to tighten their financial belts, taxpayers continue to expect and demand more accountability. Explaining a multimillion dollar budget to school district patrons unfamiliar with state budget law requirements is a daunting task, especially when faced with little or no funds to do the job.

There’s no single source for communicating in today’s multimedia world. But that’s the good news. With the many audiences that need and want to know how the district is dealing with its budgeted dollars, there needs to be many ways to reach the district’s various audiences. Today’s communication channels

provide several low-cost options.

Here are some examples that might be effective for distributing year-end financial and progress reports for your district.

- **Website:** This is a no-brainer. Make sure the budget information on the district’s website is well-written, focused and free of budget

*Continued on page 10*

and education jargon. Make sure there's an easy way patrons can email questions.

Here are some samples of how school districts created budget Web pages:

■ Salem-Keizer School District, Salem, Ore.: [www.salkeiz.k12.or.us/content/business/budget-information-investor-relations-disclaimer](http://www.salkeiz.k12.or.us/content/business/budget-information-investor-relations-disclaimer)

■ Adams 12 Five Star School District, Thornton, Colo.: [www.adams12.org/en/budget\\_cuts](http://www.adams12.org/en/budget_cuts)

■ Portland Public Schools, Portland, Ore.: [www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/budget/index.htm](http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/budget/index.htm)

■ Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis, Minn.: [http://financeandbudget.mpls.k12.mn.us/budget\\_documents.html](http://financeandbudget.mpls.k12.mn.us/budget_documents.html)

● **Online video:** The Centennial School District in Oregon took a different tactic this year in getting the word out on its budget. Superintendent **Bob McKean** created a video that provided an overview of the budget.

"The video provides a consistent message," said **Wendy Rief**, the district's communication coordinator.

She combined the key points from the superintendent's video with PowerPoint slides and posted the presentation on the district's website. Rief also used the district's staff and community email lists to get the word out. View the video at [www.centennial.k12.or.us/news/Budget1011/video\\_textkeypoints.php](http://www.centennial.k12.or.us/news/Budget1011/video_textkeypoints.php)

● **Facebook:** There's plenty of free

space on Facebook for the year-end financial and progress report. Use video and PowerPoint to present the facts and encourage discussions about the information.

● **Twitter:** Don't forget Twitter. A short message to staff, parents and others who have signed up for school tweets can alert them to the information on your Web and Facebook sites.

● **Newspaper:** The local newspaper is still a major communication tool. Stories the local newspaper runs explaining the school's budget process and adopted budget are still important. But, in addition to the regular newspaper coverage, the local newspaper might create a special section for a year-end report. Consider trying to find local business sponsors to help pay for the special edition.

● **Presentation to local civic and senior citizen groups:** Face-to-face communication has not been replaced by the new media. Meeting with your local business community, senior groups, key communicators and ministerial associations will never go out of style. Use a PowerPoint and video presentation to tell them about the progress schools have made throughout the year and how the district is spending taxpayer dollars wisely. Bring along some student entertainment, such as a school choir or band ensemble, and show samples of student work, such as artistic creations or science fair projects.

● **School board meetings:** Use the school board and budget

committee meetings as teaching tools. Spotlight student successes and explain how budget dollars are being spent in the classrooms. It's not necessary to wait until the end of the year to tell the community about student successes.

● **Staff:** Remember the district's most-trusted communicators are its teachers and support staff. Use the district's email system and staff email newsletter to get the word out at least monthly. Provide monthly updates on student successes and budget impacts that staff can share with friends, family and neighbors.

● **Key communicators:** Invite community opinion leaders to the schools to see firsthand the progress students have made throughout the year. Bring them in for a meeting with the superintendent and school board at the end of the year to highlight the district's progress.

There's no "once-and-done" method for communications, and certainly not for the district's year-end progress and budget report. Explaining students' progress during a school year and how a multimillion dollar budget is managed calls for multiple messages that use multiple media and are delivered through as many methods as possible. With today's new media, many of the venues provide communication opportunities at little or no cost.

Source: Oregon School Boards Association





## PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Gary Motz, editorial manager

### Students mark Black History Month with drama, dance

East Liverpool City students celebrated Black History Month with a program of African music and dance. The celebration, at LaCroft Elementary School, also included a historical drama.

Students enjoyed a play by Westgate Middle School fifth- and sixth-graders titled, "Let Freedom Ring." The play focused on key moments in African-American history, ranging from the time of slavery through the civil rights campaigns of the 1950s and 1960s.

The middle schoolers portrayed a slave family's journey to freedom along the Underground Railroad; President **Abraham Lincoln** announcing the Emancipation Proclamation; **Rosa Parks'** refusal to sit at the back of a bus in Montgomery, Ala.; and Dr. **Martin Luther King Jr.'s** "I Have a Dream" speech.

The Harambee Youth Group of Youngstown took the stage after the play to perform traditional African dances to the rhythms of a

Harambee drum circle.

When **Katrina Simms**, senior dance instructor for the group, invited the elementary students to get up and dance, they eagerly joined in. When introducing the dances, Simms taught the children words in Swahili, including harambee, which she said means "let's all do it together."

The Tri-State Black History Museum in East Liverpool sponsored the event.

Source: *The (East Liverpool) Review*



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

compiled by Angela Penquite, communication design manager

### Rewarding acts of kindness

Red Robin's U-ACT program, which stands for Unbridled Acts, is a character-building initiative specifically for K-eight schools that aims to inspire and energize students about the value of being kind to others. Participating schools will be asked to submit an idea for a kindness program to the foundation for a chance to earn from \$150 to \$2,500. At the end of the 2011-12 school year, one school will be named the champion school. **Maximum awards:** a \$5,000 grant

for the champion school

**Eligibility:** elementary, middle and junior high schools (grades K-eight)

**Deadline:** March 31

**Contact:** [www.redrobin.com/rrfoundation/uactprogram.aspx](http://www.redrobin.com/rrfoundation/uactprogram.aspx)

### Grants to develop programs that increase student learning

The McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation offers grants designed to develop in-class and extracurricular programs that improve student learning. The foundation considers proposals

that foster understanding, deepen students' knowledge and provide opportunities to expand awareness of the world around them.

**Maximum awards:** \$10,000

**Eligibility:** educators employed by schools with the background and experience to complete the project successfully and who have direct and regular contact with students in grades pre-K to 12 from low-income households

**Deadline:** April 15

**Contact:** [www.mccartheydressman.org/academic.html](http://www.mccartheydressman.org/academic.html)

## 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.*
- 2 Involving the public in facilities planning webinar
- 6 Primary/special election day — RC 3501.01
- 6 Southeast Region Spring Conference..... Ironton
- 7 Northeast Region Spring Conference..... Rittman
- 8 Southeast Region Spring Conference..... Crooksville
- 9 SchoolComp Workers' Compensation Workshop ..... Athens
- 13 Southwest Region Spring Conference..... Cincinnati
- 14 SchoolComp Workers' Compensation Workshop ..... Findlay
- 15 SchoolComp Workers' Compensation Workshop ..... Rootstown
- 15 OSBA Northwest Region Spring Conference..... Milan
- 21 Central Region Spring Conference..... Columbus

- 22 SchoolComp Workers' Compensation Workshop ..... Cincinnati
- 23 OSBA Special Education Law Workshop ..... Worthington
- 27 SchoolComp Workers' Compensation Workshop ..... Columbus
- 28 OSBA State Legislative Conference..... Columbus
- 29 School boards and booster groups: Avoid and address issues webinar
- 31 *Last day to take action to nonrenew contracts of administrators other than superintendent and treasurer — RC 3319.02.*

## April 2012

- 10 OSBA Southwest Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... Springfield
- 12 OSBA Student Achievement Leadership Team meeting..... Columbus
- 13-14 OSBA Board Leadership Institute..... Columbus
- 15 *Last day for certain board members and administrators to file financial disclosure forms with the Ohio Ethics Commission — RC 102.02.*
- 18 OSBA Management Development Series #1..... Columbus
- 21-23 NSBA Annual Conference ..... Boston

- 30 *Last day to submit certification for August income tax levy to Ohio Department of Taxation — RC 5748.02(A) (100 days prior to the election); last day to take action on and give written notice of intent not to re-employ teachers — RC 3319.11(D) (1); and nonteaching employees — RC 4141.29(I)(1)(e).*

## May 2012

- 2 Small School District Advisory Network Meeting..... Columbus
- 4 *Last day to submit August emergency or current operating expenses levy to county auditor for August election — RC 5705.194, 5705.213 (95 days prior to the election).*
- 6 OSBA Southeast Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... Zanesville
- 9 *Last day for school district to file resolution of necessity, resolution to proceed and auditor's certification for bond levy with board of elections for August election — RC 133.18(D); last day for county auditor to certify school district bond levy terms for August election — RC 133.18(C); last day to submit continuing replacement, permanent improvement or operating levy for August election to board of elections — RC 5705.192, 5705.21, 5705.25;*