

BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



OSBA welcomes new school board members as they begin their terms

OSBA congratulates the hundreds of new school board members whose terms began Jan. 1. As you will learn from your new board colleagues, OSBA is the state's premier provider of school board training, assistance and services. It is the only organization in Ohio with the expertise to help you successfully perform your board duties, boost student achievement and save your district money. To learn more, visit OSBA's website at www.ohioschoolboards.org. That site also has a section designed specifically for new school board members at www.ohioschoolboards.org/new-board-members. And, be sure to check out the February issue of the Journal magazine, which will be filled with tips, resources and advice for new board members.

School Board Recognition Month honors year-round commitment

Serving as a school board member can sometimes be a thankless job, but not this month. That's because January is School Board Recognition Month in Ohio. Each January, school districts and communities statewide honor their board members for their year-round commitment to Ohio's 1.7 million public schoolchildren. This year's theme is "School boards lead so students can achieve." OSBA also is dedicating this month to recognizing Ohio's nearly 3,500 board members by sending districts personalized certificates for each board member and offering an online resource kit with ideas for honoring them at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/52515>.

It's time to start planning Black History Month activities

February is Black History Month, a time for the nation to reflect on and recognize the contributions and accomplishments of millions of African-Americans. Following are some web resources to help schools incorporate Black History Month lessons into classroom curriculum and other activities: www.nea.org/tools/lessons/black-history-month.htm; www.infoplease.com/black-history-month; <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/32201>; and <https://asalh.org/black-history-themes>.

Southwest Ohio board member takes office as 2018 OSBA president

Randy Smith, Forest Hills Local (Hamilton), became OSBA's 63rd president on Jan. 1. Smith, who has served on the Forest Hills board since 2004, has held numerous state and regional leadership roles with OSBA and represented the association in Washington, D.C., as part of the association's Federal Relations Network. In addition, his commitment to professional development and service has earned him multiple OSBA Awards of Achievement and the Master Board Member award, a lifetime distinction. The awards recognize board members' commitment to learning and leadership.

Jan. 8, 2018

Volume 49 Issue 1

Contents

More news.....	2
<i>OSBA Southwest Region seeking awards nominations; Reminder: Jan. 19 is Award of Achievement deadline; Updated records retention schedule now available; OSBA online</i>	
Bulletin Board.....	3
Information.....	4
Communications...	5
Public Schools Work!	7

Route workshop information to:

- ☐ Administrators
- ☐ Business managers
- ☐ New board members

OSBA Southwest Region seeking awards nominations

The OSBA Southwest Region will honor outstanding staff and board members at its Spring Conference, set for March 13 in Lebanon. The region is accepting nominations for outstanding administrators, classified staff, faculty members, treasurers, superintendents, community/public relations professionals and school board members from a neighboring district. Nominees for outstanding community business leaders also are being sought. Nomination forms were mailed to superintendents and are available at www.ohioschoolboards.org/southwest-region under "Resources." The nomination deadline is Feb. 9.

Reminder: Jan. 19 is Award of Achievement deadline

The deadline to apply for OSBA's Award of Achievement is

Singing custodian spreads cheer among students

The smooth sounds of his voice carry through the hallways of **Steubenville City's** Pugliese West Elementary School every morning.

Custodian **Wilber Knight**, who's worked in the district for 22 years, delivers joy to staff and students with his lovely singing voice.

"I love the kids. I love seeing them smile and seeing them happy," he told a national news network.

Knight's talents have gone viral. A video of him signing "Happy Birthday" to a fellow co-worker received more than 4,000 views on Facebook, prompting the district to produce more videos. He even appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America" last month.

Source: ABC News Radio

Jan. 19. The application is available at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/43085>. See page 4 for award details. Members can confirm the OSBA committees they have served on and workshops they've attended by visiting the OSBA website and logging into their account.

Updated records retention schedule now available

The Ohio History Connection has posted an updated model retention schedule template for school districts. It identifies records that districts commonly create and offers suggestions for how long to keep them. The schedule is posted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/39350>. School district records commissions are not required to make updates to their records retention schedule (RC-2) just because there is a new template.

OSBA online

● www.ohioschoolboards.org

OSBA offers free informational webinars on a variety of topics. If you would like to register for an upcoming free webinar, visit the events section of the OSBA website at www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops. Previous webinars that have been recorded are available at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/19770>.



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

OSBA President: **Randy Smith**, Forest Hills Local (Hamilton)

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

Editor: **Gary Motz**, senior editorial manager

Managing editor, layout and design: **Angela Penquite**, senior communication design manager

Assistant editor: **Scott Gerfen**, communication manager

A one-year subscription to Briefcase is \$130 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. 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.

© 2018, Ohio School Boards Association; all rights reserved

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



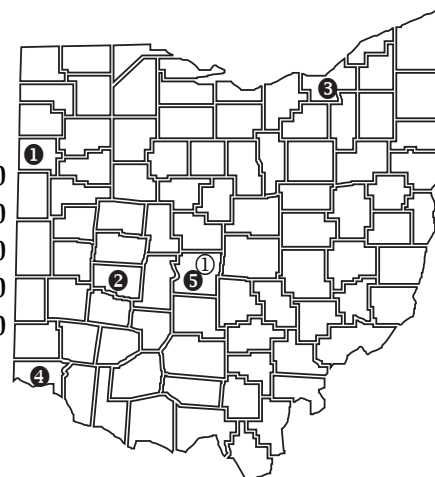
BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, senior administrative assistant of communication services

OSBA executive searches

Superintendent

District	Deadline	Contact
① Van Wert City	Jan. 24	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
② Clark-Shawnee Local (Clark)	Jan. 25	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
③ Lakewood City	Jan. 29	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
④ Loveland City	Jan. 29	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
⑤ Ohio State School for the Blind	TBD	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



Treasurer

District	Deadline	Contact
① Westerville City	Feb. 5	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000

Other positions

Position	District	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Orange City	Feb. 1	www.hyasearch.com

National searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent-principal	Thorp, Wash.	Feb. 6	McPherson & Jacobson LLC, (888) 375-4814

Board changes

Canton City Board of Education member **Corey Minor Smith** announced her resignation effective Dec. 11. She was elected to the Canton City Council. ●●● Conneaut Area City appointed **Christopher Bartone** to the board effective Dec. 11. He replaced **Christopher Newcomb**, who resigned. ●●● Perkins Local (Erie) appointed **Ted Kastor** and **Scott Hart** to the board effective Dec. 13. Kastor replaced **Andrew Carroll**, who resigned due to moving out of the district. Hart was appointed to fill a vacant seat. ●●● Seneca East Local (Seneca) Board of Education member **Steven E. Albright** announced his resignation effective Dec. 18. ●●● Trotwood-Madison City Board of Education member **Adrienne Heard** announced her resignation effective Dec. 31.

Editor's note

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

Administrative changes

Superintendents

Danbury Local (Ottawa) hired **Cari Lynn Buehler** as superintendent effective July 1. She will replace **Daniel P. Parent**, who is retiring. Buehler currently is the high school principal at Genoa Area Local (Ottawa). ●●● Mason City hired **Jonathan Cooper** as superintendent effective July 1.

He will replace Dr. **Gail Kist-Kline**, who is retiring. Cooper currently is the district's chief innovation officer. ●●● **Shaker Heights City Superintendent Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings Jr.** announced his resignation effective June 30. ●●● **Trotwood-Madison City Superintendent Kevin A. Bell** announced his retirement effective Dec. 31.

Treasurers

Loudonville-Perryville EV Treasurer Marie Beddow announced her retirement effective April 1. ●●● **Niles City** hired **Lori Hudzik** as treasurer effective Jan. 1. She replaced **Linda C. Molinaro**, who retired.

Sympathies

Former **Edison Local (Jefferson) and Northern Local (Perry) Superintendent Harry A. Swartzlander Jr.** died Dec. 7. He was 87. ●●● Former **Indian Hill EV Board of Education member Bruce I. Petrie Sr.** died Dec. 6. He was 91. ●●● **Madge Elaine "Peg" Shock**, treasurer at the former **Mercer County Board of Education**, died Dec. 6. She was 88. ●●● Former **Midview Local (Lorain) Board of Education member Frank Richmond Schubert Jr.** died Dec. 5. He was 86. ●●● Former **Western Reserve Local (Huron) Board of Education member George Van Dootingh** died Dec. 13. He was 83. ●●● Former **Yellow Springs EV Board of Education member Priscilla Janney-Pace** died Dec. 6. She was 72.



INFORMATION

by Angela Penquite, managing editor

Award of Achievement application due Jan. 19

Do you spend extra hours improving your boardmanship skills? Do you attend workshops and conferences that let you learn from the experts and network with other board members? Do you faithfully serve your home board?

Did you know that you might be eligible for the OSBA Award of Achievement and Master Board Member awards?

OSBA rewards Ohio public school board members for their dedicated service to their boards, as well as their work to strengthen their boardmanship skills. The OSBA Award of Achievement and Master Board Member awards honor these board members by recognizing their accomplishments.

Board members can earn points

for attending OSBA workshops; serving as the president of their home boards; serving on a JVSD board; attending OSBA region events; and serving as a delegate, OSBA officer or committee member.

The Award of Achievement is a special distinction available only to Ohio school board members from OSBA member districts. Board members earning 100 points within a two-year period are eligible for the Award of Achievement. The credits must have been accumulated between January 2016 and December 2017. In-service and special activity credit values are listed on the application.

Excess credits submitted may not be carried over for other Awards of Achievement but may

be used toward the Master Board Member Award. That recognition, a lifetime distinction, is given to those leaders who earn 300 Award of Achievement credits over a four-year period.

The application deadline is Jan. 19. Download an application at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/43085>. Award winners will be notified after the application is verified and awards will be presented at the spring region conferences.

Board members can confirm the OSBA committees they have served on and workshops they've attended by visiting the OSBA website (www.ohioschoolboards.org). Log in, then click on "My

Continued on page 5



Board Member 101: Survival kit for your first 90 days in office

School boardmanship is more complex and demanding than ever. High-quality board member education, designed specifically for newly elected board members, can help you become a more effective educational leader in your community. By focusing on your first 90 days in office, experienced OSBA staff will provide direction as you start your boardmanship journey. Learn about the important aspects of board work, frequently asked legal questions, how board policies help you govern your district and how to be an effective advocate for your students.

Details: These academies are offered over two weekends in four locations:

Jan. 20-21 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Miamisburg, or Hilton Garden Inn, Perrysburg

Jan. 27-28 at the Embassy Suites, Columbus, or Embassy Suites, Independence

Cost: \$255, which includes breakfast and lunch each day, workshop materials and four books: "Boardmanship," "Board-Treasurer Partnership," "Board-Superintendent Partnership" and "Board-Legislature Partnership."

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

Agenda

Saturday

- 8 a.m. Registration and breakfast**
- 9 a.m. Welcome and overview**
- 9:15 a.m. Understanding OSBA's five regions**
Discover activities taking place near you and meet your regional manager, your guide for regional events.
- 9:45 a.m. Boardmanship: What it's really all about**
Delve into the most important aspects of board work, your role as a board member and best practices for success as a new member of your board of education.
- 10:45 a.m. Boardmanship: Conduct and culture**
Learn strategies for working with your fellow board members and contributing to a strong, cohesive leadership team.
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch**
- 12:30 p.m. Frequently asked legal questions and available legal resources**
An OSBA attorney will provide answers and insight into the most common legal questions asked by new board members.
- 2:30 p.m. Hot topics and legal issues**
Hear timely information on critical legal issues facing today's school boards.
- 4:30 p.m. Networking and refreshments**

Sunday

- 8 a.m. Breakfast**
- 9 a.m. Why legislation and advocacy are so important**
Whether you like it or not, your district is affected by political leaders in Columbus, so your voice needs to be heard. Explore ways even a small district can help "educate" the legislature.
- 11 a.m. The OSBA website and your OSBA staff liaison: Your best resources**
Review the abundance of information right at your fingertips.
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch**
- 12:30 p.m. Video scenarios and audience discussion**
Watch two videos and apply what you've learned to stay on the right path.
- 1:15 p.m. Governing through policy: A framework for success**
A district's policies are its armor, protecting it in situations where subjectivity isn't the right approach.
- 3:15 p.m. District goal setting: How else do you know where you're going?**
Boards of education need to keep their district's vision in sight at all times and stay focused on the big picture to govern appropriately.
- 3:45 p.m. Questions/adjour**



This workshop is Stop 1 in the 2018 New Board Member Passport. The passport includes six workshops that expose you to topics that are important to new board members in their first year. Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/passport to learn more.



Veteran board members and board officers serve critical leadership roles in their districts. Unfortunately, too many veteran board members believe on-the-job training is all they need to responsibly lead the board. Whether you are in your fourth year or your 14th, staying current is crucial to you and a benefit to your district. These workshops, created with board officers and veteran board members in mind, will present the tools you need to improve your boardmanship skills and effectively lead your district.

Details: These workshops are offered during two weekends in four locations:

Feb. 3, at the OSBA office in Columbus or Hilton Garden Inn in Findlay

Feb. 10, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Miamisburg or Northeast Ohio Medical University in Rootstown

Cost: \$180, which includes breakfast and lunch, workshop materials and the “Board Presidents’ Guidebook.”

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

Agenda

8 a.m.	Registration and breakfast
9 a.m.	The collaborative leader: Facilitating consensus and teamwork Managing difficult decisions and finding a way to meet the needs and expectations of everyone on your leadership team isn’t easy but is critical to success.
10:15 a.m.	Policy hot topics Learn how new legislation and budget priorities will affect your policies in the next year and be prepared for the changes that will be required.
11:15 a.m.	The board and social media When a crisis happens or when the news media writes a story you didn’t expect, you need to be ready. Responding appropriately and efficiently and ensuring that everyone is “singing from the same songbook” is important. Also learn how to use social media to create your own good news.
Noon	Lunch
12:45 p.m.	Transportation hot topics The latest budget bill included several key items greatly affecting school transportation. Learn about the changes and hear suggestions to help others in your district understand them and mitigate their potential impact on your district’s bottom line.
1:45 p.m.	Ethics issues There sometimes is a difference between what is right and what is legal. Learn the distinction between ethical standards and legal obligations and discuss the consequences when those responsibilities are interrupted.
2:30 p.m.	Open meetings and parliamentary procedure Review how to comply with Ohio’s Open Meeting Act and “Robert’s Rules of Order” to run lawful, efficient and effective school board meetings.
3:45 p.m.	Wrap-up and adjourn

OSBA MASTER OF TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION (MTA) PROGRAM

The 2017-18 MTA workshops will help those involved in student transportation better understand and perform day-to-day operations.

These half-day workshops — offered from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — include a working lunch and time for questions. Each class is scheduled twice; participants may sign up for either session. Each class is \$95, or you can purchase an MTA subscription for the workshop series; contact **Diana Paulins**, OSBA senior administrative assistant of policy services, for subscription information. All workshops will be at the OSBA office, 8050 N. High St., Columbus, OH, 43235. Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/transportation-training-programs to learn about the MTA certification program.



Workshop dates and descriptions

Feb. 7 or 14 — The transportation handbook

Guidelines and procedures are essential and can be the manager's best friend. Discuss the handbook development process, what to include in the handbook and how to keep it current.

April 4 or 11 — Public relations and working with the media

Experience a "live interview" process to learn how to develop talking points and stay on target in an interview. Also learn how to build proactive media relationships.

May 2 or 9 — Designing your operational plan and building keys for success

Review how to put the operational plan together, including timelines and how to schedule or delegate projects. Discover how building support networks and stakeholder groups are key to your success.

For questions about the program or to register, contact **Diana Paulins** at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or mta@ohioschoolboards.org.



School Finance 101: What Board Members Should Know

Thursday, Feb. 22 at the OSBA office in Columbus

School finance is a complicated subject. As board members, it is important to know the basics. Learn from the experts about state and local funding, levies and five-year forecasts. Become your district's expert and find out how to access data and what questions to ask.

Cost is \$160, which includes materials, lunch and refreshments. For registration, contact **Laurie Miller** at (614) 540-4000; (800) 589-OSBA; or Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org.

This workshop is Stop 2 in the 2018 New Board Member Passport. The passport includes six workshops that expose you to topics that are important to new board members in their first year. Visit

www.ohioschoolboards.org/passport to learn more.





WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

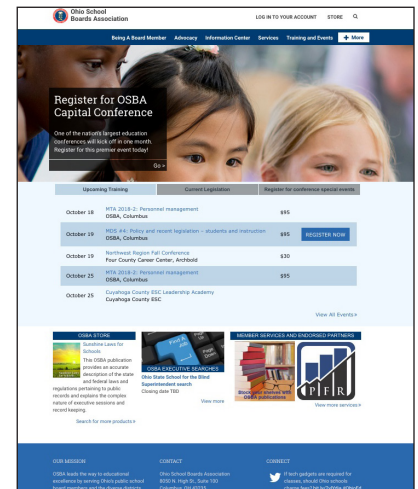
Register at www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops

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

How to log in

Click on “Log in to your account” on top right of website. Log in using your email address on file and your password. Click “Reset your password” if needed.

If this is your first time logging in to the site, click “Create new account.” At the username prompt, enter your email address, select your affiliation and school district, and click “Submit.” Create a password and add your job title on the next screen. An email with a link to activate your account will be sent to your email address on file. Click on the link to activate your account, and you will be directed to a home screen.



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, with beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m. While there is no fee, registration is requested to accommodate those attending.

You can register on the Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) website at www.oasbo-ohio.org or by calling (614) 431-9116.

Dates and locations:

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

- Monday, Feb. 26
Hilton Garden Inn, Miamisburg
- Thursday, March 1
Hilton Garden Inn, Perrysburg
- Friday, March 2
Northeast Ohio Medical University, Rootstown
- Monday, March 12
Ohio University Inn and Conference Center, Athens
- Tuesday, March 13
OASBO office, Columbus

Information, continued from page 4

Account” at the top right of the page to see a list of workshops attended, upcoming training and committees and roles. Click “Reset your password” if needed.

If this is your first time logging in to the site, click “Create new

account.” At the username prompt, enter your email address, select your affiliation and school district, and click “Submit.” Create a password and add your job title on the next screen. An email with a link to activate your account will

be sent to your email address on file. Click on the link to activate your account, and you will be directed to a home screen.

If you have questions, contact **Judy Morgan** at (614) 540-4000 or jmorgan@ohioschoolboards.org.



COMMUNICATIONS

by Jay Remy, communications director, Salem-Keizer Public Schools, Ore.

Media tips for board members

School board members walk a fine line when it comes to communicating about district operations and issues. Constituents and the media expect them to hold the district accountable, while the administration expects them to be allies and advocates. So, how can a board member be fair and supportive at the same time in meetings and media interviews?

Tough and respectful

In this era of TV talk show hosts yelling at each other, it may seem that officials who conduct respectful debates are soft on the issues. Talk show fans give kudos to their favorite hosts and guests for calling it like they see it. It could be tempting for a board member to follow suit and prove their mettle by taking off the kid gloves and taking the district down a peg. A misguided board member might think that taking a verbally rougher approach will prove they

do not rubber-stamp everything the district staff recommends.

Board members set the tone for how the media and community talk about the district. The whole community will benefit if the district is held in high regard during even the hardest debates. The goal for board members should be to remain respectful while still fulfilling their role in supervising the administration.

The key is to question data, decisions and processes. Those are fair game. But board members should avoid questioning the integrity or competence of their colleagues and district staff unless they are truly addressing a crisis of trust. Integrity and competence should not be questioned casually during other business. Those traits should only be questioned as part of a purposeful process and, likely, only in executive session. Ongoing, unofficial public questioning of integrity and competence only

undermines the effectiveness of everyone involved in the district.

Even the toughest board members are generally very supportive of the district. But too often, the wrong choice of words can unintentionally convey a lack of trust in the motives or effectiveness of staff. A careful board member can be tough as nails without ever making staff or other board members feel defensive or insulted.

Attack issues, not people

When ideas are questioned, decisions are stronger. When people are attacked, good decisions become almost impossible and support for the district is eroded. Decisions are better when board members consider input from many sources.

Diversity of opinion cannot be punished when it occurs, or it will go underground. Board members

Continued on page 6

Communications, continued from page 5

who feel unsafe sharing their opinions in public may start sharing them in the parking lot, checkout line or letters to the editor. When the staff feels attacked, employees will withhold valuable input to avoid being embarrassed.

Ask the tough questions. But do not insult or intimidate the people to whom you are asking the questions. It is too easy to criticize someone by pure accident or frustration. The good news is that with a little forethought, it is equally easy to preserve everyone's dignity and go hard at the issues.

It's not you, it's me

The best way to keep the focus on the issues is for board members to communicate about themselves, not their colleagues or staff. For instance, one should say, "I am not sure I understand" rather than "you are not making sense." Or, "I need a little more data before I can decide" rather than "You did not provide us with enough information."

Pointing out someone else's

misstep creates an atmosphere of defensiveness and hostility. Pointing out one's own deficiencies invites others to help. Which fosters a better atmosphere? "I still cannot see why this is the best way to go" versus "You still have not made your case to my satisfaction."

If a board member has not had enough time to review his or her packet of materials he or she could say, "I was not able to read my materials until this afternoon, and I need more time on this issue." But if the board member were to communicate carelessly about it, that could convey the impression he or she is accusing district staff of incompetence or lack of integrity.

If the board member says, "Staff didn't send out the materials until just before the meeting," it could indicate that district staff was either too inefficient to get the materials prepared. There may need to be a private discussion with staff about getting materials out earlier, but it does not need to happen in a public forum, which could undermine the reputation of

district staff.

Avoiding media traps

The news media are under no obligation to make sure you do not impugn staff or other board members. In fact, it makes a more compelling headline if you are heard blasting someone you are supposed to be teammates with. Media thrive on conflict, and that is fine as long as the conflict is between ideas, not between the board and staff.

A common media tactic is to quote someone on the other side of the issue and ask you to comment by offering a question with a personal angle, such as, "Don't you think the superintendent is being a little short-sighted by suggesting this?" or "Does it seem like the people on the other side of this issue are being a bit selfish?" Of course, the reporter is hoping you will answer in a way that emphasizes interpersonal conflict, but the best course is to stay focused on the issues, not the opponents. In

Continued on page 7

SchoolComp Safety Seminar



Tuesday, Jan. 30
OASBO office, Columbus

Cost: \$160
9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This workshop qualifies as four hours of Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation safety training for districts that are required to meet the yearly safety training requirement. Topics include disaster preparedness and using school resources such as buses during a disaster.

You do not have to be a participant in the SchoolComp Group Rating or Retro Rating programs to attend this seminar. You can register on the Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) website at www.oasbo-ohio.org or by calling (614) 431-9116.



PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

Girls in Pearls mentorship program inspires leadership

Once a month, approximately 30 second-grade girls at **Canal Winchester Local's (Franklin)** Indian Trail Elementary School wear their best attire, complete with pearl necklaces.

Volunteer female mentors teach them lessons and discuss topics from the book, "50 Things Every Young Lady Should Know: What to Do, What to Say and How to Behave."

"It's fun to go to," 7-year-old student **Kaylenn Faulker** told a

local newspaper. "I get to wear a nice outfit, and you have to wear your pearls with it."

Girls in Pearls is similar to the Guys in Ties program. The girls distinguish themselves as future district and community leaders. Teachers and staff nominate girls to the after-school program based on their leadership potential.

Students are taught character traits, such as respect, responsibility and dignity,

according to school counselor **Stavroula Soulas**.

"As a little girl, I wish I had the opportunity to join a club like this that had me learn from my mentors and some high school girls," she said. "Girls in Pearls will help make a difference in our young ladies to prepare them for all situations in their lives."

Soulas also hopes the program helps the girls grow academically.

Source: ThisWeek Community News

Communications, continued from page 6

fact, a good reminder to yourself can be part of the quote: "I like to stay focused on issues, not personalities, so I will say this ..."

Another reporter tactic is to set up a virtual confrontation by asking, "What would you say to the people who are critical of your position?" or "What would you say to someone who claims you are simply serving your own interests?" This approach simulates a confrontation with someone who isn't even there. If you take the bait, it allows the media to edit your remarks to amplify the conflict and minimize the cooperation that exists. A good way to avoid the "What would you say to someone who said ..."

trap is to begin with "I would tell anybody the same thing: I favor this idea because ..." By so doing, you redirect back to your position and away from a conflict.

Take your time and get the information

Most board members have jobs and lives outside of the board room. Sooner or later, most of them will get a media call at home or work.

Reporters have deadlines, but you have rights. So, when you are surprised by a media call, take a breath, ask what they need to discuss with you and offer to call them back within 30 minutes. Reporters cannot expect you to be

ready immediately to discuss board issues when you are in work or family mode. Before returning the call, talk to the district administration and other board members to see if they have gotten similar questions. It is good to have a unified message or at least a coordinated approach to offering separate opinions.

Board members are in a unique position as guardians of taxpayer investment and advocates for students and educators. By keeping the debate focused on the issues and not individuals, board members fulfill those roles and set the tone for the community.

Source: Washington State School Directors' Association

January

- 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).*
- 20-21 Board Member 101: Survival kit for your first 90 days in officePerrysburg
- 20-21 Board Member 101: Survival kit for your first 90 days in officeMiamisburg
- 20 *Last day for boards of education to submit fiscal tax-year budget to county auditor — RC 5705.30.*
- 27-28 Board Member 101: Survival kit for your first 90 days in office Columbus
- 27-28 Board Member 101: Survival kit for your first 90 days in office Independence
- 29 *Last day to submit certification for May income tax levy to Ohio Department of Taxation — RC 5748.02(A) (100 days prior to election)*
- 31 *Deadline for educational service center (ESC) governing boards to meet and organize — RC 3313.14; annual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties (by 4 p.m.)*

detailing contributions and expenditures from the last day reflected in the previous report through Dec. 31, 2017 — RC 3517.10(A)(3).

February

- 2 *Last day to submit May emergency, current operating expenses or conversion levy to county auditor for May election — RC 5705.194, 5705.195, 5705.213, 5705.219 (95 days prior to election).*
- 3 Board Member 201: Mastering your board leadership skills..... Columbus
- 3 Board Member 201: Mastering your board leadership skills..... Findlay
- 7 OSBA Master of Transportation Administration Program: The transportation handbook..... Columbus
- 7 Northeast Region Executive Committee meeting..... Wadsworth
- 7 Southwest Region Executive Committee MeetingFranklin
- 7 *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 May election — RC 133.18(D); last day for county auditor to certify school district bond levy terms for May election — RC 133.18(C); last day to submit continuing replacement, permanent improvement or operating levy*

for May election to board of elections — RC 5705.192, 5705.21, 5705.25; last day to certify resolution for school district income tax levy, conversion levy or renewal of conversion levy for May election to board of elections — RC 5748.02(C), 5705.219(C) and (G); last day to submit emergency levy for May election to board of elections — RC 5705.195; last day to submit phased-in levy or current operating expenses levy for May election to board of elections — RC 5705.251(A) (90 days prior to election).

10 Board Member 201: Mastering your board leadership skills.....Miamisburg

10 Board Member 201: Mastering your board leadership skills..... Rootstown

11 Northwest Region Executive Committee Meeting Lima

11 Southeast Region Executive Committee Meeting Logan

14 OSBA Master of Transportation Administration Program: The transportation handbook..... Columbus

22 School Finance 101: What School Board Members Should Know..... Columbus

26 SchoolComp Workers' Compensation Workshop.....Miamisburg

28 *Deadline for secondary schools to provide information about College Credit Plus to all students enrolled in grades six through 11 — RC 3365.04(A).*