

BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



Federal education officials OK Ohio's NCLB waiver application

The U.S. Department of Education has approved Ohio's request for relief from certain parts of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). The approval means Ohio is no longer subject to many elements of NCLB, including the adequate yearly progress mandate. Instead, Ohio will move to a rigorous new system of rating schools while maintaining aggressive goals to cut performance gaps among socioeconomic groups.

OSBA, Ohio districts participate in national Labor Management Conference

Education leaders from across the nation, including OSBA members and staff, met last month for the U.S. Department of Education Labor Management Conference in Cincinnati. The event focused on ways to strengthen the teaching profession. U.S. Secretary of Education **Arne Duncan** joined other national education leaders to release "Transforming the Teaching Profession," which outlines a vision for recruiting, preparing and supporting teachers. The document is available for download at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/25171>. For photos of some of Ohio's participants, see the OSBA Facebook page at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/56951>.

Over 30 of the state's high schools make *Newsweek's* top 1,000 list

Thirty-five Ohio high schools are among *Newsweek* magazine's "America's Best High Schools 2012." Of those, 10 are ranked in the top 200. **Wyoming City's** Wyoming High School was the highest-ranking Ohio school at 51 on the top 1,000 list. The list is based on a school's four-year graduation rate; college-acceptance rate; number of AP and other high-level exams given per student; average SAT/ACT scores; average AP/college-level test scores; and number of AP courses offered per student. **Columbus City's** Columbus Alternative High School was the only Ohio school named to the Top 25 Transformative High Schools list. Learn more at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/83570>.

OSBA announces Capital Conference General Session speaker

Dr. **Marc Lamont Hill** will speak at the first General Session on Nov. 12 at the 2012 OSBA Capital Conference. Hill, a longtime social justice activist and organizer, is an associate professor and an affiliated faculty member in African-American studies at Columbia University. His research focuses on the intersections of culture, politics and education. The Capital Conference runs Nov. 11-14 in Columbus. For further information, visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/2012-capital-conference.

Deadline extended for Student Achievement Fair nominations

The deadline to nominate student programs for the OSBA Student Achievement Fair has been extended to July 2. The fair presents districts with an outstanding

June 11, 2012

Volume 43 Issue 11

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Route workshop information to:

- ☐ Administrators
- ☐ Assistant treasurers
- ☐ Athletic directors
- ☐ Principals
- ☐ Transportation supervisors

opportunity to showcase their schools during the Capital Conference in November.

Nomination forms are posted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/83521>. For more information, contact OSBA Director of School Board Services **Kathy LaSota** at kLasota@ohioschoolboards.org; (800) 589-OSBA; or (614) 540-4000.

Ex-charter school treasurer facing federal charge

Carl W. Shye Jr., a former treasurer of more than a dozen Ohio charter schools, has been charged with embezzling more than \$470,000 in federal funds between 2005 and 2011 while serving as treasurer at those schools. State Auditor **David Yost**, who has issued multiple findings for recovery against Shye, contacted federal officials after noting a series of questionable audits involving the former charter school official.

Columbiana EV principal goes to jail for fundraiser

A **Columbiana** EV principal recently spent a night in jail as part of an effort to benefit a local police department's DARE program.

The district's schools competed to see which could raise the most money, and the winner sent its principal behind bars. South Side Middle School raised \$170 and its principal, **David Buzzard**, spent a night in a double-bed jail cell. Buzzard said he was happy to give back to the DARE program, which helps the school district.

DARE teaches students to avoid drugs, violence and bullying. **Columbiana** Police Chief **Tim Gladis** said the department has one of the oldest DARE programs in the state. As an added incentive, police said next year's fundraiser will allow schools to send administrators or teachers at other schools to jail.

Source: *The (East Liverpool) Review*

Two Ohio schools receive platinum LEED certification

The Ohio School Facilities Commission said **London City's** London Middle School and **Cincinnati City's** Taft Information Technology High School have earned the prestigious platinum certification from the Leadership

in Energy and Environmental Design program (LEED). They are the first two Ohio schools to receive the U.S. Green Building Council's highest rating.

This month in OSBA history

Craig Gifford, OSBA's fourth executive director, retired in June 1994 after leading the association for 10 years. Gifford, whose OSBA career spanned nearly 25 years, died in 2003 at the age of 70.

OSBA online

● www.ohioschoolboards.org

The *Journal* — OSBA's flagship publication — is available digitally at www.ohioschoolboards.org/Journal. The bimonthly magazine features student achievement stories, association news, innovative articles and reports of interest to Ohio's education management teams. The *Journal* also is archived on the site, giving readers access to past magazines, starting with the February 2012 issue.



Briefcase

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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. 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

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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

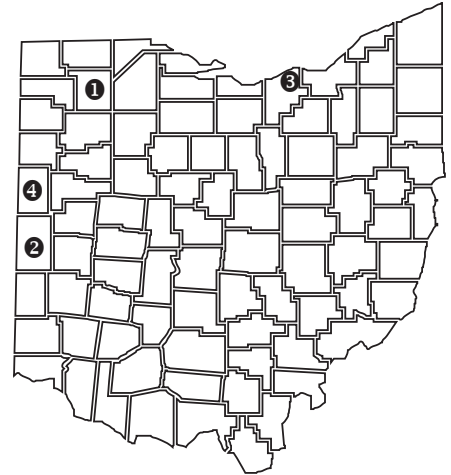
compiled by Melanie Price, administrative assistant of communication services

OSBA executive searches

Superintendent

District	Deadline	Contact
❶ Liberty Center Local (Henry)	June 12	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
❷ Greenville City	June 18	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
❸ Lorain City	June 18	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
❹ Celina City	July 20	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000

❶ = Superintendent



Other searches

Position	District	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Pymatuning Valley Local (Pickaway)	June 21	Kathleen M. Ciminero, supervisor of personnel/grants, Ashtabula County ESC, (440) 576-9023
Treasurer	Logan Elm Local (Pickaway)	June 15	John A. Edgar, superintendent, Logan Elm Local, (740) 474-7501
Kirkersville Elementary School principal	Southwest Licking Local (Licking)	June 15	Personnel department, Southwest Licking Local, pdavis@laca.org
Pataskala Elementary School principal	Southwest Licking Local (Licking)	June 15	Personnel department, Southwest Licking Local, pdavis@laca.org

Board changes

Carey EV appointed **Greg McCartney** to the board effective May 14. He replaced **Brian Will**, who resigned. ●●● Chesapeake Union EV appointed **Carl Lilly** to the board effective May 21. He replaced **Jerry Osborne**, who resigned in April. ●●● Fairview Park City Board of Education member **Brad Lamb** announced his resignation effective May 15. He moved out of the district. ●●● Felicity-Franklin Local (Clermont) Board of Education member **Laura A. Lowe** announced her resignation effective May 21. She is moving out of the district. ●●● Plain Local (Stark) appointed **Eugene Cazantzes** to the board effective May 16. He replaced **Nicholas Campanelli**, who resigned. ●●● Ridgewood Local (Coshocton) Board of Education member **Leroy Bethel** announced his resignation effective immediately. ●●● Solon City appointed **John Heckman** to the board effective May 17. He replaced **Dorothy Seibert**, who resigned in May.

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

Arcanum-Butler Local (Darke) hired **John Stephens** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Joe Scholler**, who is retiring effective July 31. Stephens is currently the district's elementary principal. ●●● **Bradford EV** hired **David A. Warvel** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Jeffrey M. Patrick**, who resigned to take the superintendent position at **Franklin-Monroe Local (Darke)**. Warvel is currently the high school principal at **Fort Loramie Local (Shelby)**. ●●● **Deer Park Community City** Superintendent **Kimberlee A. Gray** announced her retirement effective July 31. ●●● **Gahanna-Jefferson City** hired **Francis R. Scruci** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Mark White**, who is resigning. Scruci is currently the superintendent at **Wellington EV**. ●●● **Indian Hill EV** hired **Mark Miles** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Dr. **Jane R. Knudson**, who is retiring in July. Miles is currently the

deputy superintendent for Park Hill School District in Kansas City, Mo. ●●● **River Valley Local (Marion)** Superintendent **Thomas G. Shade** announced his retirement effective on or before Aug. 1, 2013. ●●● **Rolling Hills Local (Guernsey)** hired **Ryan Caldwell** as superintendent effective Aug. 2. He will replace **Dalton Summers**, who took the superintendent position at **River View Local (Coshocton)**. Caldwell is currently the superintendent at **Conotton Valley Union Local (Harrison)**. ●●● **South Point Local (Lawrence)** hired **Mark Christian** as superintendent effective August 1, 2013. He will replace **Kennith Cook**, who is retiring July 31, 2013. Christian is currently the district's assistant superintendent. ●●● **Southwest Licking (Licking)** hired **Robert T. Jennell** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Forest Yocum**, who is retiring. Jennell is currently the superintendent at **Columbus Grove Local (Putnam)**. ●●● **Williamsburg Local (Clermont)** hired **Matthew Earley** as superintendent Aug. 1. He will replace **Jeff Weir**, who has taken a superintendent position at **Clermont County ESC**. Earley is a high school principal at **Clermont Northeastern Local (Clermont)**. ●●● **Canton City** hired **Adrian E. Allison** as assistant superintendent effective immediately. Allison previously was a senior executive director for the Ohio Department of Education's Center for Accountability and Continuous Improvement. ●●● **Heath City** Assistant Superintendent **James Forgrave** announced his retirement effective July 31. The district hired **Trevor Thomas** as assistant superintendent effective Aug. 1.

OSBA webinars

*Learning delivered
to your computer*



Learn about issues relevant to public education through OSBA's webinars. All you need is a telephone and computer to participate. To register for these webinars, contact **Laurie Miller** at (800) 589-OSBA, (614) 540-4000 or Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org. You also can register by visiting www.ohioschoolboards.org/event_listing.

Sticks and stones: bullying at school and online

Tuesday, July 17, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. ● Cost is \$35
Bullying continues to be a hot topic in education, as school districts are frequently asked to intervene and address bullying that occurs both in school settings and online. This webinar will focus on the legal and policy issues relating to bullying and provide a suggested framework that districts may follow when they receive a bullying complaint.

Annual in-service requirements

Monday, July 23, 1:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. ● Cost is \$35
Get the information you need on in-service requirements, all in one place. The OSBA legal services staff will walk you through the requirements and offer helpful handouts.

School safety and security assessment

Tuesday, Aug. 7, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ● Free webinar
Assessment is critical in educating children. It is no less critical in the practices we implement to protect our students, staff and facilities. This webinar will focus on the critical considerations necessary for any safety assessment.

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Bulletin Board, continued from page 4

Treasurers

Canton Local (Stark) hired **Jason Schatzel** as treasurer effective Aug. 1. He will replace **A. Michael Bichsel**, who is retiring. Schatzel is currently the treasurer at **Minerva Local (Stark)**. ●●● **Midview Local (Lorain)** hired **Nicole L. Spriggs** as treasurer effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Floyd Parsson**, who is retiring. Spriggs currently is the treasurer at **Edison Local (Erie)**. ●●● **McDonald Local (Trumbull)** hired **William A. Johnson** as interim treasurer effective Aug. 1. He will replace Interim Treasurer **Lori Simeone**. Johnson is currently the treasurer at **Youngstown City**. ●●● **Princeton City** hired **Amy Twarek** as treasurer effective Aug. 1. She will replace **James M. Rowan**, who resigned in March. Twarek is currently the treasurer at **Upper Valley Career Center**. ●●● **Wayne County Schools Career Center** hired **Mary Workman** as treasurer effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Jeffrey T. Slutz**, who is retiring. Workman is currently the treasurer at **Cloverleaf Local (Medina)**. ●●● **Whitehall City** hired **Stephen E. McAfee** as treasurer effective Aug. 13. He will replace **Timothy J. Penton**, who took the treasurer position at **Lakewood City**. McAfee is currently the treasurer at **Logan Elm Local (Pickaway)**.

Sympathies

Former **Bellaire Local (Belmont)** Board of Education member **William J. "Butch" Dunaway Jr.** died May 21. He was 64. ●●● Former **Franklin City** Board of Education member **Gene Gipson Bonny Sr.** died May 24. He was 82. ●●● **Harold Marvin "Marve" Wilds**, who served as superintendent in the former **Hartford, Liberty** and **Newberry** school systems in Northeast Ohio, died May 11. He was 90. ●●● **Clarence Ray Smith**, a former member of the **Lakota Local (Sandusky)** and former **Sandusky County** boards of education, died May 19. He was 89. ●●● Former **Washington Local (Lucas)** Treasurer and Assistant Superintendent **Richard Lieb** died April 26. He was 78. ●●● **Alton C. "Al" Smith**, a member of the former **Westwood** School District Board of Education in Wood County, died May 22. He was 90.



NEWS

by Bryan Bullock, communication coordinator

Help lead OSBA, help impact Ohio schools

Ohio school board members govern their districts and shape their communities. They have the opportunity to make decisions that impact schools across the state by getting involved with OSBA leadership.

Members set the association's policies and guide OSBA forward through statewide and regional leadership roles. The work of these dedicated board members helps all OSBA member districts. Their

leadership ensures the association meets the needs of its members and continues to provide the services and representation they expect.

Through involvement with OSBA leadership, members have the chance to share their perspective on challenges and opportunities facing public education in Ohio — and work with peers to address them. Many current regional and statewide

committee members say their leadership roles offer a better perspective of statewide educational issues and give them the chance to network with board members in their region and state.

Each year OSBA sends out a "Call for Nominations," asking board members to take on roles in the association. Some of these roles are as simple as meeting once at the Capital Conference to review

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the rules governing the Delegate Assembly. Some require you to attend meetings in your region. Others are more involved, requiring attendance at both regional and OSBA Board of Trustee meetings. Whatever amount of time you have to commit, there is a role for you with OSBA.

The “Call for Nominations” was recently mailed to all board members. This publication outlines the procedure for nominating an individual and includes an official nomination form. Individuals must be nominated by a board of education or board member. The

forms are returned to the OSBA regional manager, then the region’s nominating committee reviews them and develops a slate of candidates for the elected offices to be voted upon at the regions’ fall conferences. Members who aren’t chosen as candidates may be considered for committee appointments near the end of the year.

All board members are encouraged to seek a nomination. A description of each committee and the time commitment involved are included in the nomination brochure, which you can download at www.ohio

schoolboards.org/call-for-nominations.

Interested in becoming more active in OSBA? Here are the next steps:

- Review the “Call for Nominations” to determine your areas of interest.
- Talk with your regional manager to learn more about what is involved in the positions. The contact information for the regional managers is available at www.ohioschoolboards.org/region-managers.
- Complete the nomination form and return it to your regional manager by June 30.



COMMUNICATIONS

by Jackie Smith, communications consultant

Planning a back-to-school event

A back-to-school event is a time to bring staff, students, parents and community members, together to reconnect after the summer break at an upbeat and enthusiastic gathering. Use the event to welcome everyone back, set the tone for the new school year and recap the accomplishments of the past year.

A back-to-school event is a great time to thank employees for their dedication to their jobs and remind them of the important role they play in student success. Use the opportunity to talk about the district’s mission, and goals

designed to help achieve it. If your district is dealing with difficult issues such as cutbacks in staffing, programs and budgets, set a positive tone and present these dilemmas as opportunities, not challenges.

If you haven’t yet planned your event, create a planning committee composed of a representative of each employee bargaining group. Gather the group and use the following suggestions to clarify what the event should accomplish and the logistics required.

Purpose

Why do you want to have the event? Is it to celebrate and inform? Is it the first chance in a new school year to bring employees together? Is it the only opportunity you have to address all staff at the same time? Is there a benefit in having social time as part of the event? Are you using the event to introduce a new superintendent or other administrators? Is it a time that staff meets and hears from school board members? Is it a time to showcase individual or district awards?

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THE 35TH ANNUAL OHIO COUNCIL OF SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEYS

SPRING SEMINAR

FRIDAY, JUNE 15 EMBASSY SUITES, COLUMBUS TUITION IS \$180

8:15 a.m. **Registration and continental breakfast**

8:45 a.m. **Welcome and overview**

9 a.m. **Unilateral implementations and teacher evaluations**

This session will explore two hurdles districts might face in 2012 and provide practical suggestions for negotiating these issues with unions.

John E. Britton, Esq., Britton, Smith, Peters & Kalail Co. LPA, Cleveland; and *Renee L. Fambro*, deputy director of labor relations, OSBA

9:45 a.m. **Ask the arbitrator**

Back by popular demand, attendees can hear from an experienced panel of arbitrators as they provide suggestions on how to effectively present a case to a labor arbitrator and offer other do's and don'ts for managing a successful arbitration.

Mitchell Goldberg, Esq.; *David W. Stanton, Esq.*; and *Robert Stein, Esq.*

10:45 a.m. **Break**

11 a.m. **Technology trends and troubles**

The use of technology can create some unique and challenging issues for school districts. This session will provide practical guidance for handling some of the newest technological trends, including searching student and employee technology devices, using surveillance cameras and storing documents and student records electronically.

Jeremy J. Neff, Esq., Ennis, Roberts Fischer Co. LPA, Cincinnati

Noon **Lunch (provided) and OCSBA Annual Meeting**

1 p.m. **School safety and security**

This knowledgeable panel will provide a comprehensive overview of the law that affects issues such as criminal and bullying behavior in the school setting, threat response, safety preparedness and youth interviewing techniques.

Mary A. Lentz, Esq., Mary A. Lentz Co. LPA, Chagrin Falls; Dr. *Richard Caster*, senior school board services consultant, OSBA; and *Chandra Bowling, Esq.*, U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights

2 p.m. **Break**

2:15 p.m. **Substance abuse in the education profession**

Hear an overview of the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) Office of Professional Conduct; common substance abuse issues in the teaching profession; and the statutes, rules and policies that address substance abuse issues involving educators.

Lori Kelly, director, Office of Professional Conduct, ODE

3 p.m. **Ethics and the code of professional responsibility**

This session will provide an overview of the characteristics of ethics and the Ohio Code of Professional Responsibility, with a focus on those that have the greatest influence on school law practitioners.

Alvin E. Mathews Jr., Esq., James E. Arnold & Associates LPA, Columbus

4 p.m. **Adjourn**

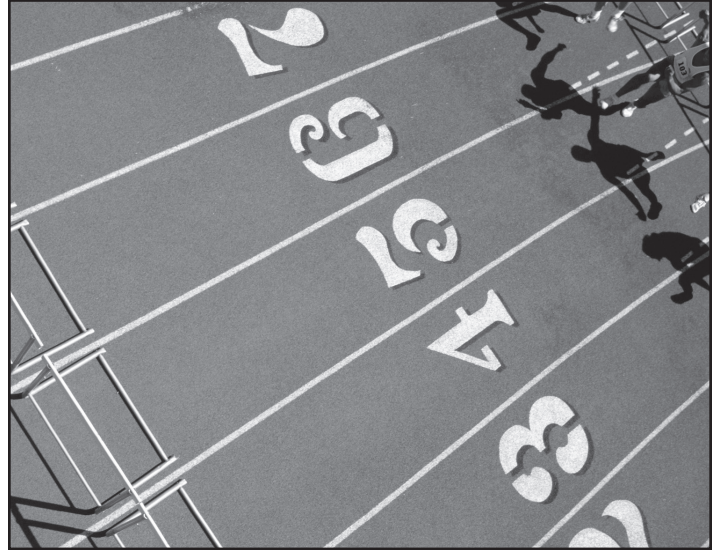
This course has been approved by the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education for 5.50 total CLE hour(s), with 1.00 of ethics and .75 of substance abuse instruction.

The workshop will be held at the Embassy Suites, 2700 Corporate Exchange Drive, Columbus, OH 43231. The phone number is (614) 890-8600. To register, contact **Laurie Miller**, OSBA senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000 or Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org.

Sports Law Workshop

Friday, June 22
9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Columbus Airport Marriott
Cost is \$145



AGENDA

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

9 a.m. OHSAA legal update
The workshop kicks off with a discussion with the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) about new initiatives, including the classification of event workers, OHSAA tournament events and more.
Daniel B. Ross, commissioner, and *Jeffrey M. Jordan*, chief financial officer, OHSAA

10 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Protecting your blind side: navigating liability issues in athletics
Learn what districts need to know about navigating liability issues in athletics, transporting athletes, sports injuries and the effectiveness of waivers.
Nicholas E. Subashi, Esq., Subashi & Wildermuth LPA, Dayton

11 a.m. Camera-ready: media relations tips
Get some coaching on handling the media, answering the tough questions and gaining positive publicity for the district's athletic program from a former TV news reporter.
Crystal Davis Hutchins, deputy director of communication services, OSBA

11:30 a.m. Lunch (provided)

12:30 p.m. Facebook and the athletic code of conduct
Sharing passwords? Friending students? We will discuss inappropriate or offensive behavior or pictures posted by student athletes, the code of conduct, best practices and more.
C. Bronston McCord, Esq., Ennis, Roberts Fischer Co. LPA, Cincinnati

1:30 p.m. Break

1:45 p.m. Sports case law update
Learn the latest developments in sports law litigation, covering liability, transportation, employment, discipline and everything in between.
Candice L. Christon, staff attorney, OSBA; and *Edmund F. Brown*, Esq., Ulmer & Berne LLP, Columbus

2:30 p.m. Hazing: when rites become wrongs
This session will examine the steps that districts should take to prevent and stop hazing or bullying in athletics, and provide practical suggestions for investigating rumors and reports of hazing or bullying.
Kevin J. Locke, Esq., Pepple & Waggoner Ltd., Cleveland

3:15 p.m. Adjourn

The workshop will be held at the Columbus Airport Marriott, 1375 N. Cassady Ave., Columbus, OH 43219. The phone number is (614) 475-7551. To register, contact **Laurie Miller**, OSBA senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org.

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

New board members: Trying to maneuver the maze of boardmanship? Find your way at the New Board Member Workshop

- **Designed for new board members**
- **Intensive, one-day workshop**
- **Saturday, July 21**
- **OSBA office, Columbus**



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

Cost for this workshop is \$155 per board member. Four books are included with workshop tuition: *Boardmanship*, *Board-Treasurer Partnership*, *Board-Superintendent Partnership* and *Board-Legislature Partnership*.

To register, call (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA. More information can be found at www.ohioschoolboards.org/event_listing.

Agenda

9 a.m.	Welcome	12:30 p.m.	Lunch
9:15 a.m.	Boardmanship Cheryl W. Ryan, deputy director of school board services	1:15 p.m.	Policy Megan Greulich, policy consultant
10:15 a.m.	Legislative and lobbying Damon Asbury, director of legislative services	2 p.m.	Labor relations Van D. Keating, director of management services
11:15 a.m.	Break	2:45 p.m.	Break
11:30 a.m.	School finance Damon Asbury	3 p.m.	Legal Issues Hollie F. Reedy, chief legal counsel
		4 p.m.	Closing remarks, questions and adjourn



WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

OCSBA Spring Seminar

☐ June 15, Columbus, \$180

Sports Law Workshop

☐ June 22, Columbus, \$145

Sticks and stones: bullying at school and online webinar

☐ July 17, \$35

New Board Member Workshop

☐ July 21, Columbus, \$155, includes books

Annual in-service requirements webinar

☐ July 23, \$35

School safety and security assessment webinar

☐ Aug. 7, free

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. 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. Please include a purchase order number.

You may register on our website at 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.

Communications, continued from page 6

Message

What is it you want participants to take away from the gathering? What do you want employees to remember from this event? Is one of the goals to help employees feel that they are appreciated and needed? Do you want to explain that the district may have a few more challenging opportunities than in the past? Determine three key messages that you want participants to remember. These messages will set the tone for the year.

Delivering the message

What district technology resources and talents can you use? Can you showcase the technology resources in the district? Consider multimedia presentations to illustrate or deliver messages. Think of ways to enliven presentations and introductions by incorporating photos or videos from the past year to highlight staff contributions. Use music to add spark to the festivities. Consider having a student serve as master or mistress of ceremonies (MC). Or, tap into your district's talent pool by including staff members in the program who sing, dance or act so they can showcase talents they don't use on the job. For example, ask them to sing the national anthem, lead the flag salute or serve as an MC or speaker.

Guests

Whom do you want to attend? Is this an employees-only event? If so, *all* employees need to be

invited and allowed to attend. Send announcements to media prior to the event saying buildings will be closed to allow all staff to attend. Post notices in advance on websites and remember signs on building doors. In each notice, include an emergency contact number. All school board members should attend. Should parents, students and community members be invited? Opening the event will change its dynamics, so make sure the purpose is clearly defined before you consider who should be invited.

Timing

When should the event be held? Is there a time of day that would be least disruptive to district operations and allow the greatest number of employees to attend? Is there a day of the week that works best? Is early morning better than late afternoon?

Refreshments

Will you provide refreshments? Is it possible to showcase your food services department as caterers for the event? An early morning gathering might lend itself to a continental breakfast buffet. Coffee and cookies might be nice for an afternoon gathering. Can you use the event as an opportunity to showcase ways you are addressing student obesity by serving low-calorie, healthy foods? Will the numbers of potential attendees prohibit serving refreshments? (Opening the event to a community might make it

impossible to provide sufficient goodies for all.) Would bargaining groups, community organizations or parent associations contribute to the cost of the refreshments?

Location

The number of attendees, refreshments and multimedia use will dictate what locations can accommodate the event. Is there a convention center or conference facility in your community? How about a district gymnasium, high school auditorium or football stadium (weather permitting)? Ensure the facility can provide enough seating and support your multimedia and entertainment plans, as well as accommodate preparation, storage and serving areas for refreshments if you opt to serve them. Is there a sound system? Are media technicians required?

Budget

How much can you spend? Once you have an idea about what you want your event to look like, consider the potential costs: renting space, technicians' time, refreshments and more. Is there money in the district budget for the event? If not, are there other funding sources? Would each bargaining group donate to the effort? How about local business support through donations of cash or products? Is it possible to get a conference facility donated for your use? Are there contractual obligations that require pay for

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staff who are not scheduled to work when the event is held?

With creative brainstorming and flexibility, your planning team can

develop a meaningful event within existing budget constraints. The end result will be a well-planned event that sparks team spirit and

sets a positive tone for the school year.

Source: Oregon School Boards Association



OSBA LEADERSHIP

by Crystal Davis Hutchins, editor

Trustees enter new era of 'green' meetings

The OSBA Board of Trustees and Executive Committee are going "green." The switch was made during the May 19 Board of Trustees meeting in Columbus.

Instead of reading materials from what is typically an inch-thick book, trustees were trained to use BoardDocs software to access the agenda and other meeting documents electronically. BoardDocs, an OSBA-endorsed program, manages the preparation, approval and distribution of governance documents.

During a jam-packed, five-hour meeting, the 30-member board also met with members of the **Cleveland Municipal School District** to hear about the new **Cleveland Plan for Transforming Schools**. Trustee **Robert M. Heard Sr.**, Cleveland Municipal board member, and **Christine Fowler-Mack**, Cleveland Municipal's chief of new and innovative schools and programs, shared information about how the city hopes to transition from a traditional, single-source school district to a

new system of district and charter schools. The two said the new system would be held to the highest standards and work in partnership to create dramatic student achievement gains for every child.

Trustees also were briefed on the progress of the revision of OSBA's Visionary Initiatives for Strategic Action (VISA) plan. The plan was created in 2008 and maps OSBA's mission, vision and goals through 2012. Now that 2012 is here, OSBA President **Sharon E. Manson**, **Waverly City** and **Pike County Career Technology Center**, has appointed a new team of 10 school board members and 10 OSBA staff members to revisit the plan. All five regions of OSBA are represented on the team and **Sue Waechter** of Cornerstone Consulting Associates is facilitating the process. The VISA team's goal is to have the strategic plan ready for review and adoption by the Board of Trustees in September.

In other business, the board shared its insight on the knowledge, skills, personal characteristics and abilities members are looking for in the next OSBA president-elect. OSBA's Nominating Committee will use this information as it prepares for the selection process later this year.

Director of School Board Services **Kathy LaSota** detailed a new partnership that will allow OSBA to provide members with information, training and consultation on topics related to school finance, school funding, levies, levy timing and strategies. OSBA is teaming with Public Finance Resources Inc. (PFR) to provide these services. PFR is composed of several former and current school treasurers.

Trustees also approved the association's 2011 audited financial statements and amendments to region bylaws, and approved or amended charters to several of the association's

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committees.

The board heard updates on pending legislation; the association's legislative focus for 2012; OSBA's work in promoting public education; the National School Boards Association's

Annual Conference; and the association's lobbying efforts against a proposed American Electric Power rate increase that could hurt Ohio school districts' bottom lines. In addition, OSBA Executive Director **Richard Lewis**

recognized trustees who represented OSBA on the Delegate Assembly at the NSBA Annual Conference.

The next meeting of the OSBA Board of Trustees is slated for Sept. 22.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Michelle Francis, deputy director of legislative services

General Assembly still refining MBR legislation

The General Assembly was unable to complete its work before recessing for the Memorial Day holiday. Lawmakers are expected to return the week of June 11 to continue work on Senate Bill (SB) 316, the education mid-biennial review (MBR) legislation, and House Bill (HB) 525 and SB 335, the Cleveland Plan proposal. Below is an update on legislative action that took place at the end of May.

SB 316 (education MBR)

The House Education Committee formally accepted a substitute version of SB 316 on May 24 before reporting the bill out of committee. Several objectionable provisions were included in the House version of SB 316 prior to the committee's approval. Because of the rushed nature of the proceedings, the full House "informally" passed SB 316 before recessing for the Memorial

Day holiday. This simply allows the bill to keep its place on the chamber's calendar. The House and Senate are attempting to reach agreement between their two versions of the bill before the House formally passes its version, which would avoid a formal conference committee process.

This allows time for school district leaders to make a difference. The Ohio School Boards Association, Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) and Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) issued a joint call to action to all board members, superintendents and school business officials to once again contact legislators about SB 316. The alert asked members of the associations to contact Ohio House and Senate members and urge them to remove the following provisions from SB 316:

- Gifted mandates

■ This measure calls for establishing 16 regional charter schools for gifted students. This proposal could affect *all* school districts. The requirement represents a huge undertaking for the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), with many unexplored implications, both financial and academic. It stretches the imagination to consider how such a massive shift in education programs could be introduced and adopted in the final days of the legislative session without announcement or the opportunity for discussion and debate.

■ SB 316 removes language that allows districts to use principals or other qualified persons to serve as gifted coordinators for a school district. Last year's biennial budget bill, HB 153, allowed for this flexibility.

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While this arrangement may not be the ideal solution when sufficient resources are available, recent budget cuts have made it necessary for school districts to make the most effective use of limited staff resources. Removing the HB 153 provision represents an unfunded mandate that will force school districts to spend additional dollars they do not have.

● School choice mandates

■ Districts would be required to notify parents of students with individualized education programs about the autism and Jon Peterson Special Needs voucher programs, even though ODE and private providers currently offer information to parents about these programs. We believe it is unreasonable to require school districts to make this notification. If vouchers for private providers are expected to create a competitive environment, it is unfair to require districts to provide information about their competitors.

■ Districts would be required to verify charter school enrollment monthly, using charter schools' verification policy. We strongly oppose this new mandate. School district administrative staff members spend a great deal of time and effort verifying the enrollment of resident students in charter schools. Because there is often significant mobility with these students, the

task is not an easy one. School districts should not be compelled to increase their administrative burden. Further, it is highly objectionable for charter schools to set the criteria that must be used by the school district for enrollment verification. This provision is unnecessary and inappropriate.

School district report cards

The call to action also asked members to contact legislators about school district report cards. The House removed provisions that would change the school district report card system and introduced separate legislation (HB 555) to deliberate the issue more thoroughly. OSBA supports the delay in passing report card legislation.

It is important to note we are *not* opposed to accountability or raising Ohio's standards. However, a delay will allow districts an opportunity to educate their communities on the new Common Core standards and changes to the report card system. It also would prevent the rules from changing at the end of the school year and holding districts accountable for a new system that isn't even in place.

HB 525 and SB 335 — The Cleveland Plan

Stakeholders in Cleveland have negotiated a deal paving the way for legislative approval of Cleveland Mayor **Frank G. Jackson's** proposed overhaul of

the **Cleveland Municipal School District**. The most recent concessions made in negotiations were in response to objections from charter school stakeholders. A summary of the latest changes from House Speaker **William Batchelder** (R-Medina) can be found by visiting the OSBA BillTracker page at www.ohio.schoolboards.org/129th-general-assembly and searching "HB 525."

While we support the overall focus of the plan, the provision that would allow charter schools to share local tax levies is a concern. Tax levies must be reserved for political subdivisions, like school districts, that are accountable to taxpayers. Instead, school districts could be allowed to provide resources and services to community schools in some other manner, if they so choose.

Other MBR bills finalized

Work was completed on House Bill (HB) 487 (general MBR) and SB 315 (energy MBR). These bills have all been sent to the governor for his signature.

● HB 487 (general MBR): Prior to reporting HB 487 out of committee, the Senate Finance Committee removed the controversial 403(b) provisions from the bill. In addition, it removed placeholder language that would have required General Assembly approval for the transfer of any state revenue surplus to the rainy day fund.

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Bryan Bullock, communication coordinator

OSU president visits Mansfield, learns about Algebra Project

The leader of The Ohio State University visited Mansfield Senior High School in May to inspire students and learn about a program that helps at-risk youth go from behind to ahead in math.

OSU President **E. Gordon Gee** spoke to **Mansfield City** students in the gymnasium and visited a class that helps students prepare for college-level math.

"English and mathematics are the building blocks for success in the world," Gee said.

The class is part of a partnership among Mansfield City Schools, OSU's Mansfield campus and The Algebra Project, a national, nonprofit math initiative. The class, funded by the National Science Foundation, has drawn attention from educators across the country.

"Six of my students are going to Princeton University with me for a presentation on The Algebra Project," said teacher **Amanda Tridico-Clawson**.

Students in The Algebra Project

class meet in back-to-back periods five days a week. The freshmen identified as at-risk for passing math will remain together throughout high school.

Older Algebra Project students participate in a companion program, the Young People's Project, in which they tutor elementary students.

"We are glad to share our success with The Algebra Project," said Superintendent **Dan Freund**.

Source: (Mansfield) *News Journal*

Legislative Report, continued from page 10

Both the House and Senate have passed the bill. OSBA, BASA and OASBO sent a letter to members of the House and Senate about these two provisions in HB 487. (A copy of the letter can be found by searching "HB 487" on the OSBA BillTracker Web page listed previously.) The final bill did not reinstate language related to any budget surplus.

However, we are pleased to report that the final version of the bill did *not* include changes to the K-12 403(b) program. Please thank legislators for removing this language from the bill.

● SB 315 (energy MBR): The Senate version of SB 315 had contained a provision that would

grant a kilowatt-hour (KWH) tax credit for certain industrial electricity users if they engage in conservation "education." Only the federal government is exempt from this tax, which was established to replace the tangible utility personal property tax when deregulation was implemented. Industrial users already enjoy a discounted rate for the KWH tax.

OSBA, BASA, and OASBO sent letters to the Ohio House and Senate expressing opposition to the KWH tax credit provision. We believe this proposal would have undermined the KWH tax base and created a rush by other utility customers requesting the

credit. Download a copy of the letter by visiting the OSBA BillTracker Web page and searching "SB 315."

Fortunately, the House Public Utilities Committee removed the provision from the bill before recommending it to the full House. The final version of the bill did *not* include the KWH tax credit. Let your legislators know that we appreciate the removal of this provision.

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 June 1.

June 2012

- 15 OCSBA Spring Seminar..... Columbus
- 22 OSBA Sports Law Workshop Columbus
- 30 2011-2012 school year ends — RC 3313.62.

July 2012

- 1 2012-2013 school year begins — RC 3313.62; last day for board to notify teaching and nonteaching employees of succeeding year salaries — RC 3319.082, 3319.12; board may adopt appropriation measure, which may be temporary — RC 5705.38(B); treasurer must certify available revenue in funds to county auditor — RC 5705.36(A)(1).
- 9 Last day for voter registration for August election — RC 3503.01, 3503.19 (30 days prior to the election).
- 10 Last day for termination of teaching contract by a teacher without consent of the board of education — RC 3319.15.
- 11 OSBA Central Region Executive Committee Meeting Columbus
- 15 Last day to adopt school library district tax budget on behalf of a library district — RC 5705.28(B)(1).

- 17 Sticks and stones: bullying at school and online webinar
- 21 OSBA New Board Member Workshop Columbus
- 23 Annual in-service requirements webinar
- 24 Last day to submit certification for November conversion levy to tax commissioner — RC 5705.219(B) (105 days before election).
- 30 Last day to submit certification for November income tax levy to Ohio Department of Taxation — RC 5748.02(A) (100 days prior to the election).
- 31 Semiannual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties (by 4 p.m.) (last business day of July) detailing contributions and expenditures through June 30, 2012 — RC 3517.10.

August 2012

- 1 Last day to file statistical report with Ohio Department of Education — RC 3319.33.
- 3 OSBA Attendance, Custody and Tuition Law Workshop Columbus
- 3 Last day to submit November emergency, current operating expenses or conversion levy to county auditor for November

- general election — RC 5705.194, 5705.195, 5705.213, 5705.219 (95 days before election).
- 7 School safety and security assessment webinar
- 7 OSBA Southwest Region Executive Committee Meeting and subcommittees Piqua
- 7 Special Election Day — RC 3501.01 (first Tuesday after the first Monday).
- 8 OSBA Become a PR Rock Star for your District Workshop Columbus
- 8 Last day for school district to file resolution of necessity, resolution to proceed and auditor's certification for bond levy with board of elections for November election — RC 133.18(D); last day for county auditor to certify school district bond levy terms for November election — RC 133.18(C); last day to submit continuing replacement, permanent improvement or operating levy for November election to board of elections — RC 5705.192, 5705.21, 5705.25; last day to certify resolution for school district income tax levy or conversion levy for November election to board of elections — RC 5705.195, 5705.219(G), 5748.02(C); last day to submit emergency levy for November election to board of elections — RC 5705.195.