

# BRIEF CASE

## THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



### New federal report indicates bullying in schools is declining

New data show the first significant decrease in school-based bullying since the federal government began collecting that data in 2005. This suggests that anti-bullying efforts at the federal, state and local levels might be paying off. According to a U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics report, the prevalence of bullying among students ages 12 to 18 dropped to 22% in 2013 after ranging from 28% to 32% since 2005. Research shows bullied students are more likely to struggle in school, abuse drugs and alcohol, be depressed and have a higher risk of suicide. The report is posted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/49053>.

### Organizations offer resources to help black female students

The National Women's Law Center and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund have released a report looking at the many barriers standing in the way of African-American girls' educational success. The report also offers recommendations on ways to overcome those barriers. Read and download the report at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/30213>.

### With preschool funding increase, Ohio rises in national rankings

A new report with rankings on preschool education from Rutgers University's National Institute for Early Education shows Ohio improving in several areas. The state moved from 39th to 36th place among states with preschool programs for 4-year-olds, and ranked 21st in state funding for preschool. The report said Ohio added \$10 million in preschool funding in the 2013-14 school year and \$12 million more in 2014-2015. The report — with links to state data — is available at [nieer.org/yearbook](http://nieer.org/yearbook).

### New service provides instant notification when ODE website is updated

Visitors to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) website now can get the news they need as soon as it is published via a new service called GovDelivery. Visitors can subscribe to up to 60 key pages on ODE's website. When new information is posted, the subscriber automatically receives an email. The service also makes subscribing to ODE electronic newsletters easier. To sign up, visit [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov).

### State launching first-of-its-kind interactive civics education partnership

The Capitol Square Foundation, Ohio State University's John Glenn College of Public Affairs and iCivics have launched a partnership to create an online, interactive citizenship curriculum focusing on Ohio and federal civics education. This is the first time iCivics, founded and led by retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice **Sandra Day O'Connor**, has collaborated on creating a state-specific curriculum. Former astronaut

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#### Route workshop information to:

- ☐ Administrators
- ☐ Newly appointed board members

and U.S. Sen. **John Glenn** was on hand to help announce the project at a May 14 Statehouse news conference. The program was unveiled shortly after the National Assessment of Educational Progress released data showing that just 23% of U.S. eighth-graders performed at or above the proficient level in civics. For more information, visit [www.icivics.org](http://www.icivics.org).

### **OSBA sessions focus on school board candidates**

Are there individuals in your school district you would like to see run for a school board seat? Then encourage them to attend the free OSBA Pre-Board Candidate Workshop in Columbus July 25. OSBA also is offering a series of Board Candidate Workshops across the state in August and September for those who have decided to seek a seat. For more information on these sessions, as well as OSBA's school board

### **Talawanda educators spend night on roof for a good cause**

A group of **Talawanda City** teachers and a principal kicked off a recent weekend by climbing to the roof of Kramer Elementary School in Oxford. Once there, they pitched tents, set out lawn chairs and prepared to spend their Friday night under the stars.

The reason? A fundraising challenge to raise money for CancerFree KIDS. Twelve Kramer teachers and Principal **Jason Merz** took to the roof as Kids Night Out activities were going on inside the building.

Students were brought outside in small groups so the roof-bound educators could toss candy and small toys down to thank them for their contributions to the fundraiser. Organizers said the event raised more than \$8,000.

Source: *Journal-News*

candidate resources, see the flier in this issue of the *Briefcase* or visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/59864>.

### **Deadline to apply for OSBA regional positions is June 30**

OSBA is encouraging school board members to seek a position

as an elected regional official or as a member of a regional or state committee. Applications are due by June 30. Serving in these positions enables members to: become more actively involved in OSBA; increase and enhance interactions with board members from other school districts; help plan association activities; provide valuable input to OSBA on important state and regional issues; and more. For further information, a map of OSBA regions and an application form, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/43274>.

### **OSBA online**

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

Do you have suggestions or recommendations on how OSBA can better serve you? How about a question, comment, compliment or complaint? Then visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/feedback](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/feedback) to share what's on your mind. OSBA wants to hear from you.



## **Briefcase**

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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, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.



# BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, administrative assistant of communication services

## Other searches

Position	District	Deadline	Contact
Treasurer	Mansfield City	June 12	Lisa Cook, director of human resources, Mid-Ohio ESC, (419) 774-2515

## Board changes

Perry Local (Stark) appointed **Florence Tuesdale** to the board effective May 12. She replaced **Marlene Capuano**, who died in April. ●●● Springfield City Board of Education member **Donna Picklesimer** announced her resignation effective May 29.

## Administrative changes

### Superintendents

**Clermont Northeastern Local (Clermont)** hired **J. Michael Brandt** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Ralph Shell**, who is retiring. Brandt currently is the interim principal at **Deer Park Community City Junior/Senior High School**. ●●● **East Holmes Local (Holmes)** Superintendent **Joe Edinger** announced his retirement effective July 1. ●●● **East Palestine City** hired **Traci Hostetler** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace **George E. Fisk**, who took the superintendent position at **Norwalk City**. Hostetler currently is the director of teaching and learning at **Massillon City**. ●●● **Elida Local (Allen)** Superintendent **Tony Cox** announced his resignation effective July 31. He has taken a principal position at **Shawnee Local (Allen)**. ●●● **Fairborn City** Superintendent **Dave Scarberry** announced his resignation effective July 31, 2016. ●●● **Firelands Local (Lorain)** hired **Michael Von Gunten** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Dr. **Robert F. Hill**, who took the superintendent position at **Springfield City**. Von Gunten currently is the district's director of educational services. ●●● **Forest Hills Local (Hamilton)** hired **Tom Durbin** as interim superintendent effective immediately. ●●● **Fort Recovery Local (Mercer)** hired **Justin Firks** as superintendent effective July 13. He will replace **Shelly Vaughn**, who took the superintendent position at **Mercer County ESC**. Firks currently is the junior/senior high school principal at **Fort Loramie Local (Shelby)**. ●●● **Geneva Area City** hired **Eric Kujala** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Mary D. Zappitelli**, who is retiring. Kujala currently is an elementary principal at **Riverside Local (Lake)**. ●●● **Kings Local (Warren)** hired **Timothy A. Ackermann** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Interim Superintendent **Tim Spinner**. Ackermann currently is the assistant superintendent at **Milford EV**. ●●● **Northwest Local (Hamilton)** Superintendent Dr. **Andrew S. Jackson** announced his resignation effective July 31. He has taken a superintendent position in St. Leon, Ind. ●●● **South Central Local (Huron)** hired **Martha A. Hasselbusch** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace **David J. Brand**, who took the superintendent position at **New Philadelphia City**. ●●● **Tecumseh Local (Clark)** Superintendent **Bradley A. Martin** announced his resignation effective immediately. ●●● **Upper Sandusky EV** hired **Laurie Vent** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Michael**

### Editor's note

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

J. Eaglowski, who is retiring. Vent currently is an elementary principal at the district. ●●● **Waterloo Local (Portage)** hired **Shawn M. Braman** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Matthew L. Montgomery**, who took the superintendent position at **Revere Local (Summit)**. Braman currently is the high school principal at **Chippewa Local (Wayne)**. ●●● **Zanesville City** Superintendent **Terry M. Martin** announced his retirement effective July 31. ●●● **Green Local (Summit)** Assistant Superintendent **Kevin Finefrock** announced his resignation effective July 31. He has taken the positions of associate dean for the School of Professional Studies and director of external programs at Walsh University. ●●● **Maumee City** hired Dr. **Todd M. Cramer** as assistant superintendent effective Aug. 1. Cramer currently is the director of teaching and learning at **Bowling Green City**.

### Treasurers

**Huber Heights City** hired **Gina Helmick** as treasurer effective July 1. She will replace **Ann Bernardo**, who has taken the treasurer position at **Northmont City**. Helmick currently is the treasurer at **Tipp City EV**.

### Sympathies

Former **Barberton City** Board of Education member Dr. **Richard Lewis "Doc" Sickler** died May 10. He was 88. ●●● **Joseph Dane Carter**, a former superintendent at **Gallipolis City**, the former **Greenfield-McClain** school district in Highland County and **St. Clairsville-Richland City**, died May 15. He was 78. ●●● Former **Middletown City** Superintendent **Paul F. Kuhn** died April 17. He was 83. ●●● **Donald Jack West Sr.**, a superintendent at the former **Mohawk School District** in Hancock County, died May 12. He was 91. ●●● Former **Newton Falls EV** and **North Royalton City** Treasurer **Anne Z. Couch** died May 17. She was 95. ●●● Former **Pymatuning Valley Local (Ashtabula)** Treasurer **Elynne J. Slater** died May 18. She was 79. ●●● Former **Toledo City** Assistant Superintendent **Earl W. Apgar** died April 17. He was 71. ●●● Former **Warren City** and **Trumbull Career & Technical Center** Board of Education member **Linda Herst Metzendorf** died May 17. She was 67. ●●● **Kenneth E. Bishop**, a former superintendent at **Washington Local (Lucas)** and former treasurer at **Franklin City** and **Lockland City**, died May 3. He was 79.



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Jay Smith, deputy director of legislative services

### Bill calls for drastic changes to Ohio education reform measures

Legislation recently was introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives that calls for sweeping changes to a host of public education standards, policies and requirements.

House Bill (HB) 212, sponsored by Rep. **Andy Thompson** (R-Marietta), would eliminate Ohio's involvement with Common Core State Standards and use of Partnership for Assessment of

Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments.

The legislation also seeks to curtail a number of other education reform initiatives currently mandated by the state, such as principal and teacher evaluations and the end-of-course exams required for graduation. The bill has been referred to the House Education Committee and has not had any hearings.

Following are some of the provisions included in HB 212.

#### Academic content standards

The legislation would:

- Prohibit Ohio from using the Common Core State Standards or any other "similar initiative, process, or program."
- Allow the State Board of Education to adopt academic

*Continued on page 5*



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content standards in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies only.

- Prohibit state funds from being withheld from a school district for failure to adopt the state academic content standards.

- Instruct the State Board to adopt, by June 30, 2015, the Massachusetts standards prior to 2010.

- Eliminate the academic standards review committees.

- Establish a 13-member academic content standards steering committee consisting of the governor or designee; six members appointed by the president of the

Senate (only one can be a senator); and six members appointed by the speaker of the House (only one can be a representative). Consideration for appointments must be given to parents, teachers, curriculum experts and provosts, chairs and deans of state institutions of higher education.

- Establish subcommittees of the content standards steering committee to be appointed by the State Board in each subject area. Subcommittee membership is limited to five teachers who have at least 10 years experience. The subcommittees are to be chaired

by an instructor or professor at a state institution of higher education.

- Allow a school librarian, selected by the Ohio Library Council, to provide assistance to the English language arts subcommittee.

- Allow an engineer, nominated by the state engineering association, to provide assistance to the mathematics and science subcommittees.

- Require that all revisions to the academic content standards be approved by the appropriate subcommittee and both chambers

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## Budget Analysis and Discussion (BAD) Seminar

Monday, Aug. 10, Hilton Columbus/Polaris

Attend the Budget Analysis and Discussion (BAD) Seminar for the most in-depth analysis on the fiscal year 2016-17 state budget, Amended Substitute House Bill (HB) 64.

This comprehensive seminar, hosted by the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA), Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) and Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA), will provide insights and answers on the budget process and final version of the legislation.

Plan to attend the BAD Seminar on Aug. 10 at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris. The workshop is from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with registration beginning at 8:15 a.m. Learn from legislative experts and lawmakers on what was included and the impact this legislation will have on Ohio school districts.

This workshop is \$195 per person for OSBA, OASBO and BASA member school district representatives. The fee covers workshop registration, materials, lunch and refreshments. Visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/bad-workshop](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/bad-workshop) for registration information and directions.

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of the General Assembly by concurrent resolution after the standing committee on education has held at least three public hearings.

### Assessment

HB 212 would:

- Prohibit the State Board from using any assessment developed by PARCC, the smarter balanced assessment or any other assessment related to or based on the Common Core State Standards.

- Eliminate the kindergarten readiness assessment.
- Direct each district or school to select either Iowa's state assessments prior to 2010 or Massachusetts' state assessments prior to 2010 beginning in the 2015-16 school year.
- Require the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to create a method to compare the two assessments to calculate report cards, teacher evaluations and the third-grade reading guarantee.

- Prohibit state assessments from being given any earlier than the last week in April.
- Create a new graduation assessment requirement consisting of three exams — English language arts, mathematics and science. These assessments are to be selected by the district and must be norm-referenced or standards-based.
- Require ODE to develop a method to compare scores on the exams for report card ratings, teacher evaluations and determining eligibility for graduation.



## OSBA Pre-Board Candidate Workshop

**Know someone who is thinking of running for your school board or someone who would be an asset to your board? Encourage them to attend this workshop to learn the responsibilities of boardmanship.**

This free workshop describes the roles and responsibilities of school board service and requirements for running for a seat on a local board of education. Set for Saturday, July 25, from 10 a.m. to noon at the OSBA office in Columbus, this workshop will be led by two veteran OSBA staff members and include time for questions.

This session is for people who are thinking about running for their school board and current board of education members appointed to office, who must now run for election.

Space is limited, so contact OSBA Senior Events Manager **Laurie Miller** at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org) to register.

For more information on running for a board of education seat, visit OSBA's board candidate Web page, [www.ohioschoolboards.org/candidate-for-school-boards](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/candidate-for-school-boards). Learn more about this and other board candidate workshops at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops).

### Personally identifiable information

The bill would:

- Allow the state to report only aggregate student data.
- Prohibit releasing student personally identifiable information without parental or teacher consent.
- Restrict access to student and staff information to fulfilling contractual obligations to process data on behalf of a school district. Each contract must state that the information will not be shared with a third party.

### Teacher licensure and evaluation

The legislation would:

- Eliminate the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System and the Ohio Principal Evaluation System.
- Eliminate the Resident Educator Assessment.

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THE 38TH ANNUAL OHIO COUNCIL OF SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEYS

# SPRING SEMINAR

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

TUITION IS \$200

NATIONWIDE HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER, LEWIS CENTER

(FORMERLY NORTHPOINTE HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER)

## Agenda

- 8:30 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast**
- 8:50 a.m. OSBA welcome and overview**
- 9 a.m. What to do when the police come knockin'**  
Have you ever received a call that the police were on school property to conduct an investigation? Experts share their perspectives on best practices when dealing with criminal investigations involving students and employees, in loco parentis and much more.  
*Jeff Furbee, Esq., police legal adviser, Columbus City attorney's office; Wanda T. Lillis, Esq., associate legal counsel, Columbus City Schools; Officer Ron Burkitt, Hilliard Division of Police and Hilliard Bradley High School resource officer*
- 10 a.m. Gender identity in schools: legal and practical issues related to transgender students**  
Join a candid and practical discussion of the legal rights of transgender students, including school district obligations and practical tips for working with students, parents and communities.  
*Sara C. Clark, director of legal services, OSBA; and Joan M. Burda, Esq., attorney at law, Lakewood*
- 11 a.m. Break**
- 11:15 a.m. Legislative and case law update: what's happening in 2015**  
Learn about the latest case law and legislative developments — and how they will impact your clients.  
*Edmund F. Brown, Esq., FisherBroyles LLP, Columbus*
- Noon Lunch (provided) and OCSBA Annual Business Meeting**
- 1 p.m. The year in special education**  
Hear the latest updates and hot topics in the area of special education law. Find out what's trending and what you need to know now.  
*Susan C. Hastings, Esq., Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP, Cleveland*
- 1:45 p.m. Break**
- 2 p.m. The do's and don'ts of arbitration from an arbitrator's perspective**  
Two arbitrators share effective and ineffective practices in school district arbitration. Bring your questions and learn strategies on what you should and shouldn't do during arbitration.  
*Daniel G. Zeiser, Esq., Cleveland; and William C. Heekin, Esq., Cincinnati*
- 3 p.m. Professional conduct: mental health issues in the legal profession**  
Join us as we review mental health cases, rules governing mental illness and actions taken when attorneys are the subject of grievances because of mental health issues.  
*D. Allan Asbury, Esq., senior counsel, Supreme Court of Ohio Board of Professional Conduct*
- 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 hours of professional conduct.

The workshop will be held at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center, 100 Green Meadows Drive South, Lewis Center, OH 43035. The phone number is (614) 880-4300. Register online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops) or contact **Laurie Miller**, OSBA senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).



# Sports Law Workshop

Friday, June 19  
9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Embassy Suites Columbus  
Cost is \$160



## AGENDA

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

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

**9 a.m. Sportsnation 2.0: dealing with coaching issues**

Coaches are an integral part of your sports team, but issues and conflicts — such as students not getting enough playing time or contract disputes — may arise among parents or administrators and the coach. Learn how to make these relationships work to create a successful athletic program.

*Brian L. Wildermuth, Esq., Subashi & Wildermuth LPA, Dayton*

**10 a.m. Break**

**10:15 a.m. OHSA 2015 legal update: what your district needs to know now**

Learn the latest developments and initiatives of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSA), including policy and bylaw changes, outlook for 2015 and more.

*Dr. Daniel B. Ross, commissioner, OHSA*

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

**12:30 p.m. Friday night lights and student athletes**

Hear about common issues that keep student athletes from participating in athletic events, such as drug testing and violating the student code of conduct. Learn what your district can do to combat these issues.

*Sarah E. Kutscher, Esq., Smith Peters Kalail Co. LPA, Cleveland*

**1:30 p.m. Break**

**1:45 p.m. Working with booster groups: what's your liability?**

Booster groups provide great support to athletic teams, but what happens if someone is injured at a fundraising event on district property? Learn what your district needs to know when it comes to liability issues that arise from booster groups.

*Sandra R. McIntosh, Esq., Freund, Freeze & Arnold LPA, Columbus*

**2:30 p.m. Keeping it equal**

Equality among sports continues to be a hot topic. What does your district need to do to comply with Title IX? What happens when players of the opposite gender want to participate on an athletic team? Bring your questions and learn what your district needs to know.

*Melissa M. Carleton, Esq., Bricker & Eckler LLP, Columbus*

**3:15 p.m. Adjourn**

The workshop will be held at the Embassy Suites Columbus, 2700 Corporate Exchange Drive, Columbus, OH 43231. The phone number is (614) 890-8600. Register online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops) or contact **Laurie Miller**, OSBA senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).

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





# Running for your local school board

A guide for school board candidates

## Serve your community and its children

Community service is a civic duty. It can be very rewarding. Serving on a public board of education requires a commitment of energy, time and talent to work as a team to help the children and adult students in your community.

The men and women elected to represent their communities on Ohio's school boards provide valuable leadership to public schools.

### The board member

Ohio's school board members, one of the largest groups of elected officials in the state, are charged with one of the major responsibilities in government — to provide the best educational opportunities possible for the youth of Ohio and to manage and control the political subdivision of the school district.

### What does a school board member do?

Once a person has met the qualifications, been properly nominated, duly elected and officially sworn in, his or her real job begins. No one can know the pressures, politics and satisfactions of such a position until he or she has had the experience of serving on a board of education.

A school board sets educational goals and establishes policy for the school system based on state laws and community values. Perhaps the most important responsibility of a school board is to employ a superintendent and treasurer and hold them accountable for achieving those educational goals and managing the day-to-day affairs of the district in accordance with the school board's policies.

Board members make decisions on a wide range of issues, such as hiring and evaluating a superintendent and treasurer; setting district policy; planning student services; goal-setting and long-range planning; adopting curriculum; establishing budgets; engaging parents; being good fiscal stewards; acting in the best interest of the school district and within the scope of their legal authority; and creating community relations programs. A board member should be a skilled decision maker; however, decisions are only made by the board as a whole at a public meeting.

Another important part of the board's work is its public relations role. School board members help build public support and understanding of public education, and lead the public in demanding quality education. The school board serves as a link between schools and the public.



### Board member responsibilities

The role and function of board members often are misinterpreted by the public, and in some cases, by board members themselves. The board is a policymaking body and members are the chief advisors to the superintendent on community attitudes. Board members do not manage the day-to-day operations of a school district; they see to it that the system is managed well by professional administrators.

Board members are not education professionals. They do not evaluate staff, other than the superintendent and treasurer, nor do they typically become involved in employment interviews, other than those of the superintendent, business manager and treasurer. Board members may be consulted during the hiring process for other positions, such as assistant superintendent.



## Ohio School Boards Association

8050 North High St., Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43235-6481

(614) 540-4000 • (800) 589-OSBA • fax: (614) 540-4100 • [www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)

## Learn about being a board member at a free workshop

OSBA will be conducting a free, two-hour Pre-Board Candidate Workshop on Saturday, July 25, 2015, in Columbus. The session will run from 10 a.m.–noon at OSBA's office (8050 N. High St.), and be led by veteran staff members.

This workshop is for people who are thinking about running for their school board and current board of education members who were appointed to office.

Space is limited, so please call (800) 589-OSBA to register.

## Need more information?

Visit the board candidate section of OSBA's website at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/candidate-for-school-boards](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/candidate-for-school-boards) for information on running for the board of education.

## A good board member

We often hear that one person is a good board member or another is a bad board member, and yet we seldom hear a clear definition of what constitutes a “good” board member.

In reality, there are about as many philosophical theories about boardmanship as there are board members. However, there are some acceptable guidelines. Members must recognize that seldom do two people react to the same problem in an identical manner, so flexibility is necessary.

As a start, the following guidelines are offered. A good board member:

- Knows that he or she can legally act as a board member only when the board of education is in session. No one person, unless authorized, should speak on behalf of the board.
- Avoids administrative decisions or attempts to second-guess the administration. The superintendent is the chief administrator and the board has no administrative function.
- Is well acquainted with school policies.
- Should vote at all times in the best interests of the school district.
- Is flexible and realizes there are times when changes must be made, when tradition cannot be honored and when pressure must be ignored.
- Remembers that board business often requires confidentiality, especially in processes involving students, personnel, land acquisition, negotiations and security.
- Is interested in obtaining facts, but also remembers that the administration has responsibility for operating the schools and cannot spend all its time making reports to an individual board member.
- Is a good listener at board meetings, on the street corner, in church or anywhere else approached, but never commits himself or herself, the board or the administration.
- Knows that the reputation of the entire school district is reflected in his or her behavior and attitude.
- Is able to support a decision when it is made.



## What is the Ohio School Boards Association?

The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) was founded in 1955 to serve the needs of the state's local boards of education. The non-partisan, not-for-profit association's mission is to lead 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.

OSBA is an association of member boards of education. Members have a wide range of services available to them, including training, advocacy, legal assistance, administrator searches, negotiation assistance, transportation consulting and policy development, among others.

For more information about school boardmanship, contact OSBA at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA. OSBA's website is an excellent source for boardmanship information, including the latest in education-related legislation and issues. Visit it at [www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org).





## Plan to attend a Board Candidate Workshop

OSBA will be conducting five Board Candidate Workshops in August and September. Veteran staff will lead candidates through a concise and valuable program to help them better understand the everyday roles and responsibilities of school board members and the legal aspects of being a board member.

All sessions (except Sept. 12) run from 6 p.m.–9 p.m. The session on Sept. 12 runs

from 9 a.m.–noon. Registration and buffet begin a half hour before the workshop begins.

The dates and locations are:

Aug. 27 — Northeast Ohio Medical University (NOMU), Rootstown  
Sept. 1 — Hilton Garden Inn, Dayton  
Sept. 2 — Hilton Garden Inn, Findlay  
Sept. 10 — Ohio University Inn, Athens  
Sept. 12 — OSBA office, Columbus  
*See back page for more information.*

## Running for your local board of education

### Eligibility requirements

To run for a school board seat you must be:

- a U.S. citizen;
- at least 18 years old;
- a resident of the school district for at least 30 days preceding the election;
- registered to vote in the school district for at least 30 days preceding the election.

### Conflicts of interest

There are conflicts of interest which all board members must be aware of so as not to jeopardize their reputation or that of the school district. In addition to actions and relationships prohibited by school statutes, other prohibitions are set out in criminal statutes and statutes enforced by the Ohio Ethics Commission. Please note that these statutes need to be read together. Even though under one statute there may not be a conflict, there could be a conflict under another.

Among the statutory prohibitions are:

- No member shall have, directly or indirectly, any pecuniary interest in any contract of the board or be employed for compensation by the board of which he or she is a member (*Ohio Revised Code Section (RC) 3313.33*).
- No member of a school board may knowingly authorize or employ the authority or influence of his or her office to secure authorization of any public contract in which he or she, a member of his or her family or any of his or her business associates have an interest (*RC 2921.42*).
- No board member may use or authorize the use of the authority or influence of his or her office to secure anything of value, or the promise of anything of value, to himself or herself, or solicit or accept anything of value that is of such a character as to manifest a substantial and improper influence upon him

or her with respect to his or her duties (*RC 102.03*).

The above listing is neither all-inclusive nor does it list the many exceptions to these rules. They also are subject to interpretation by the courts, the Ohio attorney general's office and the Ohio Ethics Commission. If you think that you may have a potential conflict of interest, please check with your district counsel, county prosecutor, city law director or the Ohio Ethics Commission at (614) 466-7090.

### Compatibility of public offices and positions

It is possible that if you already are a public employee or officeholder, a position on a board of education may be incompatible with your current position. Before seeking election, potential candidates should make certain they are eligible to serve. An index of compatibility of offices opinions is available on the Ohio attorney general's website. Contact the Ohio attorney general or OSBA for more information.

### Deciding to run

You've now had the opportunity to review what a board member does, characteristics of good board members, eligibility requirements and potential conflicts of interest. Still interested? If so, the following section will give you the legal requirements for getting nominated and campaigning.

### Filing your petition

A candidate must file a petition to run for election to a board of education. This petition must be filed by 4 p.m. on Aug. 5, 2015, the 90th day before the Nov. 3 general election (*RC 3513.254, 3513.255*). As of March 2015,

the filing fees are \$30.

The number of registered voters' signatures needed varies. Local and exempted village district petitions must have 25 valid signatures (*RC 3513.254*). A candidate in a city district with a population fewer than 20,000 must have 25 valid signatures; a population of 20,000–49,999, 75 valid signatures; a population of 50,000–99,999, 150 valid signatures; a population of 100,000 or more, 300 valid signatures (*RC 3513.254*). Educational service center governing board candidates must have 50 valid signatures (*RC 3513.255*).

Candidates may obtain the petition forms and discuss questions about filing with their county board of elections or the Ohio secretary of state.

### Campaigning

After filing your petition, it's time to begin

## Unable to attend?

On Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., OSBA will hold an online version of a condensed board candidate workshop to provide information school board candidates need to run a successful campaign. The first half hour of the Board Candidate Webinar will focus on board roles and responsibilities and the second half hour will cover campaign finance and legal issues. The cost to attend the webinar is \$50.

After Sept. 30, the webinar will be available for purchase to watch at your convenience.

gathering support. Candidates for boards of education must comply with all requirements relating to political campaigns. For instance, you must periodically file an itemized statement of campaign contributions and expenditures. Also, most campaign advertising must include a disclaimer comprised of the phrase "paid for by" followed by the name of the candidate's campaign committee (*RC 3517.20*). For further information on campaign laws, contact your county board of elections or the Ohio secretary of state (elections section) at (614) 466-2585 or visit [www.sos.state.oh.us](http://www.sos.state.oh.us).

Every member of, or candidate for, a board of education of a school district or

ESC having an average daily membership (enrollment) of 12,000 or more students (as most recently certified by the Ohio Department of Education) must file a financial disclosure statement with the Ohio Ethics Commission. The filing date for board members is on or before April 15 of each year. Candidates for boards of education (including incumbents) must file such statements no later than 30 days prior to the election upon which his or her vacancy is to be voted. Write-in candidates must file no later than 20 days prior to such election. Any person appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term must file within 15 days after he or she qualifies for office.

## Election

Members are elected on a nonpartisan ballot on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November in odd-numbered years. The term of office is four years, although in certain instances, two-year terms must be filled to complete an unexpired term. Your term begins on the first day of January after the election and expires on Dec. 31. Most boards of education have five members; however, some larger districts have seven. Two members (or four on a seven-member board) are elected at one general election and three members are elected at a general election two years later.

# OSBA Board Candidate Workshops and Webinar

If you wish to become one of Ohio's nearly 3,400 school board members, prepare yourself by attending one of OSBA's Board Candidate Workshops. Veteran staff of the association will serve as your workshop presenters. All sessions (except Sept. 12) run from 6 p.m.–9 p.m., with registration and buffet beginning at 5:30 p.m. The session on Sept. 12 runs from 9 a.m.–noon (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.).

Workshop and webinar registrants also will receive a Board Candidate Kit, which includes *Candidate: A practical guide to running for school board*; a subscription to the OSBA *Journal*, the premier bimonthly magazine for school board members; and a subscription to *Briefcase*, a semimonthly newsletter.

## What will I learn at the Board Candidate Workshop?

- school board powers and duties
- the most difficult things to learn about being a school board member
- campaign issues, including campaign finance
- board member ethics and behavior
- conflicts of interest
- compatibility of public offices and positions
- locally developed policies
- Ohio's Open Meeting Law

Time for a question-and-answer session is included.

## If you can't attend a workshop, view the webinar:

A Board Candidate Webinar will be held Wednesday, Sept. 30 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. This webinar can be purchased after Sept. 30 to view at your convenience. The webinar covers board roles and responsibilities and legal and campaign finance issues.

Mail registration to:

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

## 2015 OSBA Board Candidate Workshop and Webinar registration form

Please enclose check or credit card information to pay for workshop or webinar.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

I am a candidate for the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education in \_\_\_\_\_ County.

☐ This is my first campaign for a board seat

☐ I am running for re-election

Check the seminar you wish to attend. Space is limited. Reservations are accepted in the order received. Walk-in registrations are welcome on a space-available basis.

☐ Aug. 27 — NOMU, Rootstown, \$95

☐ Sept. 1 — Hilton Garden Inn Dayton South, Miamisburg, \$95

☐ Sept. 2 — Hilton Garden Inn, Findlay, \$95

☐ Sept. 10 — Ohio University Inn, Athens, \$95

☐ Sept. 12 — OSBA office, Columbus, \$95

☐ Sept. 30 — Board Candidate webinar, \$50\*

\* Price includes sales tax

☐ Pay by check

☐ Pay by credit card

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_

expires (Mo./Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_ CVV code \_\_\_\_\_ billing ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

3- or 4-digit code on back of card





# Beyond Surveys and Focus Groups: Engagement as a Partnership

*Lessons from three years of intensive community engagement*

Friday, July 31  
OSBA office, Columbus

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Cost is \$150

Dive deep into lessons learned from a large suburban district's community engagement initiative, then apply these lessons to your schools. Both large and small school districts can use these strategies to build small pockets of intimacy with community members to work together toward a shared purpose. Along the way, transform engagement from lip service to an essential part of whole-system change that challenges parents, staff and community members to be interdependent and collectively responsible for the future of their children's public education. This highly interactive session will include a workbook and small group dialogue so participants can learn from each other and track their own engagement experiments.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Register online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops) or contact Laurie Miller, senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).



## Celebrate the stars in your district at the OSBA Student Achievement Fair

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015 • 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. • Greater Columbus Convention Center

The OSBA Capital Conference Student Achievement Fair highlights outstanding student performance groups and fresh, innovative initiatives from school districts across the state. The fair will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015, during the OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show.

### Student Achievement Fair performing groups

OSBA will choose one school district performing group from each of the association's five regions to perform during the Student Achievement Fair. Each group will perform for 20 minutes. To nominate a performing group, submit a nomination at <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/2015/saf-nominations> and email an electronic video audition or YouTube link to Cheryl W. Ryan, deputy director of school board services, at [cryan@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:cryan@ohioschoolboards.org). Only electronic recordings will be accepted.



### Student Achievement Fair district programs

OSBA is accepting nominations for district programs that improve student achievement. For more ideas, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/60021> to view the list of 2014 Student Achievement Fair district programs.

One hundred programs highlighting student achievement will be selected. The online application is available at the link below.

The nomination deadline is Friday, June 26. Visit <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/2015/saf-nominations> to nominate a student performing group or district program today!



# WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

## OCSBA Spring Seminar

☐ June 12, Lewis Center, \$200

## Sports Law Workshop

☐ June 19, Columbus, \$160

## OSBA Pre-Board Candidate Workshop

☐ July 25, Columbus, free

## Beyond Surveys and Focus Groups: Engagement as a Partnership

☐ July 31, Columbus, \$150

## Budget Analysis and Discussion Seminar

☐ Aug. 10, Columbus, \$195

## 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**, senior events manager, 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.

You may register on our website at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops). You will need a username and password.



Mail

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



Phone  
or fax

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



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

### 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.

Legislative Report, continued from page 6

## Miscellaneous provisions

HB 212 would:

- Limit the scope of the State Board's authority to adopt minimum operating standards.
- Prohibit the state from joining

any consortium, association or other group when membership requires ceding any measure of control over education.

- Prohibit the State Board from adopting model curriculum.

- Make the requirement for districts to have career advising policies optional.

*Editor's note:* All information in this article was current as of May 28, 2015.



## NEWS

by Angela Penquite, assistant editor

### Board members show commitment to education at BLI

School board members from across Ohio gathered at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris in north Columbus on May 1-2 for the 14th annual OSBA Board Leadership Institute (BLI).

Attendees enjoyed two days of outstanding keynote speakers, first-rate learning and a wealth of sharing with colleagues from around the state. And, they headed home refreshed and motivated to put what they had learned into practice in their own school districts.

"It's amazing to see school board members' dedication to professional development," said **Rob Delane**, OSBA deputy executive director and BLI coordinator. "More than 2,500 board members have graduated from BLI since it began in 2002. Their dedication to improving their leadership skills and better serving their students and communities is to be commended.

"Many board members return to

BLI each year due to the strong curriculum centered on the needs of all board members. With the numerous challenges facing public education today, it is essential board members learn everything possible to increase their knowledge and skills."

Board members took full advantage of this professional development opportunity, with 185 registered for the event. Several districts had two or three members participating in BLI. All five members of the **Greenfield EV** board attended. Districts from which four of the five members attended included **Ashtabula County ESC, Campbell City, Hamilton County ESC, Hillsboro City, New Miami Local (Butler) and Northridge Local (Montgomery)**.

The Friday-Saturday event featured 18 breakout sessions in six learning tracks, covering student achievement, finance, critical issues, board development,

leadership and hot topics. Attendees networked with colleagues during two luncheons sponsored by CompManagement and CompManagement Health Systems Inc.

Between sessions, attendees browsed at an on-site branch of the OSBA Bookstore, met with regional managers to learn how they could become more involved in regional activities and learned about OSBA endorsed programs. They received a flash drive containing handouts from all the breakout sessions, which they can share with others in their districts who were unable to attend the institute.

Board members also networked between sessions and during the meals, sharing experiences and learning from each other.

"A benefit of a smaller conference like BLI is the networking opportunities," Delane said. "Board members could meet

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with their peers, compare what they are doing in their districts and how they are helping students succeed. BLI is a wonderful forum for networking, learning and sharing solutions to common problems. We're looking forward to another strong Board Leadership Institute in 2016."

### Opening General Session

**Dr. James Mahoney**  
**Untying the knots in**  
**standardized testing**  
*by Crystal Davis, editor*

"We should be using assessments to inform instruction and improvement, not simply for judgment," said Battelle for Kids (BFK) Executive Director Dr. **James Mahoney**, as he tied together the ends of a small rope during his May 1 BLI General Session presentation.

"Improving student achievement involves four main components; the first of which is the standards that are set."

As he linked a second small rope to his first rope circle, Mahoney said the second component is, "effective instruction." He named the third and fourth components — "useful assessments and accountability" — as he continued tying a third and a fourth small rope to the chain.

"We're still arguing about the type of standards and what is a highly effective teacher, but how do we make it all about improving student learning?" Mahoney asked as he began cutting strands of his now four-link rope chain with a pair of scissors.

Answering his own question, Mahoney said the word "alignment" as he tugged on both

ends of the chain and, almost magically, just a straight rope remained.

"Assessments should help inform instruction, and we must make sure we have accountability," he told the crowd of school board members from across the state. "You are people they trust, and you are trying to figure out the signal from the noise."

You are the people who, figuratively speaking, are trying to untie the "knots" being created as standardized testing is implemented in schools, he explained. You are the people who "should aim for alignment with the four components to improve student learning."

Improving teaching and learning is Mahoney's forte. Since 2001, he has served as executive director of Columbus-based BFK, a

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## Learn how you can save time and money with BoardDocs



Did you know that switching to paperless board meetings could help your school district save time and money and become more effective for as little as \$2,700 per year? OSBA proudly endorses BoardDocs paperless governance solutions. As the pioneer of eGovernance, BoardDocs has helped more than 1,000 organizations worldwide improve board effectiveness, reduce the time required to create and manage board packets by up to 75% and dramatically reduce costs. In fact, by using BoardDocs, many school districts report savings in the thousands — even tens of thousands — per year. Currently, more than 70 Ohio districts are saving money with BoardDocs by going paperless.

Register for a free one-hour webinar on Tuesday, July 14, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. to learn more. Register at <https://www.boarddocs.com/event.nsf/ViewEvent/OSBA2015-02>. For questions about these webinars, contact **Laura Vautour**, BoardDocs e-governance specialist, at (800) 407-0141, ext. 3521, or [Lvautour@boarddocs.com](mailto:Lvautour@boarddocs.com).



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national not-for-profit organization that has a strong focus on improving Ohio's education system. BFK is committed to moving education forward by supporting the educators who work with students every day. It provides services, solutions and products that empower teachers, develop leaders and improve school districts to ensure pathways to success for every student.

A long-time educator, Mahoney has served as a superintendent, principal and teacher, as well as an adjunct professor at several Ohio universities. OSBA has been a longtime partner with BFK, which recently announced it has chosen OSBA to receive its Friend of Battelle for Kids Award. The award recognizes OSBA for years of dedicated partnership in promoting enhanced educational opportunities for Ohio students.

Mahoney's speech was peppered with many colorful and humorous stories. There also were opportunities for attendees to write and share answers to some thought-provoking questions and, at one point, the talk turned into a demonstration of his seemingly psychic abilities.

He handed a woman in the audience a book and asked her to select a word inside. He instructed her not to reveal that word because he was going to try to guess it at the end of his presentation.

Mahoney proceeded to outline themes he hoped the audience would take home:

- the achievement gap between

low- and high-income students keeps growing;

- competition is increasingly global;
- schools must work harder to promote proactive learning and make diplomas more meaningful.

He shared a video featuring children in a third-world country clamoring to teach themselves to use a computer set up in a town square by a non-profit group. Mahoney followed up the video by asking, "Will we be reactors or pro-actors as we educate the leaders of tomorrow?"

Mahoney said it's crucial that every student leaves high school ready to move on to the next step, whether it's the military, a two-year certificate or college.

"We must guide them to be prepared for something," he said.

The biggest achievement gap is between students in high- and low-income families, with only 3% in the lowest quartile graduating from college, he said. More students from affluent families finish college than the best test-takers at the lowest income levels.

"We don't hold the wealthy and poor in equal respect," Mahoney said. "Kids need the same skills to be successful in all fields, and they will rise to the expectations of them."

"Someday, kids aren't going to get work, they're going to make work, and we need to help them cultivate a different business model. Kids are going to interact and need to compete globally."

As he neared the end of his talk, Mahoney stressed that grit,

resilience and perseverance contribute to adult success, and those traits need to be cultivated, along with respect and appreciation for teachers.

"While we are so intent on making sure teachers are effective, we also need to make sure the profession is worthy of entry by the best folks," he said. "I worry, because there is evidence that people don't want to go into teaching. We've got to make it something people want to do."

For his finale, Mahoney had one last trick up his sleeve. He returned to the woman with the book, who told him the word she selected began with the letter P. Without hesitation, Mahoney guessed that the word was photographer, and he was right. He didn't reveal how he knew her answer, but it appears to be, at the very least, a very educated guess.

## Closing Luncheon

**State Sen. Peggy Lehner**

**The view from the Senate**

**Education Committee chair**

*by Angela Penquite, assistant editor*

During her May 2 BLI Closing Luncheon presentation, Sen. **Peggy Lehner** (R-Kettering) told attendees one thing she has learned in her six years as chair of the Senate Education Committee: "We don't talk to you enough."

"One of the things that makes education policy so difficult is that we have so many different layers of people involved," Lehner said, explaining it begins with students,

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then moves to teachers, administrators and local school boards before coming to the State Board of Education and the legislature.

"One of the real challenges is to put all those people at the same table."

She's also learned that attempting to apply a one-size-fits-all approach to education policy does not work. She described two systems of education in the U.S., one for students from economically privileged backgrounds and the second composed of students in poverty and other circumstances that can make learning difficult. If we don't look at policies to help those students, Lehner said, "We are heading for real failure."

She outlined four areas that could help those districts:

- Implementing an early childhood education system, beginning ideally at age 3. "Children who arrive at school two to three years behind their peers never catch up," she said,

explaining that early childhood education needs to be as integral to Ohio schools as grades K-12.

- Encouraging high-quality teachers to work in schools with children from diverse backgrounds. Teacher education would need to include how to work with diverse cultures, and newly hired teachers would require motivation and support to be successful.

- Refocusing on career-tech programs. While the idea of going to college should be in the minds of students, it's not realistic for everyone. "We have to show them pathways to other opportunities that they might have," she said.

- Embedding wrap-around services in schools to provide services to students as well as the community.

"Cincinnati City is doing a great job of creating community learning centers that build public-private partnerships embedded in the schools," Lehner said.

"Students have access to social

workers, food and support for after-school help with their homework. One school has an optometry clinic. One day, 14 special education students went to the clinic; 12 returned with glasses.

"How can you read when you can't see?" Taking care of some of those basic needs is really important."

Lehner also discussed current legislature before the General Assembly, starting with school funding. Although most attendees agreed they preferred the House of Representatives' school-funding proposal, Lehner said Gov. **John R. Kasich** objected to it because he thought it gives money to many districts with large surpluses.

"How many of you feel your schools have huge surpluses?" she asked over the crowd's laughter. She explained that the printouts produced by the governor's office do not account for five-year forecasts. Board members need to review their district's current surplus compared with the five-year forecast and talk to their senator.

"You need to make sure your senator has a clear understanding of the financial situation in your district, because without a clear understanding, they are going to make decisions based on something other than the facts," she said.

Testing is another issue that is being hotly debated. Students are upset, teachers are worried about the impact the tests will have on their evaluations and anti-

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## Looking ahead to BLI 2016

Planning has begun for the 15th annual OSBA Board Leadership Institute, scheduled for April 29-30, 2016, in Columbus.

If you're a BLI graduate, you already know the value of condensing multiple workshops into one convenient venue. If you've never attended the institute, make plans now to participate next year.

If you'd like to be involved in designing the curriculum for next year's BLI, be sure to attend the Board Leadership Institute Focus Group in November during the OSBA Capital Conference. For more information, contact **Rob Delane**, OSBA deputy executive director and BLI coordinator, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [rdelane@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:rdelane@ohioschoolboards.org).



## PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Gary Motz, editorial manager

### United students turn off cellphones for UNICEF water project

Simply by putting down their cellphones, a group of **United Local (Columbiana)** students were able to provide decades worth of drinking water for children in undeveloped countries.

About 140 juniors and seniors accomplished this through the UNICEF Tap Project, in which an app is downloaded to cellphones and iPods that measures how long the device is inactive with the app running. Every 15 minutes equates to one day of purified water.

Sponsors and supporters provide funds that are used to bring children in undeveloped countries safe water and sanitation facilities, as well as hygiene education.

UNICEF's goal is to provide 14 million days of clean water. The 140 United High School students contributed more than 125 years — or nearly 46,000 days — toward that goal.

"I'm really proud of how the students stepped up, their display

of caring and giving," history teacher and project organizer **Danielle Burch** told a local newspaper. "They certainly went above and beyond."

One student, **Brittany Solomon**, accumulated about 5,000 days.

"For all the kids in other countries, this is something I could do to help out and do as much as I could," Solomon said.

For more information about the project, visit [tap.unicefusa.org](http://tap.unicefusa.org).

Source: *The Salem News*

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*News, continued from page 10*

Common Core groups are protesting that the exams are testing the wrong things. Add social media into the mix and, "we have an uproar we haven't seen since Senate Bill 5," Lehner said.

To resolve the problem, she formed the 30-member Senate Advisory Committee on Testing, composed of teachers, superintendents, curriculum directors and policymakers from across the state. The committee met for six weeks to find solutions to the testing problems; the final recommendations will be presented to the Senate.

"What was very interesting was that most of them came into the room opposed to the Partnership

for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing," Lehner said. "They wanted to see PARCC go away. Our unanimous decision at the end of the day was to modify the test and they were neutral as to whether it was PARCC or something else." The committee is recommending the Ohio Department of Education vet the tests and make the final determination on which test to use.

Charter school accountability also is at the forefront. Ohio was one of the first states in the country to set up charter schools at a time when there were few guidelines for governance. Lehner acknowledged that Ohio has some

great charter schools, but "90% of them are not living up to their promise.

"If these (proposed) policies go into effect, I think you're going to see a lot of people exiting the charter world who probably shouldn't have been there in the first place," she continued, amid loud applause.

Throughout her speech, Lehner stressed the need to communicate with legislators to share ideas and ensure board members' voices are being heard.

"Let's keep the dialogue going," she said. "Keep communicating with us as frequently as possible. ... Thanks again for the work you all do."

## June 2015

- 12 OCSBA Spring Seminar.....Lewis Center  
19 Sports Law Workshop ..... Columbus  
30 2014-2015 school year ends — RC 3313.62;  
end of third ADM reporting period — RC  
3317.03(A).

## July 2015

- 1 2015-2016 school year begins — RC  
3313.62; last day for board to notify teaching  
and nonteaching employees of succeeding  
year salaries — RC 3319.12, 3319.082;  
board may begin to 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).  
6 Last day for voter registration for August  
election — RC 3503.01, 3503.19(A) (30  
days prior to the election).  
8 Central Region Executive Committee  
meeting..... Columbus  
10 Last day for termination of teaching contract  
by a teacher without consent of the board of  
education — RC 3319.15.  
14 BoardDocs webinar  
15 Last day to adopt school library district tax  
budget on behalf of a library district — RC  
5705.28(B)(1).  
21 Last day to submit certification for  
November conversion levy to tax

- commissioner — RC 5705.219(B) (105 days  
prior to election).  
25 Pre-Board Candidate  
Workshop ..... Columbus  
27 Last day to submit certification for  
November income tax levy to Ohio  
Department of Taxation — RC 5748.02(A)  
(100 days prior to election).  
31 Beyond Surveys and Focus Groups:  
Engagement as a Partnership  
workshop ..... Columbus  
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.) detailing contributions and  
expenditures through June 30, 2015 — RC  
3517.10(A)(4); 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  
prior to election).

## August 2015

- 1 Last day to submit to the Ohio Department  
of Education a plan to require students to  
access and complete online classroom lessons  
("blizzard bags") in order to make up hours  
for which it was necessary to close schools  
— RC 3313.482; last day to file statistical

- report with Ohio Department of Education  
— RC 3319.33.  
3 Southwest Region Executive Committee  
meeting.....TBD  
4 Special Election Day — RC 3501.01 (first  
Tuesday after the first Monday).  
5 Northeast Region Executive Committee  
Meeting ..... Wadsworth  
5 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, conversion levy or renewal  
of conversion levy for November election  
to board of elections — RC 5748.02(C),  
5705.219 (C) and (G); last day to submit  
emergency levy for November election to  
board of elections — RC 5705.195; last  
day to submit phased-in levy or current  
operating expenses levy for November  
election to board of elections — RC  
5705.251(A).