

# BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



## Study: U.S. on track to reach 90% high school graduation rate by 2020

The “2014 Building a Grad Nation” report found that if the national graduation rate continues to rise at the same rate it has since 2006, it will reach 90% by 2020. The national graduation rate hit an all-time high of 80% in 2012, with significant gains seen among minority students. The report also notes that these increases have come as standards to graduate have become more rigorous. The report is available at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/91600>.

## Scores of Ohio high schools ranked among the best in U.S.

Nearly 250 Ohio schools were ranked among the *U.S. News & World Report* Best High Schools for 2014. Of those, 22 were awarded gold medals, 93 earned silver medals and 129 received bronze medals. Medals were awarded based on performance on state assessments and how well schools prepare students for college. The rankings include data on more than 19,400 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia. To view the Ohio rankings, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/52254>.

## Retired superintendent named new manager for OSBA Central Region

Dr. Kimberley Rae Miller-Smith has been hired as regional manager for the OSBA Central Region. Miller-Smith served as superintendent at **Canal Winchester Local (Franklin)** from 2007 until her retirement in 2012. An educator for more than 30 years, she also has served as a teacher, library media specialist, assistant principal, assistant superintendent and university instructor and director. She replaces Dr. **Michael G. Grote**, who resigned in August to take an educational consultant position.

## Report provides districts tips for doing more with less

A policy guide issued by the District Management Council offers suggestions on ways school districts can maximize their resources during a time of increasing financial constraints. “Spending Money Wisely: Getting the Most From School District Budgets” details 10 “high-impact opportunities” to help school systems do more with less. Access the guide at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/28503>.

## Analysis finds more than \$100 million in charter school fraud

A report recently released by the Center for Popular Democracy and Integrity in Education shows that fraudulent charter school operators in 15 states are responsible for losing, misusing or wasting more than \$100 million in taxpayer money. The report analyzes news reports, criminal complaints and other sources to detail how, in just 15 of the 42 states that have charter schools, including Ohio, charter operators have used school funds illegally to buy personal luxuries for themselves, support their other

May 26, 2014

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### Route workshop information to:

- ☐ Administrators
- ☐ Assistant treasurers
- ☐ Principals

businesses and inflate their payrolls. Download the report at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/85116>.

### **OSBA SE Region seeking recognition nominations**

Southeastern Ohio districts are urged to submit nominations for the 2014 OSBA Southeast Region Recognition Program. The region selects outstanding individuals and initiatives to honor at its fall conference. Categories are: student program, female student, male student, faculty member, classified staff member, treasurer, volunteer, administrator and new program. Honorees will be recognized at the Southeast Region Fall Conference on Sept. 25 at **Alexander Local (Athens)** in Albany. Nomination forms have been sent to board presidents and are posted at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/se-region](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/se-region). For details, contact **Paul D. Mock**, regional manager, at

(740) 385-5240 or [pmock@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:pmock@ohioschoolboards.org). The deadline is June 30.

### **Free seminar will address sports event security issues**

OSBA is among several groups supporting the Ohio High School Athletic Association's free Safe

### **Alexander Local student wins 'Doodle 4 Google' contest**

An **Alexander Local (Athens)** student could have her artwork appear on the Google home page for the entire world to see.

Alexander Middle School seventh-grader **Emi Olin** recently was named this year's statewide winner in the annual "Doodle 4 Google" contest. Olin was honored with a special assembly at her school, where Google employees unveiled an oversized picture of her artwork, a nature-inspired version of the tech company's logo.

"They told me I was the state winner, and I kind of like collapsed after that," Olin told a local newspaper.

Olin won a trip to California for the announcement of the national winner. If she wins, she will receive a \$30,000 scholarship, and the district will get a \$50,000 technology grant.

Source: *The Athens News*

Sport Zone seminar June 11 in Newark. Safe Sport Zone is a program to help secondary schools address security and safety issues arising at after-school athletic events. For details visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/81928>.

### **New OSBA Pocket Calendars en route to member districts**

The 2014-15 OSBA Pocket Calendar is being mailed to school district treasurers. School board members who don't receive their calendars soon should contact their treasurers.

### **OSBA online**

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

Have you checked out OSBA's Flickr page lately? It's the place to go to view and download photos of association events and activities. The most recent addition is photos from the 2014 Board Leadership Institute. Access OSBA's Flickr page at [www.flickr.com/Ohschoolboards](http://www.flickr.com/Ohschoolboards).



## **Briefcase**

Ohio School Boards Association  
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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

## OSBA executive searches

### Treasurer

#### District

① Fremont City

#### Deadline

May 26

#### Contact

OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



① = Treasurer

## Other searches

#### Position

Superintendent

#### District

Norwalk City

#### Deadline

June 27

#### Contact

**Mandy Martin**, personnel and licensure,  
North Point ESC, (419) 627-3908

#### Treasurer

**Pandora-Gilboa Local (Putnam)** May 31

**Shelly Guthrie**, central office director,  
Pandora-Gilboa Local,  
guthries@pg.noacsc.org

## Board changes

Kent City appointed **Pamela Freeman** to the board effective April 28. She replaced **Janet M. Rusnack**, who resigned. ●●● Washington Local (Lucas) appointed **Eric Kiser** to the board effective April 29. He replaced **Steve Zuber**, who resigned. ●●● Westerville City Board of Education member **Cindy Crowe** announced her resignation effective May 19.

## Administrative changes

### Superintendents

**Johnstown-Monroe Local (Licking)** hired **Dale L. Dickson** as superintendent effective May 14. He replaced Interim Superintendent Dr. **Nelson McCray**. ●●● **Kenston Local (Geauga)** hired Assistant Superintendent **Nancy Santill** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace Dr. **Robert A. Lee**, who is retiring. ●●● **Medina City** Superintendent Dr. **Randy S. Stepp** announced his resignation effective immediately. ●●● **Pickerington Local (Fairfield)** hired Dr. **Valerie M. Browning** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Rob L. Walker**, who is retiring. Browning currently is superintendent at **Kings Local (Warren)**. ●●● **Springfield Local (Lucas)** Superintendent **Kathryn A. Hott** announced her retirement effective May 31. Assistant Superintendent Dr. **Michael O'Shea** will take over as interim superintendent.

### Editor's note

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

effective June 1.

### Treasurers

**Grandview Heights City** Treasurer **Tammy Rizzo** announced her resignation effective April 18. ●●● **Southeast Local (Wayne)** hired **Mark Dickerhoof** as interim treasurer effective May 1. He replaces **Sandy Hadsell**, who is taking the treasurer position at **Norwayne Local (Wayne)** effective June 1. Hadsell is replacing **Robert Rinehart**, who has taken the assistant treasurer position at **Cleveland Heights-University Heights City**. Dickerhoof will continue his role as treasurer at **Green Local (Wayne)**, **Orrville City** and **Rittman EV**.

### Sympathies

Former **Cincinnati City** Board of Education member **Dr. Florence Newell** died April 1. She was 70. ●●● Former **Elyria City** Board of Education member **Herman Larkins** died May 4. He was 81. ●●● Former **Maysville Local (Muskingum)** Board of Education member **G. William Thompson** died April 26. He was 76. ●●● Former **Oregon City** Board of Education member **Edward W. Berger** died April 29. He was 89.



## NEWS

by Gary Motz, managing editor

### Lieutenant governor, state senator among BLI highlights

More than 200 school board members enjoyed two days of learning, sharing and camaraderie at the 13th annual OSBA Board Leadership Institute (BLI). The event ran May 2-3 at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris.

BLI is designed exclusively for board members by their fellow board members. The curriculum is developed at the Board Leadership Institute Focus Group meeting held each November during the OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show. It is Ohio's only major training event designed just for school board members.

The institute opened with greetings and comments from OSBA President **Susie Lawson**, **Tri-County ESC** and **Wayne County Schools Career Center**;

Executive Director **Richard Lewis**; and Deputy Executive Director **Rob Delane**. Lawson also introduced the General Session speaker.

The Friday-Saturday event featured keynote speakers **Dr. Mike Thomson** and state Sen. **Randy Gardner** (R-Bowling Green). A last-minute addition to the program was Ohio Lt. Gov. **Mary Taylor**, who shared details of the governor's Start Talking! campaign to combat drug abuse. For more information on that initiative, visit [www.starttalking.ohio.gov](http://www.starttalking.ohio.gov).

Attendees could choose from 18 breakout sessions organized into six learning tracks. Learning track topics were: student achievement, finance, critical issues, board

development, legal/legislative and hot topics. Experts in those fields from around the state led the sessions. A new feature this year, a flash drive containing handouts from all of the sessions, enabled attendees to take home information from seminars they couldn't attend.

Before, between and after workshops, participants found plenty of time to discuss their ideas, successes and challenges with each other. Two breakfasts and luncheons offered additional networking time. An on-site OSBA Bookstore provided further learning opportunities. Attendees also met with OSBA regional managers to find out more about activities in their regions.

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Members were able to learn more about OSBA's new Stand Up for Public Schools campaign to promote the importance of public schools and locally elected boards of education. A number of attendees had their photos taken while holding signs promoting the campaign with such slogans as: "School boards strengthen public education," "I believe in public education" and "Who I am today began with public education."

Those photos and others from BLI are posted on OSBA's Flickr page at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/18422>.

"Once again, the feedback from Board Leadership Institute attendees was extraordinary," Delane said. "It's clear that school board members find something very special about a training event that focuses solely on their needs

and challenges.

"I heard great comments on everything from how in-depth the curriculum was to the timeliness of the topics to the expertise of the presenters. That motivates us to develop an even better BLI for next year."

"I was really pleased to see how many school districts sent multiple members to the institute," Lewis said. "It's very gratifying to see and hear how much our members value the Board Leadership Institute. Also gratifying is how dedicated they are to pursuing the best board training they can get."

Several districts had the complete, or nearly complete, participation of their boards. Districts sending all five board members to BLI were: **Campbell City; Champion Local (Trumbull); Greenfield EV; and Hamilton**

**County ESC.**

The districts from which four of five members attended were: **Ashtabula County ESC; Big Walnut Local (Delaware); Miami Trace Local (Fayette); New Miami Local (Butler); North Baltimore Local (Wood); and Xenia Community City.**

Thirteen other boards sent three members, and many newly elected school board members came to Columbus for their first BLI.

OSBA would like to thank BLI sponsors CompManagement Inc., which sponsored the May 2 luncheon with Taylor, and CompManagement Health Systems Inc., which sponsored the May 3 luncheon with Gardner.

Following are recaps of Thomson's and Gardner's presentations.

*Continued on page 6*



## Are you currently involved in litigation that may have statewide significance?

The OSBA Legal Assistance Fund (LAF) is available to provide financial or legal assistance in matters of statewide importance to local school districts.

LAF offers direct financial assistance or other support in the form of amicus curiae briefs.

Please call OSBA at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA for information about your member status or to obtain an application if you have a pending matter that may meet the above description. Visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/legal-assistance-fund](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/legal-assistance-fund) for more information.

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## Opening General Session

Dr. Mike Thomson

### 'Strategies for saving your sanity'

"How many of you have sat through dull, dry and boring talks?" Dr. Mike Thomson said in kicking off his May 2 General Session talk. After watching nearly every hand in the room go up he said, "This will not be one of those."

And he went on to prove it with a lively, enlightening and extremely funny presentation.

Better known as "Dr. Mike," Thomson has dedicated his career to education and helping people. The internationally acclaimed author and speaker has worked as a psychologist, consultant, coach, educator and university professor.

He co-hosted the NBC special "The Learning Lunchbox," with **Patricia Richardson**, who played the mother on the hit TV sitcom "Home Improvement." The TV and DVD program is aimed at helping parents prepare their

kindergarten through eighth-grade kids for academic excellence. He also hosted the award-winning PBS series "In Search of Character," which schools use around the world to raise the bar for good character.

"I've spent my entire life in schools," Thomson said. "I love kids." However, today's youth present challenges not always seen in previous generations.

"How many feel like they live on a different planet?" he asked. "When we were kids, we did what we were told. Now what do we hear from kids? 'No way, man' ... 'whatever' ... 'you're not the boss of me.'"

He went on to cite other major changes society has undergone: social media, a growing culture of disrespect and school violence. School boards must deal with all these challenges and more.

"As a school board member, you're going to deal with a lot of *junk*," Thomson said. "And if you

don't have a strategy to save your sanity, it's going to be a tough business.

"You want your schools to be successful, your staff to be successful, your kids to be successful. But, we have to model that and teach that."

He offered attendees three key themes to remember: the only people with problems are dead, the world is filled with jerks and in a tornado, even a turkey can fly.

"If you're not dead, you're going to have problems," he said. "As a school board member, you have to learn that and you have to teach it to others."

Dealing with problems comes down to choices, Thomson said. Successful people examine the choices, shift their focus forward and leave the negative behind.

He turned next to jerks.

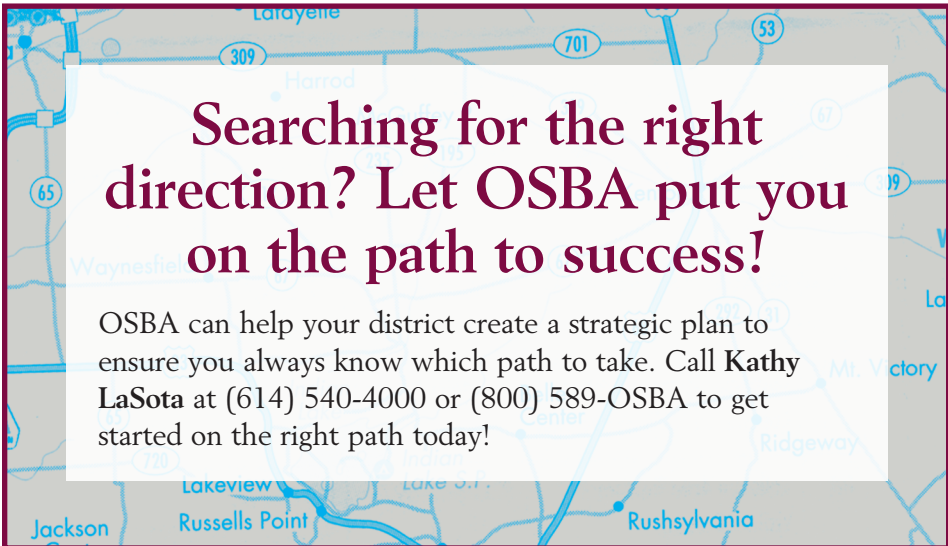
"People can be mean, nasty, disgusting and despicable. They'll not only stab you in the back, they'll stab you in the front. They can instantly smear you on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and text messages with any rumor they want to tell about you.

"But I love jerks now, you know why? Because they teach me how *not* to be a jerk."

And finally, flying turkeys.

"What that means is that you're never stuck unless you *choose* to feel stuck," he said. "Don't ever give up ... look for opportunities. **Walt Disney** pitched his plans for Disneyland 302 times before he succeeded. **Harlan Sanders** —

*Continued on page 7*



## Searching for the right direction? Let OSBA put you on the path to success!

OSBA can help your district create a strategic plan to ensure you always know which path to take. Call **Kathy LaSota** at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA to get started on the right path today!



THE 37TH ANNUAL OHIO COUNCIL OF SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEYS

# SPRING SEMINAR

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

TUITION IS \$190

NORTHPOINTE HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER, LEWIS CENTER

## Agenda

- 8:30 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast**
- 8:50 a.m. OSBA welcome and overview**
- 9 a.m. Staff expression and academic freedom after *Freshwater v. Mt. Vernon City School Dist. Bd. of Ed.***  
You have read the decision, but the district's counsel will revisit the implications of the decision and the status of the law on these perennial issues.  
*David Kane Smith, Esq., Britton, Smith, Peters & Kalail Co. LPA*
- 10 a.m. OCR guidance update — diabetes, discipline, athletics**  
Review the comprehensive guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights during the past year and implications for school districts.  
*Chandra S. Bowling, Esq., U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights*
- 11 a.m. Break**
- 11:15 a.m. Legislative and Common Core legal issues update, part 1**  
Get information on the pending midbiennium budget review and recently enacted legislation downloaded directly to your mental inbox.  
*Jennifer P. Hogue, lobbyist, Ohio School Boards Association*
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch (provided) and OCSBA Annual Meeting and election of officers**
- 12:45 p.m. Legislative and Common Core legal issues update, part 2**  
Explore legal issues surrounding the implementation of the Common Core and third-grade reading guarantee.  
*Lisa Gray, project director, The Ohio Standard*
- 1:15 p.m. Break**
- 1:30 p.m. Reasonable accommodations or undue burden — disability discrimination claims**  
A plaintiff and district counsel collaboratively discuss the issues and interests of the parties involved with these unique yet repetitive claims.  
*Kathleen K. McKinley, Esq., Baasten McKinley & Co. LPA., and Erin M. Wessendorf-Wortman, Ennis, Roberts & Fischer Co. LPA*
- 2:30 p.m. Professional conduct — focus on alcoholism**  
Engage in a review and discussion of the causes, prevention, detection and treatment alternatives for alcoholism in the legal profession.  
*Michael A. Prisley, Esq., Brehm and Bowen Co. LPA*
- 3:30 p.m. Adjourn**

Application has been made to the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education for 5.0 total CLE hours, with 1.0 hour of professionalism credit.

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





# Safe Schools Summer Camp — protecting students and staff

Wednesday, June 18 and Thursday, June 19  
Thomas Worthington High School, Worthington

Cost: \$195

The Ohio School Boards Association, in cooperation with the Columbus Division of Police SWAT team and the Columbus Division of Fire Bomb Squad, presents a two-day workshop focused on protecting staff and students in your district.

During this workshop, participants will attend informative presentations, as well as witness and participate in training scenarios led by highly trained tactical officers. Learn about explosives and try your hand at engaging a shooter while another attendee plays the role of the “bad guy.”

## Tentative agenda

### June 18

8 a.m.	Registration and continental breakfast
9 a.m.	Welcome and introductions
9:15 a.m.	The active school shooter/time conundrum
10:30 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.	Law enforcement responses
Noon	Lunch (provided)
1 p.m.	Participation in scenarios
4 p.m.	Adjourn

### June 19

8 a.m.	Registration/continental breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Travel to St. Charles High School, Bexley (transportation provided)
9 a.m.	Review day's activities
9:30 a.m.	Real-time response to simulated crisis
Noon	Lunch (provided)
1 p.m.	Explosives: what do they look like and how do they work?
3 p.m.	Wrap up and return to Thomas Worthington High School

Come prepared to participate and learn — dress appropriately for a dirty environment and possible inclement weather. *Note:* All participation is purely voluntary.

The fee for the two-day workshop is \$195, and will include training, materials, and breakfast and lunch both days. Because of the interactive nature of this event, attendance is limited to 40 participants.

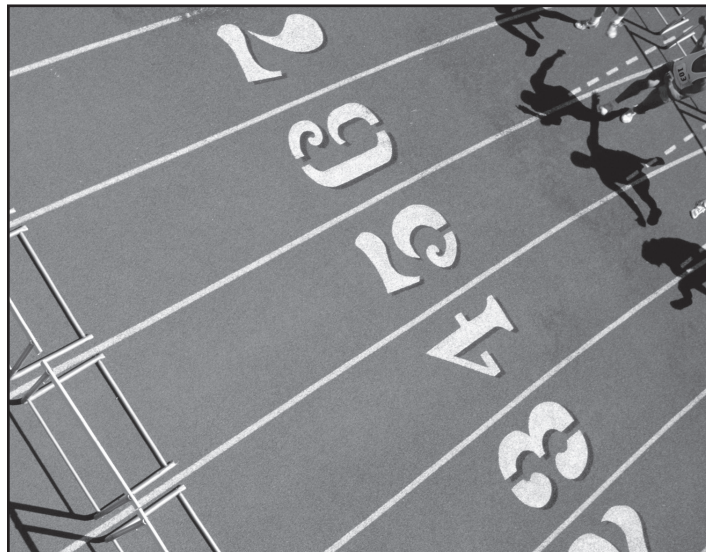
To register, contact **Laurie Miller**, senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000; (800) 589-OSBA; or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).



# Sports Law Workshop

Friday, June 20  
9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Embassy Suites Columbus Airport  
Cost is \$150



## AGENDA

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

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

**9 a.m. Planes, trains and automobiles**  
Transporting student athletes may present several risks and issues. Learn what vehicles may be used and the requirements that must be followed when transporting student athletes.  
*Mike Miller, transportation consultant, OSBA*

**10 a.m. Break**

**10:15 a.m. OHSA 2014 legal update: what's happening now**  
Learn the latest developments and initiatives from the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSA), including policy and bylaw changes, the competitive balance proposal and more.  
*Dr. Daniel B. Ross, commissioner, OHSA*

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

**12:30 p.m. Money, money, money: compensating coaches**

Bring your questions and get answers on who may provide compensation to district coaches and how the Fair Labor Standards Act comes into play.  
*Alexander L. Ewing, Esq., Frost Brown Todd LLC, West Chester*

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

**1:45 p.m. 2014 sports case law update reloaded**  
Hear the latest developments in sports law litigation from liability to disciplining athletes and everything in between.  
*Edmund F. Brown, Esq., Buckley King, Columbus*

**2:30 p.m. Ban a fan: dealing with problematic parents and spectators**  
Fans taunting players? Parents yelling at opponents? Learn what your district can do when dealing with unruly, problematic and disruptive parents and fans at sporting events.  
*Mark Landes, Esq., Isaac Wiles Burkholder & Teetor LLC, Columbus*

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

The workshop will be held at the Embassy Suites Columbus Airport, 2886 Airport Drive, Columbus, OH 43219. The phone number is (614) 536-0500. To register, 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.



# WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

## Winning Community Engagement Strategies

☐ June 10, webinar, \$35

## OCSBA Spring Seminar

☐ June 13, Lewis Center, \$190

## Safe Schools Summer Camp — protecting students and staff

☐ June 18-19, Columbus, \$195

## Sports Law Workshop

☐ June 20, Columbus, \$150

## School Districts and Booster Groups

☐ July 15, webinar, \$35

## OSBA Workshop Registration Form

Workshop name \_\_\_\_\_ Workshop date \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

District/firm \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or P.O.# \_\_\_\_\_ to cover \_\_\_\_\_ registration(s). Make checks payable to OSBA and mail to 8050 N. High St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235-6481; fax to (614) 540-4100; or email **Laurie Miller**, 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.

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Colonel Sanders — was 66 years old, living in his car and failed more than 1,000 times before he sold his idea. **Thomas Edison**, reflecting on his 10,000 failures said, 'I learned 10,000 things not to do.'"

Thomson also discussed his See-Share-Stop initiative to reduce bullying and deter violence. The program encourages students, staff and parents to step up and speak out against bullying and cyberbullying.

"We especially need to empower bus drivers and cafeteria workers, because they're down at the grassroots, they hear and know what's going on. By encouraging

people to step up and speak up, maybe we can head off something.

"And we've got to teach people what kindness and caring and respect are all about. If you want the culture and climate of a school to change, people have to step up and say, 'We don't talk like (or) act like that here.' We've got a lot of good people in our schools, but the good people have to step up."

### Closing Luncheon

**State Sen. Randy Gardner**  
**Senator opposes changes to OTES bill; discusses Common Core**  
*by Crystal Davis, editor*

Perhaps to the surprise of the more than 200 people attending his

May 3 presentation, state Sen. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) explained why he now opposes Senate Bill (SB) 229, which contains changes to the new Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) and still bears his name as a co-sponsor.

"In my 28-and-half years in the Statehouse, I have never had a piece of legislation go to the other chamber and be changed dramatically without my input, without even my knowledge," Gardner said. "Amazing! It's not typical of what happens at the Statehouse, it just isn't."

Gardner expressed frustration over the 32 amendments placed in

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# OSBA Student Achievement Fair

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014 • Greater Columbus Convention Center

The OSBA Capital Conference Student Achievement Fair highlights outstanding initiatives from school districts across the state. OSBA is seeking fresh, innovative programs or practices your district is willing to share with thousands of Ohio school district representatives. One hundred programs and practices will be selected based on creativity and impact on student achievement. The fair will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 11, during the OSBA Capital Conference.

Five performing groups from around Ohio will be selected to entertain attendees during the Student Achievement Fair. To be considered, you must submit an audio or video recording of the performing group. DVDs or CDs can be mailed to OSBA or a video or MP3 can be submitted with the online application.

OSBA is now accepting nominations for district programs and performing groups. While multiple programs may be submitted for consideration, no more than two per district will be selected, so districts should prioritize their submissions.

Nominate your district at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/saf-nominations](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/saf-nominations). The nomination deadline is June 27.



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the bill after it passed out of the Senate by a 33-0 vote.

"I got a couple of emails from people around the state that couldn't believe that I would introduce a bill like the one that is in the House Education Committee," said Gardner, a former high school history and government teacher. "I am making it real clear ... I am against SB 229, as substituted in the House of Representatives. I think it is probably not going to become law.

Now I hope the mid-budget review bill, House Bill 487, will include most of SB 229 within it, including maybe a couple of refinements, working with OSBA to improve it even further."

But to make that happen, Gardner said he needs public education's help.

"As far as I am concerned, so far what has happened on other side of the Statehouse has been literally ignoring teachers and school board members and administrators who

came together on a pretty good idea, and I'm not going to just sit back and just tolerate that.

"I'm giving you basic lobbying 101. It gives a little extra pause for legislators to ignore people who also have a lot of other things going on in the community. When I get contacted by someone, my first thought is ... if I say 'no' to him or her, what are the consequences? Make the consequences be kind of significant. You deserve that rapport and access to your members of the House and Senate. If you've asked for that access and haven't gotten it, then it is time for a new senator or representative."

Gardner also addressed the timing and criticism of the new Common Core State Standards.

"I think we need to step back from the Common Core standards and take a look at it for a year or so, or at least take the safe harbor provision where schools won't be penalized because we may not be quite ready. But I don't think I am ready to throw up my hands and say it can't work. I think we will still find innovation, and that teachers will find ways to do things well. Most of the teachers and school officials I talk with believe that it has the ability to be something additionally positive in our schools."

In response to a question from the audience, Gardner said he does not support the third-grade reading guarantee.

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## OSBA webinars

*Learning delivered to your computer*

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



### **Winning Community Engagement Strategies: Lakota Local's (Butler) success story and lessons learned**

Tuesday, June 10 • 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. • Paid webinar • \$35

**Lakota Local (Butler)** Superintendent Dr. **Karen L. Mantia** will share the innovative strategies that helped the district pass a levy after three failed attempts. Learn how to develop a community engagement plan and hear research on predictors of levy passage in Ohio. Any district considering placing a levy on the ballot in the next two years should participate in this webinar.

### **School Districts and Booster Groups: how to keep the marriage going**

Tuesday, July 15 • 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. • Paid webinar • \$35

Booster groups play a significant role in supporting school districts. But what happens when a good booster group goes wrong? How is a damaged relationship between a booster group and school district repaired? This webinar will review the legal basis and oversight for a booster group's relationship with a school district and include practical tips to keep the relationship strong.

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"Do I believe the net effect of the third-grade guarantee is going to mean that overall reading abilities of third-graders in Ohio will go up? I do. I also think that, ultimately, there are going to be situations that are not good for families and not good for children."

But Gardner's words weren't all geared toward serious, education-related issues. At times, he paused to praise and provide a bit of

comic relief.

"Thank you for your leadership, for doing what you do in your communities to improve your local schools and, organizationally, to help legislators. And OSBA, I believe, in the last year-and-a-half has become an increasingly valuable part of the legislative process. Some of the things that I cared most about have come to pass, in part, because of the relationship with OSBA.

"I've been informed that there are a few who attended this conference and decided that since it is a nice sunny day, they may have gone back to their homes. I want you to know that if you sign a sheet on the way out, any school that stayed gets an increase in state aid!"

The crowd erupted into applause and laughter.

"Man, I wish I could do that," Gardner said.



## INFORMATION

by Bryan Bullock, assistant editor

### Help lead OSBA, Ohio public schools forward

Ohio school board members steer their local districts on the path to success. They can have an impact on 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. These dedicated board members ensure 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 around the state.

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

"Call for Nominations" recently was 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 school board or board member. The forms are returned to the 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

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chosen as candidates may be considered for committee appointments near the end of the year.

All board members are encouraged to seek a nomination. Descriptions of each committee and the time commitment involved are included in the nomination

brochure, which you can download at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/call-for-nominations](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/call-for-nominations).

Want to become more active in OSBA? Here are the next steps:

- Review “Call for Nominations” to determine your areas of interest.
- Talk with your regional manager

to learn more about what is involved in the positions. Contact information for the regional managers is available at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/region-managers](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/region-managers).

- Complete the nomination form and return it to your regional manager by June 30.



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Jay Smith, deputy director of legislative services

### Legislation would expand community learning center concept

In addition to the midbiennium budget review legislation working its way through the Ohio General Assembly, another legislative proposal continues to gather steam in the House of Representatives.

House Bill 460 (HB), sponsored by Reps. **Denise Driehaus** (D-Cincinnati) and **Andrew Brenner** (R-Powell), is legislation that would encourage and engage parents and local community members in developing community learning centers (CLCs). The legislative proposal is based on **Cincinnati City’s** CLCs, and seeks to codify the centers as an education model that any Ohio school district could use to tailor community-specific services for its students.

The goal of a CLC is to bring wrap-around services to a school based on the needs of its families, residents, students, educators,

business leaders and community members. Cincinnati’s model emphasizes fostering strong partnerships, sharing accountability for results, setting high expectations, building on the community’s strengths and embracing diversity.

According to Driehaus, “It is a model intended to be neighborhood-based and designed to address the needs of a particular school and community. Real reform must address the academic and nonacademic needs of children and their families with an array of services including: early childhood education, tutoring, health and dental needs, and recreational and mental health services.”

Specifically, HB 460 authorizes school districts to convert school buildings that meet certain low-performance criteria into CLCs. This criteria includes any building

that is in “improvement status” as defined by the federal No Child Left Behind Act; any high school that is among the lowest achieving 15% of high schools statewide; any high school with a graduation rate of 60% or lower for three or more consecutive years; or any building that is not in “improvement status,” but is approved by the district school board to operate as a CLC.

For a school system to initiate the CLC process, the district must hold a public information hearing at the school building. At least 45 days following the hearing, the school board must conduct an election by the parents, teachers and staff assigned to the building. If at least 67% of each group support the initiative, the district must begin the transition to a CLC.

Once a CLC is approved by an election and is initiated, the school

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## PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Bryan Bullock, assistant editor

### Deer Park schools partner with IBM, STEM collaborative

**Deer Park Community City,** IBM and the Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative (GCSC) are partnering to give students new and unique learning opportunities.

Over five months, 25 IBM employees will collaborate biweekly with small groups of students in grades seven through nine. The mentoring effort will give students the tools needed to flourish in education and their future endeavors.

"We are delighted that IBM,

Cincinnati and Deer Park will collaborate to launch IBM MentorPlace," said **Dean Kuroff**, IBM director, Global Process Services. "We have recruited an outstanding group of IBM employees who are committed to this community and eager to share their professional experience and knowledge with terrific students."

IBM MentorPlace is a corporate volunteer program in which employees around the world provide students with online

academic assistance and career counseling, while letting them know that adults do care about their issues and concerns.

"Everyone is working together to make the IBM eMentoring project a true, authentic learning experience for our students and it is a project that will benefit the Deer Park community for years to come," said Superintendent **Jeffery W. Langdon**.

Source: Deer Park Community City

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*Legislative Report, continued from page 10*

board must then create a school action team that will be responsible for certain duties that include: conducting a performance audit of the school; monitoring and assisting in implementing the CLC improvement plan; making recommendations for administrative positions; school budget advising; conducting an annual survey; developing a parent involvement policy; monitoring school progress; receiving school updates from the principal; meeting with parents and community members; and determining appropriate services or programs that may be provided by a community partner to students, families and community

members.

In addition, the bill requires a school board to select a resource coordinator to assist in developing and coordinating CLC services.

The bill, as currently amended in the House Education Committee, also allows schools that do not meet the previously mentioned requirements to voluntarily develop CLCs. The bill has had four hearings in the House Education Committee since being introduced in February,

For the latest information and updates on these proposals visit the OSBA BillTracker page found at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/billtracker](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/billtracker) or contact the OSBA legislative division at

(800) 589-6722.

*Editor' note:* All information in this article was current as of May 15, 2014.

### OSBA can help facilitate your labor agreements

OSBA has:

- highly trained negotiators,
- a wealth of auxiliary services,
- consultants who work with the board's interest in mind.

Please call **Van D. Keating**, OSBA director of management services, at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA for more information.

## May 2014

- 27 BoardDocs webinar for current users:  
BoardDocs library, packet and goal-  
tracking
- 29 BoardDocs webinar: Information for  
non-users

## June 2014

- 1 Last day to take action to nonrenew  
contracts of administrators other than  
superintendent and treasurer — RC  
3319.02; last day to take action on and give  
written notice of intent not to re-employ  
teachers — RC 3319.11(D); last day to take  
action on and give written notice of intent  
not to re-employ nonteaching employees,  
(note: this requirement does not apply to  
municipal school district employees as  
defined in RC 3311.71) — RC 4141.29(I)(1)  
(f).
- 8 Northwest Region Executive Committee  
meeting.....Bowling Green
- 10 Winning Community Engagement  
Strategies webinar
- 13 OCSBA Spring Seminar.....Lewis Center
- 18-19 Safe Schools Summer Camp —  
protecting students and staff  
workshop.....Columbus
- 20 Sports Law Workshop.....Columbus
- 30 2013-2014 school year ends — RC 3313.62.

## July 2014

- 1 2014-2015 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).
- 7 Last day for voter registration for August  
election — RC 3503.01, 3503.19(A) (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.
- 15 School Districts and Booster Groups:  
how to keep the marriage going webinar
- 15 Last day to adopt school library district tax  
budget on behalf of a library district — RC  
5705.28(B)(1).
- 19 New Board Member
- 22 Workshop .....Columbus
- 22 Last day to submit certification for  
November conversion levy to tax  
commissioner — RC 5705.219(B) (105 days  
prior to election).
- 28 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.) detailing contributions and  
expenditures from the last day reflected in  
the previous report through June 30, 2014  
— RC 3517.10(A)(4).

## August 2014

- 1 Attendance, Tuition and Custody Law  
Workshop .....Lewis Center
- 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; 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).
- 4 Southwest Region Executive Committee  
meeting.....Oregonia
- 5 Special Election Day — RC 3501.01 (first  
Tuesday after the first Monday).
- 6 Management Development Series  
#3.....Columbus