

# BRIEF CASE

## THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



### Ohio school board members elected to national posts at NSBA conference

Four Ohio board members were elected to key National School Boards Association positions during the April NSBA Annual Conference in San Francisco. **Tawana Lynn Keels, Princeton City** and **Great Oaks ITCD**, was elected chair-elect of the National Black Caucus of School Board Members. **Catherine D. Ingram, Cincinnati City**, was elected secretary-treasurer of the same group. The Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) elected **Willetta Milam, Cleveland Municipal**, and **Bruce D. Alexander, Akron City**, to the CUBE Steering Committee. Other OSBA members and staff also played significant roles at the conference. See the May *Journal* magazine for details.

### OSBA launching school board candidate campaign

This is a school board election year, and OSBA is encouraging qualified citizens to seek seats on their local school boards. The association is sending information to all county boards of elections and school district superintendents on school board elections, the roles and responsibilities of school board members and OSBA's candidate training programs and tool kits. For details, visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/candidate-for-school-boards](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/candidate-for-school-boards) or see the brochure in this issue of the *Briefcase*.

### KidsOhio: High-poverty schools excel on fourth-grade reading test

The latest report from KidsOhio highlights the success of 58 high-poverty schools in which 90% or more of the economically disadvantaged fourth-graders passed the state's 2010 reading test. Statewide, only 71% of economically disadvantaged fourth-graders passed the test, compared with 90% who are not disadvantaged. The report can be downloaded at [www.kidsohio.org](http://www.kidsohio.org). KidsOhio is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research and policy group specializing in improving public education.

### Get involved — serve as a Capital Conference workshop moderator

OSBA is seeking breakout session moderators for the 2011 Capital Conference, Nov. 13-16, in Columbus. Board members serving as moderators introduce presenters, collect evaluation forms, act as liaisons between the audience and speakers, and earn five OSBA Award of Achievement credits. If interested, contact **Judy Morgan** at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [jmorgan@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:jmorgan@ohioschoolboards.org). The deadline is June 3.

### Longtime OSBA staffer retires after nearly 30 years of service

**Susan G. Tharp**, OSBA administrative associate of policy services, retired on April 29 after more than 27 years of service with the association. Only five other OSBA employees in the association's 56-year history have served longer. Hired in 1983 as a

**May 9, 2011**

Volume 42 Issue 9

#### Contents

More news..... 2

*Training sessions  
focus on supporting  
military children;  
This month in OSBA  
history; OSBA online*

Bulletin Board..... 3

Funding ..... 4

Legislative  
Report ..... 6

Public Schools  
Work!..... 7

#### Route workshop information to:

- ☐ Administrators
- ☐ Human resource directors
- ☐ Principals
- ☐ Transportation supervisors

receptionist, Tharp also worked as a secretary of search services and served with four of OSBA's six executive directors. In other staff news, **Diana Paulins** was promoted to administrative assistant of policy services.

### Training sessions focus on supporting military children

The Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio National Guard are offering two sessions of a nationally recognized training program titled, Guard and Reserve Institute: Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve. The free sessions, conducted by the Military Child Education Coalition, are May 16-17 in Columbus and May 19-20 in Blue Ash, near Cincinnati. The program is appropriate for all educators, especially K-12 counselors, as well as service members and their families. Continuing education unit and graduate credits are available.

### Obama surprises students who feared losing D.C. trip

President **Barack Obama** surprised a group of eighth-graders from a Colorado middle school on April 11, just days after they feared a federal shutdown would scuttle their trip to Washington.

"Now that things worked out, we figured we'd give you a little bonus," Obama told the students as they toured the White House.

In an April 8 speech he made after Congress reached a deal to keep the government running, the president mentioned a letter he received from **Shalini Schane**, whose son was among the students planning to come to Washington. Schane wrote to him about the fundraisers and projects the students did to prepare for the trip.

Obama told the students that education remains a priority, and is an area in which he wants to increase investments, not make cuts.

Source: *The (Boulder) Daily Camera*

A brochure is posted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/75769>. To register, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/62683> and scroll down to the date of choice. Other educational opportunities are described at [www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org). Questions may be directed to [christine.kane@ode.state.oh.us](mailto:christine.kane@ode.state.oh.us).

### This month in OSBA history

An article in the May 1973 *OSBA Journal* magazine announced that the association had sold the building that had been its headquarters for 15 years. The converted house on the north side of Columbus was purchased in 1958 for \$29,000 and sold for \$48,000. The sale preceded OSBA's relocation to new offices in Westerville the following year. The new owners rented the building to the association until the new office building in Westerville was completed.



## Briefcase

Ohio School Boards Association  
8050 North High Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, OH 43235-6481  
(614) 540-4000 — (800) 589-OSBA  
fax: (614) 540-4100 • [www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)

OSBA President: **Cathy Johnson**, South-Western City  
OSBA Executive Director: **Richard Lewis**, CAE  
Managing editor: **Gary Motz**, editorial manager  
Assistant editor, layout and design: **Angela Penquite**, communication design manager

*A one-year subscription to Briefcase is \$110 for up to 15 subscribers. Briefcase also is available electronically by email or by fax. For more information, contact Ann Herritt at the address or fax number above or email to [aherritt@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:aherritt@ohioschoolboards.org).*

*Briefcase is published semimonthly by the Ohio School Boards Association. Postage paid at Westerville, Ohio. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Briefcase, Attn.: Mailroom, Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 N. High St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235-6481*

© 2011 Ohio School Boards Association

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

### OSBA online

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

It's always helpful to be able to place faces with names. You can do that with OSBA staff members by visiting [www.ohioschoolboards.org/staff-directory](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/staff-directory). The site features each employee's photo, biography, job title, email address and phone extension number.



# BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, administrative assistant of communication services

## OSBA executive searches

### Superintendent

#### District

① Massillon City

#### Deadline

May 17

#### Contact

OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000

### Treasurer

#### District

① Middletown City

May 31

OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000

② Van Buren Local (Hancock)

TBD

OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000

① = Superintendent

② = Treasurer



## Other searches

#### Position

Superintendent

#### District

Shelby City

#### Deadline

May 11

#### Contact

**Tom Lavinder**, director, The Telego Center for Educational Improvement, Ashland University, (419) 289-5921

Superintendent

Chippewa Local (Wayne)

May 16

**Dr. Eugene Linton**, superintendent, Tri-County ESC, (330) 345-6771, ext. 232

Superintendent

Strasburg-Franklin Local (Tuscarawas)

May 16

**Larry Morgan**, superintendent, Stark County ESC, (330) 492-8136, ext. 1350

Superintendent

Jonathan Alder Local (Madison)

May 20

**Melissa Radde**, administrative assistant, ESC of Central Ohio, (614) 753-4720

Superintendent

Wood County ESC

May 27

**Sandra C. Frisch**, superintendent, Lucas County ESC, (419) 246-3078

Superintendent of public instruction

Ohio Department of Education (ODE)

TBD

**J.C. Benton**, director of board relations, ODE, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, OH 43215

Elementary principal

Rossford EV

May 16

**Dr. Sue Lang**, superintendent, Rossford EV, 601 Superior St., Rossford, Ohio, 43460

## Board changes

**Chesapeake Union EV** Board of Education member **William Pratt** announced his resignation effective April 6. He was appointed to the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners. ●●● **Frontier Local (Washington)** appointed **Justin Hoff** to

### Editor's note

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

the board effective April 22. He replaced **Michael Rinard**, who resigned due to moving out of the district. ●●● **Richmond Heights Local (Cuyahoga)** appointed **Bobby T. Jordan** to the board effective April 11. He replaced Gannon Quinn, who resigned March 31. ●●● **Northridge Local (Licking)** Board of Education member **Brent Garee** announced his resignation effective April 18. ●●● **Steubenville City** appointed **Thomas Timmons** to the board effective April 15. He replaced **Jane Hanlin**, who resigned in March to become Jefferson County prosecutor.

## **Administrative changes**

### **Superintendents**

**Benjamin Logan Local (Logan)** hired **Lori Lytle** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Stanley P. Mounts**, who is retiring. Lytle is currently superintendent at **Greenon Local (Clark)**. ●●● **Cory-Rawson Local (Hancock)** hired **Robert Hlasko** as superintendent effective July 1. He will replace Acting Superintendent **Brad Cox**. Hlasko is currently the district's middle school principal and transportation director. ●●● **Cuyahoga Valley Career Center** hired Dr. **Celena Roebuck** as superintendent effective April 28. She is replacing **Roscoe E. Schlachter**, who is retiring in June. Roebuck is currently the career center's assistant superintendent. ●●● **Eastern Local (Brown)** hired **Michelle R. Filon** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Alan Simmons**. Filon is currently the high school principal at **Belpre City**. ●●● **Ravenna City** hired **Dennis Honkala** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Dr. **Tim Calfee**, who is retiring effective July 31. Honkala is currently superintendent at **Buckeye Local (Medina)**. ●●● **Strasburg-Franklin Local (Tuscarawas)** Superintendent **Gene Feucht** announced his retirement effective July 31. ●●● **Streetsboro City** hired **Robert W. Hunt** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He replaces **Linda T. Keller**, who took the deputy superintendent position at Mid-Ohio ESC. Hunt is currently assistant superintendent at **Chagrin Falls EV**.

## **Sympathies**

Former **East Palestine City** Board of Education member **John "Jack" E. Rudloff** died April 13. He was 91. ●●● Former **Kent City** Board of Education member **Reed B. Strimple** died April 16. He was 90.



## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

by Angela Penquite, communication design manager

### **Grants available for theater programs**

Pioneer Drama Service is offering Touching Lives Through Theatre Grants to qualifying middle and high schools. Each grant consists of a \$100-\$500 credit at Pioneer Drama Service. (After theatrical production costs, any remaining credit may be used for texts, DVDs and makeup.) Theater programs must have a budget of \$500 or less annually.

**Maximum awards:** \$500 credit at

Pioneer Drama Service

**Eligibility:** accredited public or private schools that have a designated faculty member who sponsors their theater program

**Deadline:** June 30

**Contact:** [www.touchinglivesthroughtheatregrants.com](http://www.touchinglivesthroughtheatregrants.com)

### **Italian language study grants**

The National Italian-American Foundation is offering a matching grant program to organizations, schools and community groups

that wish to launch or expand the teaching of Italian in their local public or private K-12 school. The grant may be used to purchase teaching materials, cover teacher salaries or enhance any activity that furthers the study of Italian..

**Maximum awards:** \$2,000

**Eligibility:** public or private K-12 schools

**Deadline:** June 30

**Contact:** [www.niaf.org/grants/About.asp](http://www.niaf.org/grants/About.asp)

*Continued on page 5*

# Cyberlaw Technology and the Law Seminar

Tuesday, May 17

Embassy Suites, Dublin

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuition is \$140



## AGENDA

- |            |  |            |  |
|------------|--|------------|--|
| 8:30 a.m.  | <b>Registration</b>  | 11:45 a.m. | <b>Lunch (provided)</b>  |
| 9 a.m.     | <b>Following the e-trail — use of electronic records in disciplinary cases</b><br><i>Patrick J. Schmitz, Esq., Scott, Scriven &amp; Wahoff LLP, Columbus</i> | 12:45 p.m. | <b>Acceptable-use policies and today's technology</b><br><i>William M. Deters II, Esq., Ennis Roberts Fischer Co. LPA, Cincinnati</i>                              |
| 9:45 a.m.  | <b>Fired over Facebook</b><br><i>Rhonda J. Porter, general counsel, Akron City</i>   | 2 p.m.     | <b>Break</b>   |
| 10:30 a.m. | <b>Break</b>   | 2:10 p.m.  | <b>Before you hit 'send' — the legal challenges associated with email</b><br><i>Adam C. Miller, Esq., Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan &amp; Aronoff LLP, Columbus</i> |
| 10:40 a.m. | <b>Big Brother is watching — surveillance cameras in school settings</b><br><i>Sara C. Clark, deputy director of legal services, OSBA</i>                    | 3 p.m.     | <b>Adjourn</b>   |

View a complete agenda at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/node/2609](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/node/2609).  
*Unauthorized audio recording or videotaping of any session is strictly prohibited.*

## Transportation Roundtable

*You decide the topic*

### Date and location:

Wednesday, May 25  
OSBA office, Columbus

### Cost:

\$40, includes lunch

### Time:

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In this roundtable discussion, any attendee can offer a question or issue to be discussed by the entire group for whatever length of time is needed.

This is an opportunity for transportation supervisors and other school administrators to sit down and openly discuss various issues, as well as interact with individuals from other school districts to solve similar problems. **Pete Japikse**, associate director of the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Pupil Transportation, will be on hand to answer questions.





The Ohio School Boards Association and the  
Ohio Council of School Board Attorneys present the  
**34th Annual OCSBA Spring Seminar**  
Friday, June 10      Cherry Valley Lodge, Newark      workshop cost \$175

- 8:15 a.m.**      **Registration and continental breakfast**
- 8:45 a.m.**      **Welcome and overview**
- 9 a.m.**      **Legislative update**  
Join an experienced labor relations practitioner and an OSBA lobbyist for a timely legislative update and discussion on the impact and implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 5 and the status of the biennial budget.  
*Jay Smith*, lobbyist, OSBA; and *Greg Scott, Esq.*, Scott, Scriven & Wahoff LLP, Columbus
- 10 a.m.**      **RttT implementation/merit-based pay/creative compensation/benefits strategies**  
From Race to the Top to SB 5 to the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) licensure scheme, the emphasis has been on changing the way districts compensate educators. Join an experienced attorney and an educator in a discussion about the implementation of Race to the Top and performance pay programs for educators.  
*Larry Braverman, Esq.*, Columbus City; and *Ellen McWilliams*, assistant superintendent, curriculum & instruction, Akron City
- 10:45 a.m.**      **Break**
- 11 a.m.**      **Breakout Session**  
● **Community school law update**  
This session will provide a review of the basics of community school law, with a community school case law update. ODE's assistant legal counsel also will share tips on effective community school governance and what should and should not be included in a community school sponsor contract.  
*Mark A. Michael*, assistant legal counsel, ODE  
● **Impact and fallout of Senate Bill 5 and budget proposals as they relate to special education**  
With the budget bill's funding cuts and the tension and uncertainty of SB 5, Ohio's public schools face a future that guarantees change. One thing that will not change, however, is the obligation to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to both gifted students and students with special needs. This presentation will include a dialogue on the potential challenges and opportunities ahead in providing these services.  
*Donna M. Andrew, Esq.*, Pepple & Waggoner Ltd., Cleveland
- Noon**      **Lunch (provided) and OCSBA Annual Meeting**
- 1:15 p.m.**      **Teacher First Amendment rights**  
Recent events have resulted in a new wave of union activity throughout Ohio. Teachers are on the front line, actively participating in protests and community discussions. Some have even taken these protests into the classroom. This presentation will discuss the First Amendment implications for teachers and the remedies available to boards of education in such circumstances.  
*Tabitha Justice, Esq.*, Subashi & Wildermuth LPA, Dayton
- 2 p.m.**      **Break**
- 2:15 p.m.**      **Ins and outs of records retention and litigation holds**  
Although school districts are required to maintain public records and education records, that alone will not insulate them from their legal obligation to locate and preserve all relevant records when put on notice of a lawsuit or administrative charge, including special education due process claims. This presentation will examine a district's legal obligation to retain and produce records (including electronically stored information) related to these suits and what triggers the obligation to preserve records; who at the district should search for records, including emails; and the proper procedures for implementing a "litigation hold."  
*Scott C. Peters, Esq.* Britton, Smith, Peters & Kalail Co. LPA, Cleveland
- 3 p.m.**      **Professionalism**  
Join an experienced attorney for a discussion of professionalism in the school law setting. Find out how to incorporate A Lawyer's Creed and A Lawyer's Aspirational Ideals into your daily practice. Discuss some of the unique challenges of working with board clients.  
*Alvin E. Mathews Jr., Esq.*, Bricker & Eckler LLP, Columbus
- 4 p.m.**      **Adjourn**

This course has been approved by the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education for 5.25 total CLE hour(s), with 1.00 of professionalism instruction.

The workshop will be held at the Cherry Valley Lodge, 2299 Cherry Valley Road, Newark, Ohio 43055. The phone number is (740) 788-1200. To register, contact **Laurie Miller**, OSBA events manager, at (614) 540-4000 or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).

# Sports Law Workshop

Friday, June 24  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Embassy Suites Airport  
Cost is \$140



## AGENDA

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

**9 a.m. OHSAA legal update**  
The workshop kicks off with a discussion on the latest initiatives of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), including concussion guidelines, the competitive balance proposal and more.  
*Daniel B. Ross*, commissioner, OHSAA

**10:15 a.m. Break**

**10:25 a.m. Pardon the interruption: athletic program FAQs**  
Using the format from the ESPN show with the same name, this lively session will answer some of the more frequently asked legal questions in the areas of eligibility, transportation, discipline and more.  
*Edmund F. Brown, Esq.*, Ulmer & Berne LLP, Columbus; and *Jessica L. Spears*, staff attorney, OSBA

**10:55 a.m. Pay to play**  
Is your district considering transitioning to a pay-to-play program? Hear from four districts that recently implemented programs as they share what worked, what didn't and what steps you can take to ensure a smooth transition.  
**Panel:** *Jeff Harrison*, athletic director, Medina City; *William Lodermeier*, superintendent, Bath Local (Allen); *James Sotlar*, assistant superintendent, Pickerington Local (Fairfield); and *Jan Wilking*, athletic director, Oak Hills Local (Hamilton)

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

**12:30 p.m. Ban a fan**  
Fans are a key component to sporting events, but they can also cause headaches for players, coaches and other spectators. This session will review some of the options available to districts for dealing with unruly, disruptive and/or disorderly parents and fans.  
*Mark Landes, Esq.*, Isaac, Brant, Ledman & Teetor LLP, Columbus

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

**1:45 p.m. Dealing with sticky situations**  
Athletic programs routinely face myriad "sticky situations," including dealing with donors, boosters, meddling boards, personnel changes and community pressures. This diverse panel will provide practical suggestions and identify best practices for handling these types of situations.  
**Panel:** *R. Brent Minney, Esq.*, Pepple & Waggoner Ltd., Cleveland; *Brian Kern*, assistant treasurer, Dublin City; and *Kendall A. Lee*, education management consultant, OSBA  
**Moderator:** *Sara C. Clark*, deputy director of legal services, OSBA

**3 p.m. Adjourn**

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



# WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

## Cyberlaw Workshop

☐ May 17, Dublin, \$140

## Transportation Roundtable

☐ May 25, Columbus, \$40

## Sports Law Workshop

☐ June 24, Columbus, \$140

## Community engagement webinar

☐ May 11, \$35

## OCSBA Spring Seminar

☐ June 10, Newark, \$175

## OSBA Workshop Registration Form

Workshop name \_\_\_\_\_ Workshop date \_\_\_\_\_  
Attendee name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
District/firm \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or P.O.# \_\_\_\_\_ to cover \_\_\_\_\_ registration(s). Make checks payable to OSBA and mail to 8050 N. High St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235-6481; fax to (614) 540-4100; or email Laurie Miller at [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org). Include a purchase order number with fax or email.



\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you require special accommodations. Contact us or attach a written description of needs.

**Please photocopy this form for each person**

## OSBA workshop registration procedures

OSBA sends email confirmation of registration if an email address is provided. Registration is open to all boards and staff of OSBA members. "Walk-in" registrations are welcome on a space-available basis only. Please call OSBA to check the status of registration before you arrive at the workshop. To register, you must have a purchase order number or a check payable to OSBA and a completed registration form. You may register with a purchase order number by phone, fax, email or Web page 24 hours a day.

### Award of Achievement/LPDC

Most workshops entitle members to Award of Achievement credits. Local Professional Development Committee certificates of attendance will be issued to all workshop attendees.



Mail



Phone  
or fax



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

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

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

You may register on our Web page at  
**[www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)**. Events are listed at  
the bottom of the page.

### Cancellation and refund policy

- Cancellations received by OSBA at least four workdays before the date of the workshop will receive a full refund or no charge to the district.
- Cancellations received less than four workdays before the date of the workshop will have one-third of the fee charged to the district.
- No-shows and cancellations the day of the workshop will be charged the full registration amount.



Funding, continued from page 4

### Helping teens excel

Through the @15 Community Grants Program, Best Buy selects nonprofit organizations that provide positive experiences to help teens excel in school, engage in their communities and develop leadership skills. Special consideration will be given to programs that serve a diverse population; build social, academic, leadership and life skills in early adolescents; show positive results against a demonstrated community need; and reach at-risk children.

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

**Eligibility:** 501(c)(3) organizations within 50 miles of a Best Buy store or regional distribution center

**Deadline:** July 1

**Contact:** [www.bestbuy-communityrelations.com/community\\_grants.htm](http://www.bestbuy-communityrelations.com/community_grants.htm)

### Grants for math and science

The Toshiba America Foundation makes grants for projects in math and science designed to improve student instruction.

**Maximum award:** \$5,000

**Eligibility:** teachers of grades six-12

**Deadline:** Aug. 1

**Contact:** [www.toshiba.com/taf](http://www.toshiba.com/taf)

### Children's art contest

The American Academy of Pediatrics invites kids to create art with the theme "My Healthy Lifestyle" as part of the 2011 Children's Art Contest. Submissions should convey messages about obesity, diet and exercise, sleep and limiting screen time. The three first-

place winners will each receive a \$500 cash prize and three second-place winners will each receive \$250. The six winners' schools will each receive matching cash amounts. All artwork must be

original and pertain to the theme.

**Maximum awards:** \$500

**Eligibility:** students in grades three-12

**Deadline:** Aug. 1

**Contact:** [www.aap.org/artcontest](http://www.aap.org/artcontest)

## OSBA Lunch & Learn webinar



Learn about issues relevant to public education through OSBA's series of Lunch & Learn webinars. Brown bag it for the day and join the webinar in the convenience of your office or home. This series will offer an informal way to learn more. All you need is a telephone and computer to participate. The cost for each one-hour webinar is \$35. To register, visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/event\\_listing](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/event_listing).

**Community engagement: A powerful tool to improve your schools**  
Wednesday, May 25 at noon

Children whose communities are involved in their schools have a richer educational experience. School districts that collaborate with and engage their stakeholders benefit from a robust range of resources and support.

Successful community engagement is so much more than including parents in the PTA or school clubs. It embraces the entire community — businesses, policymakers, civic groups, alumni, residents without children in your schools and more. Engaging all aspects of your community taps into valuable resources that will improve your schools.

This webinar will be led by **Jeff Phillips, Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center** communications and community relations specialist. The veteran public relations and community engagement expert will examine the basics of community engagement, share the many tools he uses to get the public involved — and keep them involved — and discuss the benefits and challenges of building this valuable support system.

OSBA Deputy Director of Communication Services **Crystal Davis Hutchins** will host the webinar.

Register today by contacting OSBA's **Laurie Miller** at (614) 540-40000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Michelle Francis, lobbyist

### House introduces its changes to budget bill

The House Finance and Appropriations Committee recently accepted Substitute (Sub.) House Bill (HB) 153, the House version of the state biennial budget bill. Some primary changes include:

- Capping district losses in state foundation aid at 20%, according to media reports; this affects only about 20 districts.
- The phase-down of the tangible personal property (TPP) tax and public utility tangible personal property (PUTPP) tax replacement payments would end after fiscal year (FY) 2013. The 2% cap rule for determining a district's phase-down for this budget remains the same as in the governor's proposal. This means that more than half of the districts will not be receiving reimbursement for TPP tax payments after this budget, and most districts lose their PUTPP tax reimbursement by the end of this budget. However, it appears that Sub. HB 153 does not phase down payments further beyond FY 2013 for those districts that still have payments remaining.
- Because of updated valuation data, a slight adjustment to the chargeoff valuation index used to calculate district-by-district reductions to account for the loss of federal State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) dollars is contained in

the substitute bill.

- The 2% contribution rate shift for retirement from employers to employees was removed from the bill.
- There are several new provisions that expand "choice" by expanding options for community schools and relaxing some accountability measures.
- Some "Senate Bill 5-like" provisions were added to the substitute bill.
- Removes the health care pooling provisions, but still requires the Department of Administrative Services to conduct a study.

When the substitute bill was introduced, OSBA, along with the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) and Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO), sent an alert to members with information about the House's version. We provided links to a comparison document prepared by the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) showing the differences between the original version of HB 153 and the new substitute bill.

In addition, LSC updated its spreadsheets to reflect the changes as proposed by the House. You can review the changes in your state aid by accessing your district's figures at <http://ode>.

[legislature.state.oh.us/stateaid\\_house](http://legislature.state.oh.us/stateaid_house). Please note that the state aid on this link is your foundation aid plus the reimbursements for your TPP and PUTPP taxes. For FY 2011, this includes SFSF. Any increase noted for your district is related to the change in the foundation formula proposed by the House Finance and Appropriations Committee.

After analyzing the changes proposed in the House's substitute bill, OSBA, BASA and OASBO presented joint testimony to the House Finance and Appropriations Committee. A complete copy of our testimony on Sub. HB 153 is available by going to [www.ohioschoolboards.org/129th-general-assembly](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/129th-general-assembly) and searching "HB 153." We will continue to keep you updated as the budget continues moving through the process.

#### Benchmarking report

OSBA, BASA and OASBO recently issued a joint press release criticizing a benchmarking study that claims schools are overlooking significant savings. An analysis prepared by Education Tax Policy Institute (ETPI) consultants refutes the study published by the KnowledgeWorks Foundation

*Continued on page 7*



## PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Gary Motz, editorial manager

### Penta students train pet shop birds not to bite ... or curse

Two **Penta Career Center** students are translating their small animal care training into real-world experience.

Juniors **Naomi Ortega** and **Summar Coogler** are collaborating with a local pet shop to train the store's birds in the career center's animal science lab. Since birds are often frightened when placed into a new environment, the students work to acclimate them to different situations and prepare them to become well-behaved pets.

Instructor **Nicole Costello** arranged the partnership between Penta and Pet Supplies Plus. Costello, who was a trainer at the Toledo Zoo, ran a similar project at **Toledo City Schools**.

The students shared details of their project with Penta school board members last month. They told the board that, unlike other animals, birds show few signs that they are about to attack. And, they strike quickly and bite hard.

Ortega said that it takes a few

days to acclimate the birds to the lab, and training them takes patience. Everyone in the lab works with the birds to get them used to being handled by different people.

Negative behavior sometimes involves things other than biting. Coogler said she worked with one bird that had learned "bad words." Since most people would not want a cursing bird, she helped it clean up its language.

Source: *The (Bowling Green) Sentinel-Tribune*

*Legislative Report, continued from page 6*

subsidiary Ohio Education Matters that claims that schools are leaving more than \$1 billion on the table because they are inefficient.

The associations commissioned the ETPI analysis because they were skeptical of the validity of the report: "Benchmarking Ohio's School Districts: Identifying districts that get more for their money in non-instructional spending." The benchmarking report has been repeatedly cited during the budget process by members of the governor's administration and legislators who claim that schools could save almost \$1.4 billion.

The ETPI analysis confirms the three association's skepticism

about the report by showing that it is inadequate because it fails to meet reasonable and professional standards for a benchmarking study. Additionally, ETPI's response highlights inconsistencies in the report's conclusions about individual districts and their overall operational efficiency.

A copy of the press release is available on the BillTracker page for HB 153 at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/129th-general-assembly](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/129th-general-assembly). A copy of ETPI's analysis and executive summary is available on the ETPI website at [www.etpi-ohio.org](http://www.etpi-ohio.org).

For the latest legislative updates, please contact the OSBA legislative services division at (614) 540-4000

or (800) 589-OSBA.

*Editor's Note: All information in this article was current as of May 2, 2011.*

### 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 2011

- |     |  |  |
|-----|--|--|
| 10  | OSBA Management Development Series #2 Workshop..... Columbus |  |
| 113 | OSBA Executive Committee Meeting ..... Columbus              |  |
| 14  | OSBA Board of Trustees Meeting ..... Columbus                |  |
| 17  | OSBA Cyberlaw Workshop ..... Dublin                          |  |
| 25  | Community engagement webinar                                 |  |
| 25  | OSBA Transportation Roundtable ..... Columbus                |  |

## June 2011

- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 10 | OSBA OCSBA Spring Seminar.. Newark                                   |  |
| 12 | OSBA Northwest Region Executive Committee Meeting .....Bowling Green |  |
| 24 | OSBA Sports Law Workshop ..... Columbus                              |  |
| 30 | 2010-2011 school year ends — RC 3313.62.                             |  |

## July 2011

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | 2011-2012 school year begins — RC 3313.62; last day for board to notify teaching and nonteaching employees of succeeding year salaries — RC 3319.082, 3319.12; board may adopt appropriation |  |
|---|--|--|

- |       |   |  |
|-------|---|--|
|       | <i>measure, which may be temporary — RC 5705.38(B); treasurer must certify available revenue in funds to county auditor — RC 5705.36(A)(1).</i>                           |  |
| 5     | <i>Last day for voter registration for August election — RC 3503.01, 3503.19 (30 days prior to the election).</i>   |  |
| 6     | OSBA Central Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... Columbus  |  |
| 10    | <i>Last day for termination of teaching contract by a teacher without consent of the board of education — RC 3319.15.</i>   |  |
| 15    | <i>Last day to adopt school library district tax budget on behalf of a library district — RC 5705.28(B)(1).</i>   |  |
| 16    | OSBA Pre-Board Candidate Workshop ..... Columbus  |  |
| 22-24 | NSBA Central Region Meeting ..... Cleveland   |  |
| 29    | <i>Semiannual campaign finance reports due (by 4 p.m.) detailing contributions and expenditures through June 30, 2011 — RC 3517.10(A)(4) (last business day of July).</i> |  |

## August 2011

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | <i>Last day to file statistical report with Ohio Department of Education — RC 3319.33; last day to submit certification for November income tax levy to Ohio Department of</i> |  |
|---|--|--|

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
|    | <i>Taxation — RC 5748.02(A) (100 days prior to the election).</i>   |  |
| 2  | OSBA Southwest Region Executive Committee Meeting .....Oxford   |  |
| 2  | <i>Special Election Day — RC 3501.01 (first Tuesday after the first Monday).</i>  |  |
| 3  | OSBA Northeast Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... TBD   |  |
| 5  | OSBA Back to School Workshop ..... Columbus   |  |
| 5  | <i>Last day to submit November emergency, current operating expenses or conversion levy to county auditor for November general election — RC 5705.194, 5705.195, 5705.213, 5705.219 (95 days before election).</i>  |  |
| 10 | <i>Last day for school district to file resolution of necessity, resolution to proceed and auditor's certification for bond levy with board of elections for November election — RC 133.18(D); last day for county auditor to certify school district bond levy terms for November election — RC 133.18(C); last day to submit continuing replacement, permanent improvement or operating levy for November election to board of elections — RC 5705.192, 5705.21, 5705.25; last day to certify resolution for school district income tax levy or conversion levy for November election to board of elections — RC 5705.195, 5705.219(G), 5748.02(C).</i> |  |