

# BRIEF CASE

## THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



### Top keynote speakers, special events await you in Columbus

Great speakers and several special events will make your 2011 Capital Conference experience an exceptional one. General Session speakers are: Army combat veteran, author and inspirational youth advocate **Wes Moore**; public education champion and author **Jamie Vollmer**; and legendary TV journalist **Dan Rather**. Leadership and education expert **Murray Banks** headlines the Early Bird Workshop. Conference Luncheon speakers are pioneering Indy car driver **Lyn St. James**, and **Stacey Bess**, a powerful advocate for the educational rights of impoverished children. The luncheons and Early Bird Workshop require special registration; see your treasurer to register. For more on these speakers, visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/2011conference](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/2011conference).

### New study shows over one-quarter of Ohio's children at risk for hunger

Research results recently released by the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks and the Feeding America organization show that 26.5% of Ohio children 18 or younger — more than 730,000 kids — struggle with hunger. The overall rate for food insecurity in the state is 17.1%. For more on the study, "Map the Meal Gap: Child Food Insecurity 2011," as well as programs to help combat hunger in schools and elsewhere, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/8969> and [www.oashf.org](http://www.oashf.org).

### Capital Conference preregistration deadline drawing near

The deadline to preregister for the 56th annual OSBA Capital Conference is Friday, Nov. 11. After that date, attendees must register at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, the site of the conference. To preregister, contact **Ann Herritt** at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA. Remember, districts registering more than six people can bring an unlimited number of additional attendees for no extra cost. The Capital Conference, one of the nation's premier education conventions, is Nov. 13-16.

### NSBA: Parent involvement a key component to student achievement

The National School Boards Association's Center for Public Education has released a report examining the relationship between parent involvement and student success. "Back to School: How Parent Involvement Affects Student Achievement" reports that students with involved parents are more likely to earn higher grades; take higher-level courses; earn credits; have better attendance and social skills; graduate; and attend college. Download the report at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/27879>.

### Lancaster City students picked to create conference video documentary

A team from **Lancaster City's** Lancaster High School has been chosen as the 2011 OSBA Capital Conference student video documentary team. Students will shoot

**Oct. 24, 2011**

Volume 42 Issue 20

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### Route workshop information to:

- ☐ Administrators
- ☐ Human resources director
- ☐ Principals

video of different events at the conference and conduct interviews with attendees, speakers, OSBA leaders and others. The team will edit its footage into a 10-minute documentary that will be streamed on the OSBA website, shared with other state school boards associations and used to promote the conference. The OSBA video project gives students the opportunity to document a nationally renowned conference attended by more than 10,000 public education leaders from across Ohio.

### Not receiving legislative calls to action? Contact OSBA

OSBA regularly sends email “calls to action” to members encouraging them to contact their senators and representatives about significant pieces of legislation. If you have not been receiving these messages or have changed your email address, please contact

OSBA’s **Ann Herritt** at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [aherritt@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:aherritt@ohioschoolboards.org).

### Enhance your conference with Twitter, Facebook, phone app

Those attending the Capital Conference and Trade Show can use Twitter and Facebook to share

their experiences with their colleagues. Include “#CC11” in your tweet to share feedback on Twitter. You also can post and view conference updates on the OSBA Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/OHSchoolBoards](http://www.facebook.com/OHSchoolBoards). In addition, you can download the conference program phone application to your electronic devices at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/conference-app](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/conference-app). The program is available for the iPhone, BlackBerry, Android and iPad.

### OSBA online

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

The OSBA Division of Legal Services recently updated a fact sheet addressing the disposal of school district property. Access this new information on the “Resources by Topic” page at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/resources-by-topic](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/resources-by-topic). Click on the “Disposal of Property” link in the “School Property Resources” section to download the fact sheet.

## Hundreds of students create huge smile for charity

Students at **Liberty Local’s (Trumbull)** E.J. Blott Elementary School celebrated World Smile Day in a big way. About 480 youngsters — all dressed in white — gathered on the Liberty High School football field to form a gigantic human smile.

It was all part of a fundraiser for the Smile Train, an organization that provides free cleft-palate surgeries in developing countries.

To organize the students, teacher **Joanne Sura** and Principal **Mike Palmer** turned to **Michael Summers**, the high school band director. Summers designed the smile with the same computer program he uses to organize his marching band into formations on the field.

As Sura and Palmer directed students into place, the jumble of white transformed into a smile spanning 40 yards across midfield.

Source: *The (Youngstown) Vindicator*



## Briefcase

Ohio School Boards Association  
8050 North High Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, OH 43235-6481  
(614) 540-4000 — (800) 589-OSBA  
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OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio’s public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service and creative solutions.



# BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, administrative assistant of communication services

## OSBA executive searches

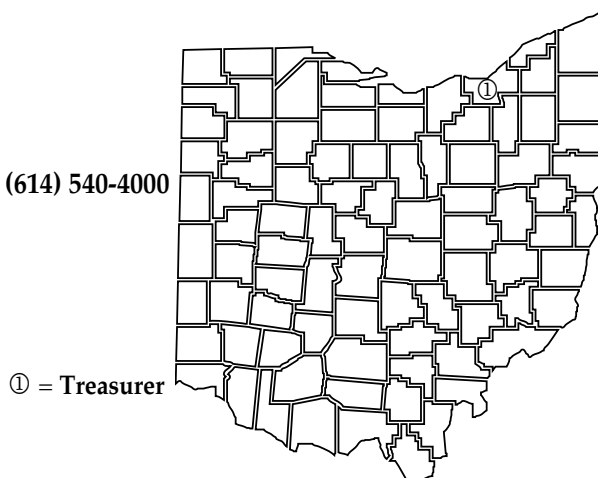
### Treasurer

#### District

① Lakewood City

Nov. 21

OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



① = Treasurer

## Other searches

#### Position

Superintendent

#### District

Pickerington Local (Fairfield)

#### Deadline

Nov. 25

#### Contact

Dan Montgomery, superintendent,  
Fairfield County ESC, (740) 653-3193 or  
Al Meloy, consultant, (614) 209-1079

## Board changes

Liberty Local (Trumbull) Board of Education member **Gloria H. Lang** announced her resignation effective Sept. 23.

●●● Lima City appointed **Sandra Monfort** to the board effective Aug. 11. She replaced **Danielle Good**, who resigned in August. ●●● Tiffin City Board of Education member **Randy Schwartz** announced his resignation effective Sept. 27.

## Administrative changes

### Superintendents

West Muskingum Local (Muskingum) hired Dr. **William R. Harbron** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He replaced **Sharon Smith**, who resigned effective July 31.

### Treasurers

Avon Lake City Treasurer **Denise J. Holcombe** announced her retirement effective Feb. 29. ●●● Monroe Local (Butler) hired **Holly Cahall** as treasurer effective Nov. 1. She will replace Interim Treasurer **Ken Ulm**. Cahall is currently treasurer at **Wilmington City**. ●●● Toledo City Treasurer **Daniel M. Romano III** announced his resignation effective Sept. 28. The district hired **Matthew J. Cleland** as interim treasurer effective Sept. 29. Cleland is currently the district's director.

### Editor's note

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

of the office of budget and management. ●●● Trotwood-Madison City hired **Janice D. Allen** as treasurer effective Nov. 7. She replaced **Diana C. Whitt**, who took the treasurer position at **Cincinnati City**. Allen is currently assistant treasurer at **Dayton City**. ●●● Xenia Community City hired **Bradley A. McKee** as treasurer effective Oct. 1. He replaced **Rosalie Townsend**, who retired. McKee is also treasurer for **Southeastern Local (Clark)** and the districts will share his services.

## Sympathies

Former **Columbus City** Board of Education member **Anne Luken Hall** died Sept. 28. She was 58. ●●● Former Board of Education member **Vincent B. Cetrone**, who served on the former **Fairhaven Local** school district in Trumbull County, died Oct. 6. He was 89. ●●● **James Hackworth**, a board member at the former **Jefferson Township** school district in Adams County, died Oct. 5. He was 85. ●●● Former **Northwest Local (Hamilton)** Board of Education member **Patricia Ann Griffin** died Oct. 4. She was 74. ●●● Former **Southeast Local (Portage)** Board of Education member **Russell Joseph "Russ" Kline** died Oct. 7. He was 77. ●●● Former **Teays Valley Local (Pickaway)** Board of Education member **Linda M. McCoskey** died Sept. 26. She was 63. ●●● Former **West Muskingum Local (Muskingum)** Board of Education member **Elmer Hartmeyer** died Oct. 8. He was 83. ●●● Former **Wooster City** Treasurer **David E. Workman** died Sept. 29. He was 82.



# COMMUNICATIONS

by Margaret Peterson, APR, communications consultant

## Handling a PR/news media crisis

There's a saying: If it can go wrong, sooner or later, it will go wrong. But school districts can do a lot to minimize the effects of a crisis situation. Planning is your best defense.

When a PR disaster happens, there's an immediate need to redefine your school's image by reaching out to the community. You need to take control of the crisis and deal with the issue head-on. Don't let the news media, the bloggers or the "twitterers" be first to inform parents, key communicators and the public.

A crisis or negative news media report affects more people than you think, lasts longer than you expect and becomes a permanent part of the school's reputation.

(Remember the Exxon oil spill in Alaska?)

In a public relations crisis you need to:

- respond quickly,
- communicate broadly,
- assume responsibility.

A general guide to planning for a crisis situation:

- Assess your school district's current reputation: does it need work?
- Imagine all possible crisis situations.
- Assemble a core crisis communication team.
- Develop and practice crisis response and communications.

Guidelines for execution include:

- Respond immediately and get

information out ahead of the rumors.

- Customize communications to audiences.

A few dos and don'ts when a PR crisis hits:

- **Be out front.** When the crisis happens, have the highest-ranking district spokesperson available to go on the record and deal with the issue head-on. Don't offer the "no comment" response. Attorneys don't like it, but the best thing to do if you've done something wrong is to say so. The public appreciates an individual or organization going forward and saying, "We didn't do it right, but we'll do it better."

- **Be honest.** Going on record does

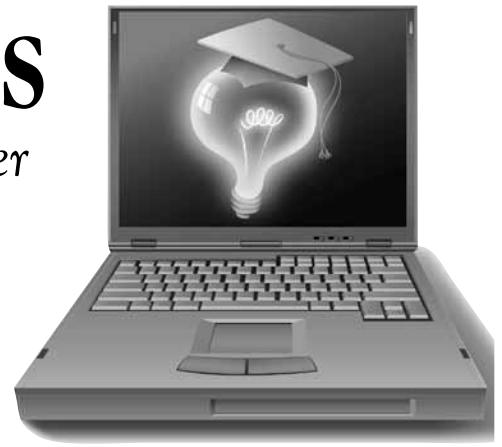
*Continued on page 5*

# OSBA webinars

*Learning delivered to your computer*

Learn about issues relevant to public education through OSBA's webinars. These sessions offer an informal, convenient way to learn in your office or home. All you need is a telephone and computer to participate.

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



## Upcoming webinars include:

### **Best Practices with Transgenderers in the Workplace**

Monday, Oct. 24 at 10 a.m.

Free webinar

As society changes, OSBA recognizes that school boards face unique challenges. This webinar will focus on workplace policies and current best practices with transgendered workers. The webinar will discuss challenges and explore guidelines for protecting employer and employee rights. **Keith McNeil**, director of regional operations at the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, will present.

### **Policy Implications of Senate Bill 5 and the Biennial Budget**

Tuesday, Oct. 25 at 1 p.m.

Cost is \$35

OSBA Policy Consultant **Megan Greulich** will explain some of the policy changes

stemming from recent legislation as a result of Senate Bill 5. The state biennium budget and related policy changes also will be discussed.

### **ESC Leadership Academy 2012: Get on board!**

Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 11 a.m.

Free webinar

This half-hour webinar will describe this partnership between OSBA and the ESCs that participate as cosponsors. Learn how your ESC can be involved, hear about changes to the 2012 topic agenda and get insights from a recent survey about how the program has benefited participants. If you have not participated in the ESC Leadership Academy, join us to learn more about becoming a part of this professional development initiative. If you

have attended a session or cosponsored the program, please tune in to hear about new developments coming next year.

### **School Board Member Compensation**

Thursday, Dec. 1 at 1:30 p.m.

Free webinar

November's election may bring changes to the composition of your school board on Jan. 1. Because the Ohio Constitution prohibits a public official's compensation from being increased or decreased during his or her term of office, any change in compensation for school board members must be in place by the end of 2011. Join OSBA's legal division for a webinar on the most frequently asked questions about board member compensation, benefits and expense reimbursement.

## **Winter School Finance Seminar**

**Friday, Dec. 2**

**Quest Business and Conference Centers, Columbus**

Politics, school funding and education issues continue to be at the forefront in Columbus. This annual winter school finance seminar is your opportunity to get answers and information from the experts!

Presentations will include an insider's view on the Statehouse; an economic forecast and revenue outlook; and a regional shared services update. Find out what's at stake for Ohio's schools — we're talking politics, legislation and much more. Cost is \$140, which includes materials, lunch and refreshments.

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



# OSBA Levy University

## webinar #5



As part of its expanded Levy University Program, OSBA is offering **free** webinars. Hosted by OSBA and presented by Avakian Consulting, these webinars will help you communicate more effectively with your community.

**Don't wing it! Tips on how to stay on message and connect with your community**  
**Monday, Nov. 7, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

Staying on message is fundamental when it comes to communicating with your community. It protects your credibility, keeps your message consistent and creates awareness and urgency about your needs and issues.

Join us for our latest webinar to learn more about how to get your message across in the community in the most effective ways. Tips include: how to create talking points for supporters and staff; how to stick to the facts and stay on message; how to talk to different members of your community; and understanding the signs that prove your message is getting out. This one-hour "message training" boot camp will give you the tools you need to connect with your public and really make an impact.

Register today at **[www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)** in the "OSBA Events" section or by contacting OSBA's Laurie Miller at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).



## SchoolComp Safety Seminar

**Friday, Dec. 9** **Cost: \$140**  
**OSBA office, Columbus** **9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

This annual safety seminar allows employers to meet the two-hour Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) safety training requirement and covers many important tips on keeping your employees safe. You do not have to be a participant in the SchoolComp Group Rating or Retro Rating Programs to attend this seminar.

### Agenda

- |            |  |            |  |
|------------|--|------------|--|
| 8:30 a.m.  | Registration and coffee  | 11:30 a.m. | Lunch (provided)   |
| 9 a.m.     | Welcome  | 12:30 p.m. | Electrical hazard recognition and abatement representative from BWC's Public Employment Risk Reduction Program |
|            | Van D. Keating, director of management services, OSBA; and Kim Laugherty, director of membership services, OASBO | 1:30 p.m.  | Break  |
| 9:15 a.m.  | School safety for students and staff   | 1:45 p.m.  | Fraud investigation  |
|            | Janet Strasbaugh, safety consultant CompManagement Inc.  |            | <i>Vincent Vossel</i> , operations manager, investigative services, Sedgwick Claims Management Services        |
| 10:15 a.m. | Break  | 2:45 p.m.  | Questions, closing comments and adjournment  |
| 10:30 a.m. | Playground safety representative from Ohio School Plan   |            |  |

You can register on the Ohio Association of School Business Officials website at **[www.oasbo-ohio.org](http://www.oasbo-ohio.org)** or by calling (614) 431-9116.



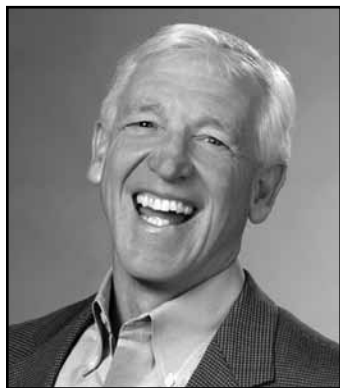


# Focus on Ohio's children

## Ohio School Boards Association Capital Conference

Nov. 13, 14, 15 & 16, 2011 • Greater Columbus Convention Center

*Don't miss the chance to attend these four outstanding presentations at the 2011 OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show. These superlative speakers are sure to send you home with fresh ideas on leadership, education, youth and the challenges of the 21st century.*



Murray Banks



Yvette McGee Brown



Lyn St. James



Stacey Bess

### **Early Bird Workshop with Murray Banks, Sunday, Nov. 13, 2:30 p.m.**

Murray Banks knows the challenges of education. He's taught at every level, from elementary school through college. He's also taught in a city school district and a small rural system in Vermont, where he was named Teacher of the Year.

Banks' informative, entertaining presentations explore the leadership skills that create a climate of success amid change and challenges. Blending humor, anecdotes and incredible visuals, he will show you how to maintain a balance in your life that will enable you to deal with difficult issues while successfully inspiring your teachers and administrators.

### **OSBA Black Caucus Dinner with Yvette McGee Brown, Sunday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m.**

Yvette McGee Brown was the first African-American elected to the Franklin County Domestic Relations/Juvenile Court

in 1992. In January 2011, she became the first African-American woman to serve as a justice on the Supreme Court of Ohio.

As lead juvenile court judge, she led the creation of the Family Drug Court and the SMART Program, a truancy and educational neglect intervention program. In 2002, she retired from the bench to create the Center for Child and Family Advocacy at Nationwide Children's Hospital, a multidisciplinary child abuse and family violence program.

### **Conference Luncheon with Lyn St. James., Monday, Nov. 14, 12:15 p.m.**

Lyn St. James' story is remarkable, culminating in successes few others can claim – winning the title of Indianapolis 500 Rookie of the Year and setting 31 international and national closed circuit speed records. *Sports Illustrated for Women* selected her as one of the Top-100 Women Athletes of the Century.

In 1993 she launched the Lyn St. James Foundation, Driver Development Program

and Women in the Winner's Circle. Her mission is to share her experience, giving to those who follow in her path, like so many gave to her along the way, and turning her journey into a path of helping others.

### **Conference Luncheon with Stacey Bess, Tuesday, Nov. 15, 12:15 p.m.**

Stacey Bess is an inspirational educator and author who speaks on the importance of service, mentorship, leadership and overcoming adversity. For 11 years, she taught homeless children in a small shed known as The School with No Name, an experience that profoundly affected her, as well as her students. She discovered that, by teaching and modeling love, self-worth and courage, she could reach children with no homes and little hope, children who had previously been labeled "unteachable." To inspire others with a passion for service, Bess wrote *Nobody Don't Love Nobody*, which was adapted into the April 2011 Hallmark Hall of Fame movie "Beyond the Blackboard."

### **To register**

The cost for the Early Bird Workshop is \$85. Due to limited seating, preregistration is required. Walk-ins are accepted on a space-available basis.

The cost to attend the OSBA Black Caucus Dinner is \$65; the registration deadline is Nov. 4. A limited number of tickets will be sold at the door for \$70.

Registration for each Conference Luncheon is \$55. Doors open at 12:15 p.m., but the speakers will not begin until 12:45 p.m., which provides plenty of time to travel from the general sessions to the luncheons. On-site tickets (\$60) will be sold at the Information Station on a space-available basis.

To register for any of these events, notify your district superintendent or treasurer, or indicate your request on the conference registration forms that were mailed in July.



# WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

## Best Practices with Transgenders in the Workplace webinar

☐ Oct. 24, free

## Policy Implications of Senate Bill 5 and the Biennial Budget webinar

☐ Oct. 25, \$35

## OSBA Levy University webinar #5: Social media: Don't wing it! Tips on how to stay on message and connect with your community

☐ Nov. 7, free

## ESC Leadership Academy 2012: Get on board!

☐ Nov. 8, free

## School Board Member Compensation webinar

☐ Dec. 1, free

## Winter School Finance Seminar

☐ Dec. 2, Columbus, \$140

## SchoolComp Safety Seminar

☐ Dec. 9, Columbus, \$140

## 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. You will need a username  
and password.

### 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.



Communications, continued from page 4

little good if what you're telling the public isn't true. For this kind of communication to work, you have to be in the right. The worst thing you can ever do is get caught in a lie. But your legal people most likely are not going to let you be as honest as you want to be because they're concerned about liability. You often run into situations where you have to weigh the consequences of saying too much or too little.

● **Be prepared.** Get a crisis plan in place before the crisis occurs. This means establishing a plan as to who is permitted to speak to the public — including media, parents and key communicators — during a crisis situation and what that person is allowed to say. You can't cobble something together after a crisis happens. Doing that will result in dumb mistakes. The worst thing you can do is have someone start talking about topics on which they are not fully informed.

● **Stay in touch with the news media, social media and the public.** People want to know how you've handled the problem. Make sure it is obvious, via press releases, newsletters, media briefings and on-site tours. Get out in front of whatever happened. Work with the local media, engage in local networking opportunities and be very clear about what your problems have been in the past and what you've done to fix them.

● **Remember, today's media landscape has changed.** Newspapers all have Web sites that don't wait for tomorrow's

paper. Citizen journalists — bloggers — are constantly reporting. There's YouTube, Facebook and individual parent websites.

● **Monitor the social media space.** It's critical that you know if your school is mentioned, and there is no excuse for not having this information delivered to you.

Something as simple as Google Alerts allows you to monitor Web sites for mentions in blogs, tweets and forums and can be delivered to your Feed Reader or email.

● **Respond quickly.** These days, quick is necessary, although you don't want to rush in and say something foolish. If you are doing a good job of monitoring, you should be aware of most instances your school district is mentioned, and it takes 15 seconds to craft a response on Twitter ... so do it!

● **Add value.** Don't just reply to inquiries or complaints with "I hear you"; add some value. Direct people to a resource that will be helpful to them, or, if it's within your power, tell them that you will check into a specific situation personally and then be sure to follow up.

● **Be sincere.** Social media is — for

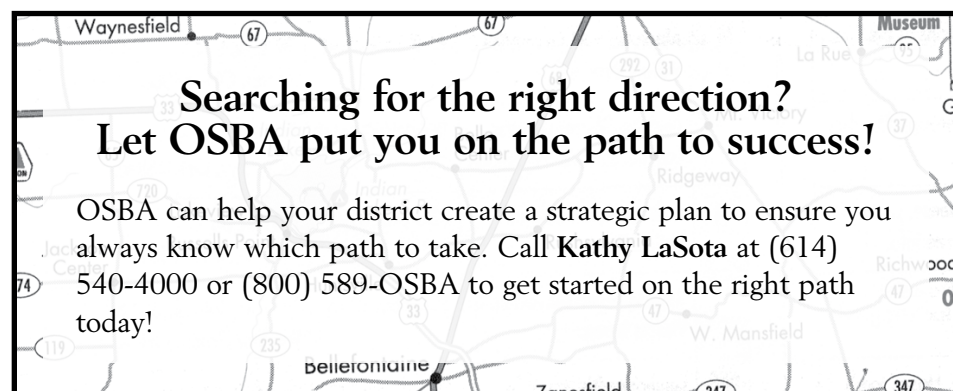
better and worse — a place of great transparency, and, as such, users can smell insincerity a mile away. Don't just give lip service to parents and community members; treat them like you would like to be treated.

### The first 30 minutes

What is done in the first 30 minutes of a crisis is crucial in controlling rumors and determining people's perceptions of the crisis and how it was handled. Here is a short outline of what should happen in that time frame. The crisis team leader should take charge and:

- Gather facts. Your plan should include a "Crisis Assessment and Information Sheet" which can be used to gather needed information.
- Define the problems.
- Consider options.
- Act to ensure safety of students and staff.
- Communicate with staff, students and parents as quickly as possible.
- Demonstrate competence.
- Make sure information provided is accurate and reliable.

Source: Oregon School Boards Association



**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!



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Michelle Francis, deputy director of legislative services

### Voucher bill update; Capital Conference preview

House Bill (HB) 136 continues to be a hot issue at the Statehouse. Even though legislators are not currently in session, it is our understanding that Ohio House Speaker **William Batchelder** (R-Medina) is conducting a straw poll to see where House members stand with their votes. This will influence whether the bill goes to the full House for a vote. This means your voice can make a big difference now!

Even if you have already communicated with your legislators, we urge you to make another contact. OSBA has shared its concerns in previous "Legislative Reports" and calls to action. We have created several materials that may be helpful as you ask lawmakers to vote "no" on HB 136. Talking points, a sample board resolution and a press release on our public survey can be found on the OSBA BillTracker Web page at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/129th-general-assembly](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/129th-general-assembly) by searching "HB 136." To find contact information for your Ohio House member visit [www.house.state.oh.us](http://www.house.state.oh.us). You also should encourage school building administrators and others in your district to call or email House members.

We challenged you to make legislative contacts on this issue and you responded. But key legislators in both parties are encouraging us to keep the pressure on the members of the General Assembly. It appears that the Catholic Conference of Ohio has again changed its position on the bill and is now putting pressure on legislators in support of the bill. That is why we're asking you to reach out again to the House.

Another concern is that there will be amendments added to HB 136 in an attempt to secure votes and split the education community. It is important to note this is not about academic issues, but about subsidies for private tuition in the name of "choice." We must be clear that this is an attack on public education and that the supporters will not stop until private tuition for families is supported without regard to the academic program in their district. HB 136 is not an isolated issue — it represents a bigger movement toward the privatization of public education.

#### Capital Conference legislative sessions

With the Capital Conference

coming up on Nov. 13-16, the legislative team at OSBA wants to take this opportunity to highlight some of the legislative sessions that will occur during the conference. Mark your schedules and plan to attend the following sessions to enhance your legislative knowledge:

#### ● Spotlight session — OSBA legislative update

Tuesday, Nov. 15  
8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.  
Room B 200-201

Get an update on the most recent activities of the Ohio General Assembly, as well as legislation affecting public education. This session includes the latest information on school funding, pension reform, school governance and the results of the Senate Bill (SB) 5 referendum.

#### ● Spotlight session — Senate Bill 5 — the aftermath

Tuesday, Nov. 15  
2 p.m.-5 p.m.  
Room D 233-235

Regardless of the SB 5 referendum outcome, school districts will face many challenges. If it passes, how will it impact labor contracts and employee-employer relationships? What about state budget provisions on teacher evaluations and

*Continued on page 7*



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Gary Motz, editorial manager

## Transition fair focuses on students with disabilities

About 200 high school students with disabilities from Gallia, Jackson and Vinton counties visited the University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College campus last month for a regional transition fair. Facilitated by **Gallia-Vinton ESC**, the event allowed juniors and seniors to explore the opportunities available to them after high school.

The fair, made possible with an Ohio Secondary Transition Improvement Grant, enabled state

and local agencies to work together to provide services for high school students with disabilities.

The program gave students a chance to talk with prospective employers and representatives of postsecondary schools. The fair also offered sessions on college expectations, career building and résumé writing. Parents were able to attend sessions on financial aid and learn what to expect as their children make the transition from

high school to careers and further education.

"The whole idea was to get agencies and the Ohio Department of Education to work together to provide the best services that we can for kids with disabilities that are graduating from high school and are either going on to college or going into some form of employment," Gallia-Vinton ESC's **Karen Johnson** told a local newspaper.

Source: *Gallipolis Daily Tribune*

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*Legislative Report, continued from page 6*

performance pay? If SB 5 is repealed, how will it affect districts that recently settled contracts? Join **Damon Asbury**, director of legislative services, and **Van D. Keating**, director of management services, for this discussion.

### ● **Regional shared services study update and discussion**

Tuesday, Nov. 15

3:45 p.m.-5 p.m.

Room B 200-201

The state budget required the Governor's Office of 21st Century Education and the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) to conduct a shared services study and survey of Ohio's school districts, community schools,

STEM schools, chartered nonpublic schools, joint vocational school districts, other educational service providers and local political subdivisions. The survey will inform a study of Ohio's regional delivery system that must culminate in legislative recommendations on the integration of existing providers into a new Regional Shared Service Center System. Attend this session to hear the latest on the survey results and the legislative recommendations from OBM's **Randy Cole**.

### ● **Education Tax Policy Institute (ETPI) update**

Wednesday, Nov. 16

9 a.m.-10 a.m.

Room B 200-201

Dr. **Howard Fleeter**, an ETPI consultant and expert on school finance, will make a special presentation on the new state budget, where we are headed with a new school-funding model and the latest information on state revenues and their implications. All conference attendees are invited and encouraged to attend this session.

For the latest legislative updates, please contact the OSBA legislative services division at (800) 589-6722.

*Editor's note: All information in this article was current as of Oct. 14, 2011.*

## October 2011

- 24 OSBA Best Practices with Transgenders in the Workplace webinar
- 25 OSBA Policy Implications of Senate Bill 5 and the Biennial Budget webinar

## November 2011

- 7 OSBA Levy University #5 webinar
- 7 OSBA ESC Leadership Academy 2012: Get on board! webinar
- 8 General Election Day — RC 3501.01 (first Tuesday after the first Monday).
- 13 OSBA Southeast Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... Columbus
- 13 OSBA Northeast Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... Columbus
- 14 OSBA Central Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... Columbus
- 13-16 OSBA Capital Conference..... Columbus
- 22 Last day to submit certification for March conversion levy to tax commissioner — RC 5705.219(B) (105 days before election).
- 28\* Last day to submit certification for March income tax levy to Ohio Department of Taxation — RC 5748.02(A) (100 days prior to the election).

## December 2011

- 1 OSBA School Board Compensation webinar
- 1 OSBA Southwest Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... Lebanon
- 2 Winter School Finance Seminar ..... Columbus
- 2 Last day to submit March emergency levy, current operating expenses levy or conversion levy to county auditor for March election — RC 5705.194, 5705.195, 5705.213, 5705.219 (95 days prior to the election).
- 3 OSBA Executive Committee Meeting ..... Columbus
- 7 OSBA Northeast Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... TBD
- 7 Last day for school district to file resolution of necessity, resolution to proceed and auditor's certification for bond levy with board of elections for March election — RC 133.18(D); last day for county auditor to certify school district bond levy terms for March election — RC 133.18(C); last day to submit continuing replacement, permanent improvement or operating levy for March 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 March election to board of elections — RC 5705.195, 5705.219(G), 5748.02(C); last day to submit emergency levy for March election to board of elections — RC 5705.195; last day to submit phased-in levy or current operating expenses levy for March election to board of elections — RC 5705.251(A) (90 days prior to the election).

- 9 SchoolComp Safety Seminar ..... Columbus
- 31 Last day for treasurer to canvass the board to establish a date of the organizational meeting — RC 3313.14.

## January 2012

- 7-8 New Board Member Academy ..... Columbus
- 7-8 New Board Member Academy ..... Mason
- 14-15 New Board Member Academy ..... Findlay
- 14-15 New Board Member Academy ..... Independence
- 15 Deadline for boards of education of city, exempted village, vocational and local school districts to meet and organize — RC 3313.14.