

BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



OSBA Black Caucus accepting Leo Lucas Scholarship applications

Applications are being accepted for the 2021 OSBA Black Caucus Leo Lucas Scholarship, a program that provides graduating ethnically diverse high school seniors funds for college. The program is named for the late **Leo Lucas**, a **Dayton City** school board member and educator who founded the caucus. A link to the application is posted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/leolucas>. The deadline to apply is April 21. For questions, contact OSBA's **Mark E. Bobo** at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or mbobo@ohioschoolboards.org. For more information on the OSBA Black Caucus, visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/osba-black-caucus.

Former OSBA Northeast Region secretary dies at 94

Dr. **Harold "Pete" Walker**, who served as the OSBA Northeast Region secretary from 1977 to 1996, died Feb. 24 at the age of 94. The position he held is now called regional manager. His education career was extensive. He served as superintendent at **Canton Local (Stark)**, **Louisville City** and **Canton City**. He also spent part of his career in higher education, serving as vice president, division chair and professor at Malone University in Canton. Walker made countless contributions to OSBA, Ohio public education and everyone who crossed his path.

Association kicks off school board candidate campaign

School board elections are this year. To support its members, OSBA has created the Get on Board campaign to increase the number of qualified candidates running for open seats. All too frequently, board member vacancies are filled via appointments rather than through the electoral process. OSBA's campaign aims to reverse this trend by offering resources to community members who might be interested in running for a school board seat. These resources include information on school board roles and responsibilities, time commitments, structuring a campaign and where to receive candidate training. To learn more, visit www.getonboardohio.org.

Don't forget to register for Board Leadership Institute

Registration continues for the 2021 OSBA virtual Board Leadership Institute (BLI), which runs April 23-24. BLI features in-depth learning sessions and opportunities to network with fellow attendees, presenters and OSBA staff. The keynote speaker is **Gerry Brooks**, an education expert who specializes in helping teachers improve their instructional skills and showing administrators ways to provide positive, constructive leadership. Register today for the only leadership development event in the state designed exclusively for board members. Tuition is just \$150 for this two-day event. Visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/BLI> for more information and to register.

March 22, 2021

Volume 53 Issue 6

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Route workshop information to:

- ☐ Administrative professionals
- ☐ Administrators
- ☐ Communications staff
- ☐ Principals
- ☐ Transportation supervisors

OSBA accepting legislative platform amendments

The OSBA Legislative Platform details OSBA's positions on public education issues and conveys to legislators, policymakers, the public and the media where the association stands on these issues. The platform guides OSBA's advocacy efforts and is shared with the governor's office, Ohio General Assembly and State Board of Education. The ongoing process of refining and amending the legislative platform needs your involvement and input. OSBA member school boards are asked to provide suggested modifications to the platform by submitting a duly adopted resolution signed by the district treasurer. Resolutions should be sent to **Jennifer Hogue** (jhogue@ohioschoolboards.org), OSBA director of legislative services, by May 15. Amendment resolutions will be shared and discussed with the Legislative

Young author publishes comic/graphic novel

Orange City's Moreland Hills Elementary School has a published author in the building. No, it's not an educator. **Aiden Reed** is an 8-year-old third-grader who had his first book published in December.

"The Mighty Shopper," available on Amazon, is a 77-page book about a shopper who doubles as a crime-fighting hero.

Aiden, who both wrote and illustrated his book, said he loves to read and write, according to a news release from the district. He adds that he enjoys being an author because it allows him to share his creativity and imagination and be an inspiration to others. "I'm sure there's more to come from Aiden," Superintendent Dr. **Lynn Campbell** said.

Source: cleveland.com

Platform Committee at its July meeting. The platform is posted on the OSBA website at www.ohioschoolboards.org/legislative-platform. For more information, contact Administrative Assistant of Legislative Services **Renee Gibson** at rgibson@ohioschoolboards.org or (614) 540-4000.

Task force posts pandemic transportation resources

The association has developed a webpage of pandemic-related school transportation resources to provide guidance to Ohio's school transportation teams. Based on the work of the OSBA-created School Transportation Task Force, the page includes a library of information from other states and recommendations that were compiled by the task force of 29 Ohio school transportation experts representing many different types and sizes of districts. Visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/88136> to learn more.

OSBA online

● www.ohioschoolboards.org
OSBA has launched the 2021 OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show website at <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org>. Check it out for general conference information and updates as they become available.



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

OSBA President: **Scott E. Huddle**, Mad River Local (Montgomery)

OSBA Chief Executive Officer: **Richard C. Lewis**, CAE

Editor: **Gary Motz**, senior editorial manager

Managing editor, layout and design: **Katy Farson**, communication design manager

Assistant editor: **Scott Gerfen**, communication manager

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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, senior administrative assistant of communication services

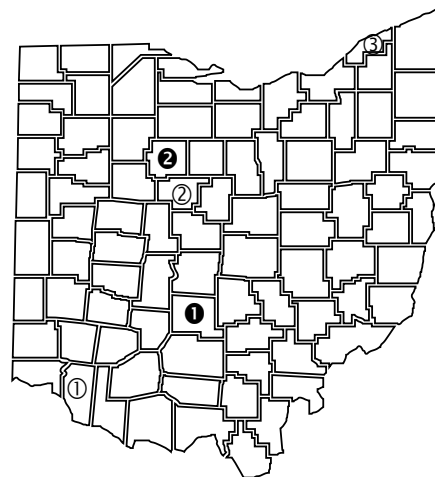
OSBA executive searches

Superintendent

District	Deadline	Contact
❶ Teays Valley Local (Pickaway)	April 14	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
❷ Mohawk Local (Wyandot)	TBD	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000

Treasurer

District	Deadline	Contact
❶ New Richmond EV	March 28	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
❷ Pleasant Local (Marion)	April 4	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
❸ Mentor EV	April 14	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



Other searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Crestview Local (Richland)	April 12	Kevin D. Kimmel, superintendent, Mid-Ohio ESC, (419) 774-5520
Superintendent	Lynchburg-Clay Local (Highland)	April 12	Stephanie Huber, assistant to the superintendent, Southern Ohio ESC, (937) 382-6921, ext. 1036
Treasurer	Tipp City EV	Until filled	Dayton Area Consortium, http://applitrack.com/dayton/onlineapp

Board changes

Benjamin Logan Local (Logan) Board of Education member **Tod Johnson** announced his resignation effective March 2. He is moving outside of the district. ●●● **Buckeye Central Local (Crawford)** appointed **Mike Kalb** to the board effective immediately. He replaced **Missy McDougal**, who resigned. ●●● **Xenia Community City** Board of Education member **Jennifer Marietta** announced her resignation effective March 1.

Administrative changes

Superintendents

Blanchester Local (Clinton) hired **Randy Dunlap** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Dean D. Lynch**, who is retiring effective July 31. Dunlap currently is superintendent at **Crestview Local (Richland)**. ●●● **Brunswick City** Superintendent **Michael Mayell** announced his resignation effective July 31. ●●● **Canton**

Editor's note

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

Local (Stark) Superintendent Stephen Milano announced his resignation effective July 31. ●●● **Franklin Local (Muskingum)** hired **Kacey R. Cottrill** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Interim Superintendent **Rob Preston**. Cottrill currently is superintendent at **Caldwell EV**. ●●● **Northwest Local (Stark)** hired **Shawn M. Braman** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Interim Superintendent **Dennis P. Lambes**. Braman currently is superintendent at **Waterloo Local (Portage)**. ●●● **Pettisville Local (Fulton)** hired **Joshua Clark** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Interim Superintendent **Ken Boyer**. Clark currently is director of curriculum, instruction and professional development at **Northwest Ohio ESC**.

Treasurers

Chippewa Local (Wayne) Treasurer **Molly Koch** announced her resignation effective immediately. ●●● **Coventry Local (Summit)** hired Superintendent **Lisa A. Blough** as treasurer effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Sherry L. Tyson**, who is retiring effective July 31.

Sympathies

Former **Parma City** Board of Education member **Karen S. Dendorfer** died March 1. She was 81. ●●● Former **Seneca East (Seneca)** Local Board of Education member **Ralph Eugene “Gene” Nagel** died Feb. 24. He was 83. ●●● **Trimble Local (Athens)** Board of Education member **Norma Arnold** died Feb. 6. She was 53.



Maximize
your leadership team's
performance
with the Achiever

Recruit and retain the best with the Achiever Leadership Assessment.

The Achiever measures cognitive skills and personality dimensions, providing relevant data to enable you to make the right leadership decisions for your district. Key benefits include:

- maximizing potential;
- streamlining the hiring process;
- enhancing decision-making.



**Ohio School
Boards Association**

Learn more at www.ohioschoolboards.org/achiever or contact **Teri Morgan** at (614) 540-4000 • (800) 589-OSBA • tmorgan@ohioschoolboards.org



NEWS

by Angela Penquite, deputy director of communication services

Trustees greet new members, hear from superintendent of public instruction

The OSBA Board of Trustees worked through a packed agenda during its first meeting of 2021.

The board, OSBA's official governing body, meets three times a year, in February, July and November. The trustees met virtually on Feb. 27.

OSBA President **Scott E. Huddle, Mad River Local (Montgomery)**, presided over the meeting, which began with the swearing in of the 2021 Board of Trustees, which includes six new members. The new trustees are: **Mary Cleveland, Princeton City** and **Great Oaks Career Campuses**; **Sally S. Green, Tuscarawas Valley Local (Tuscarawas)**; **Bobbie Grice, Little Miami Local (Warren)** and **Warren County Career Center**; **Kevin Landin, Ottoville Local (Putnam)**; **Ed Penrod, Muskingum Valley ESC** and **Tri-County Career Center**; and **Leslie Schneider, Marion City**.

Lists of all the trustees and Executive Committee members are posted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/42720>.

The board recognized OSBA Immediate Past President **Lee Schreiner, South-Western City**, for his service as 2020 OSBA

president. Acknowledging that every OSBA president faces challenges, Huddle pointed out that the cancellation of events and moving to a virtual environment added to the challenges Schreiner faced in leading the association in 2020.

"You had a year in which things were taken away from you, but you've handled that with grace and been a leader in every sense of the word," Huddle told Schreiner.

The trustees approved a resolution listing Schreiner's accomplishments and thanking him on behalf of the board. Chief Executive Officer **Rick Lewis** thanked Schreiner for his service. Schreiner also was given a scrapbook commemorating his year as president and a clock from OSBA.

Chief Financial Officer **Allison Morris** provided an update on the association's finances. She also presented the 2020 financial report and the 2021 OSBA budget, which the trustees approved.

The meeting also featured an update from Superintendent of Public Instruction **Paolo DeMaria**, who thanked the trustees on behalf of all board members for their service in helping "ensure

our students are learning and growing."

"A year ago we were guessing at what things may look like," DeMaria said. Although there were many challenges during the last year, there were also successes. A key question now, he said, is what's going to happen in the medium and long term?

"Understanding what we've learned in this pandemic (and) understanding how learning doesn't always have to be the same or fit the models we were most accustomed to prior to the pandemic, how does that impact how we think about school going forward?" he asked.

DeMaria described the work being done now by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) as "in different buckets." First is continuing to respond to issues and questions about what is happening in the next couple of weeks. This currently includes questions on graduation ceremonies, graduation requirements and the state's accountability system.

Next is the medium term, which is focused on understanding where students are in their

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News, continued from page 5

learning, both in terms of academics and social-emotional learning growth, and creating the processes and structures to help them continue to advance. This phase looks at the end of this school year and the beginning of the 2021-22 school year and includes extended learning or learning recovery plans and how to mitigate the pandemic's impact on students.

The third area, the long term, is contemplating what education looks like post-pandemic. If some students are benefiting from technology-enabled or remote learning, do we need some things in state law that create the context for that to be a continuing part of the education experience? Are there other parts of the education experience that may be evolving that we need to create the policy

context to support? DeMaria said there were numerous questions that districts had to deal with "on the fly" when school buildings closed, but now we can be more thoughtful about what that policy context should look like.

DeMaria highlighted two reports that will be released soon. The first, "Each Child Means Each Child," focuses on improving the

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Ohio School
Boards Association

NEW ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAM for superintendents, treasurers and board members

Are you a leader in your district? Do you know how to properly answer governance questions?

You don't want to miss this six-part on-demand **Informed Governance** webinar series designed to address questions each member of the district leadership team should be asking to promote effective governance.

This educational series provides essential knowledge and practical next steps you can apply in your district. Topics include:

- Advocacy in the Community and Advocacy for the Community
- Beyond 'We Have to Get These Evaluations Done'
- Budget and Fiscal Operations
- Governing With and Within a Visionary Framework
- Monitoring Progress Toward District Student Achievement Goals
- What Everyone Should Know About the Yellow Bus and Transportation Safety

These webinars can be purchased for \$50 each and viewed at your own pace. Register for the entire series or just the ones that interest you. For more details and to register, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/71953>.



Special Education Law Workshop

**Two-day event: Thursday, March 25, and Friday, March 26
12:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. • Virtual • Cost: \$100**

Learn from some of the most experienced special education lawyers representing school districts in Ohio.

Thursday, March 25 Agenda

12:30 p.m. Welcome

12:40 p.m. Effective communication and collaborative partnerships with parents

This session will focus on strategies to help foster successful parent-school partnerships. Presenters will share tips for conducting collaborative Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meetings with meaningful parent participation and discuss strategies for using prior written notices and dispute resolution processes to effectively communicate and work with parents. The session also will explore ways to engage community partners and opportunities to collaborate with stakeholders.

Julia A. Bauer, Esq., and Jessica L. Dawso, Esq., Scott Scriven LLP

1:55 p.m. Break

2:15 p.m. Progress monitoring: Practice and pitfalls

Progress monitoring seems easy: Assess a student's performance, quantify the rate of improvement, make adjustments, evaluate their effectiveness, then repeat. In real life, progress monitoring is more difficult. This session will discuss some of the legal pitfalls and best practices to ensure that progress monitoring is beneficial to both the student and the district.

Jeremy J. Neff, Esq., Ennis Britton Co. LPA

3:30 p.m. Adjourn until Friday

Friday, March 26 Agenda

12:30 p.m. Welcome

12:40 p.m. Beyond the definition: An in-depth look at related services

This session will delve into related services, covering the ins and outs of occupational, physical and speech-language therapies; assistive technology; health services; transportation; consultative services; and parent training. It will discuss drafting IEP goals for related services and whether the delivery of related services will change after the last two school years.

Jacqueline Walsh Brickman, Esq., and Taryn Weiss Derin, Esq., Pepple & Waggoner Ltd.

1:55 p.m. Break

2:15 p.m. School attorneys Q&A

You asked for it, and here it is! The experienced attorneys who are presenting this year's Special Education Law Workshop will be coming back to answer your questions. This is your opportunity to ask about some of the knotty situations you've been trying to unravel. We might not have all the answers, but we know where to find them.

Panelists: Jeremy J. Neff, Esq., Ennis Britton Co. LPA; Jacqueline Walsh Brickman, Esq., and Taryn Weiss Derin, Esq., Pepple & Waggoner Ltd.; Jessica L. Dawso, Esq., Scott Scriven LLP

3:30 p.m. Adjourn until next year

To register

Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops or email **Laurie Miller** at Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org.

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

OSBA Master of Transportation Administration (MTA) Program

Don't miss the last session of the 2020-21 MTA program. This series of workshops helps those involved in student transportation better understand and perform day-to-day operations.

Each class is \$100 or you can purchase an MTA subscription for the workshop series; contact **Pete Japikse**, senior transportation consultant, or **Doug Palmer**, transportation consultant, for subscription information.

Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/transportation-training-programs to learn about the MTA certification program.



Workshop date and description

April 7 — Designing your operational plan and building keys for success (virtual)

We will start this final class of the year by looking at how to put the operational plan together. What is your work calendar? When do you need to do what, and how do you schedule or delegate that project? Much of what we do has a critical work path, and unless you plan your work in advance, it is easy to get “behind the curve” and feel like you are trying to catch up. We also will focus on building support networks, identifying friends and foes and recognizing where you need allies to succeed. Building your stakeholders’ group and support network is key to your success and helps broaden your potential for positive impact.

Register by contacting Japikse or Palmer at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or mta@ohioschoolboards.org. You also can purchase a subscription plan for all the workshops in this series; contact Japikse or Palmer for more information.

OSBA is accepting applications for the 2021 OSBA Black Caucus Leo Lucas Scholarship, a program that provides graduating ethnically and culturally diverse high school seniors funds for college.

Visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/leolucas> to complete an application. The deadline is April 21.

For more information, contact **Mark E. Bobo** at (614) 540-4000 or mbobo@ohioschoolboards.org.



Leo Lucas Scholarship deadline is April 21

April 23-24, 2021

Join us for a
virtual experience!



Ohio School Boards Association Board Leadership Institute



Your role. Your peers. Your growth.
Your conference.

BLI offers high-quality training for **your** role as a leader of **your** district.



As a member of your school district's governing body, you are called on to make important decisions at every meeting. Some decisions are easy; others are complicated. That's why board member development is so important. And that's why OSBA offers the Board Leadership Institute (BLI).

Join us virtually for this engaging two-day event that will feature an inspiring keynote speaker and five in-depth learning sessions designed to provide board members like you with the information you want and need.

Schedule of events

Friday, April 23

11:15 a.m.	Welcome and housekeeping
11:30 a.m.	Keynote — Gerry Brooks
12:30 p.m.	Stretch break
12:40 p.m.	A fresh perspective on family engagement
1:40 p.m.	Stretch break
1:50 p.m.	Every child succeeds with breakfast
2:50 p.m.	Stretch break
3 p.m.	Legislative update
4:15 p.m.	Adjourn until Saturday

Saturday, April 24

9:30 a.m.	Coffee chat and networking (optional)
10 a.m.	A systematic mental health approach
11 a.m.	Stretch break
11:10 a.m.	Confronting Ohio's EdChoice vouchers
12:10 p.m.	Adjourn

Top reasons to attend BLI:

1. **It's the premier conference designed for board members.** Your peers from around the state help plan BLI content.
2. **You'll receive exceptional professional development.** This comprehensive, two-day event is full of cutting-edge sessions that will leave you feeling inspired.
3. **It's a great opportunity to strengthen your board governance skills.** In addition to hearing from a keynote speaker, there are five learning sessions on topics that are relevant to board members.
4. **You can network with other board members.** Meet with colleagues from across Ohio, including at the new coffee chat and networking session, to share success stories and learn from each other.



Keynote speaker Gerry Brooks

Principal, dad, husband, public speaker and fun maker.

A highlight of this year's BLI is keynote speaker **Gerry Brooks**, an educator and public speaker whose focus is on helping teachers improve their instructional abilities and demonstrating how administrators can lead staff in a positive and constructive manner.

Brooks has a robust following on social media thanks to his humorous videos that focus on real-world educational experiences.

Session descriptions

A fresh perspective on family engagement (Friday at 12:40 p.m.)

New research indicates that our commonly held perspectives and typical messaging about family engagement actually hinder our efforts. Review new research on how parents, teachers and community members perceive family engagement differently, why that matters and what we have learned about effectively framing family engagement.

*Presenter: **Kim Miller-Smith**, senior student achievement consultant, OSBA*

Every child succeeds with breakfast (Friday at 1:50 p.m.)

Students who eat school breakfast have better attendance, improved behavior and enhanced academic performance. Districts with award-winning breakfast programs share how innovative strategies positively impact student success and support operating budgets. These districts will share strategies to boost participation and maximize federal and state dollars to protect operating funds and balance food costs.

*Presenters: **Jessica Shelly**, director of student dining services, and **Sarah Trimble-Oliver**, chief strategic officer, Cincinnati Public; **Barbara Burns**, director of food service, and Dr. **David Quattrochi**, superintendent, Carrollton EV*
*Moderator: **June Wedd**, vice president of school wellness, American Dairy Association Mideast*

Legislative update (Friday at 3 p.m.)

Hear about recent developments in the Ohio General Assembly. Learn what's happening with the biennial budget legislation and its potential impact on your district.

*Presenters: **Jennifer Hogue**, director of legislative services; **Will Schwartz**, deputy director of legislative services; and **Nicole Piscitani**, lobbyist, OSBA*

A systematic mental health approach (Saturday at 10 a.m.)

Learn how to establish a comprehensive mental health program that includes students, staff, parents and the community in a systemwide approach to best meet the daily needs for an emotionally safe culture and environment to optimize learning.

Milford EV shares its approach using effective and seamless processes for screening services, staffing and funding.

*Presenters: **Jennie Berkley**, assistant superintendent of human resources and student services, and **Will Cates**, mental health coordinator, Milford EV*

Confronting Ohio's EdChoice vouchers (Saturday at 11:10 a.m.)

In 2020, Real Choice Ohio created the Confronting EdChoice Voucher Project, which focuses on the retention and return of students in Ohio's over-reaching voucher system. This session will provide tools and review techniques on how to best communicate with parents and students.

*Presenters: **Melvin J. Brown**, superintendent, Reynoldsburg City; **Scott DiMauro**, president, and **Steve Dyer**, director of government relations, communications and marketing, Ohio Education Association; **Chris Varwig**, board president, Toledo City; and **Michael L. Collins**, executive director, Real Choice Ohio.*

Register today!

Two-day virtual event

Friday, April 23 • 11:15 a.m.–4:15 p.m.

Saturday, April 24 • 10 a.m.–12:10 p.m.

Cost

\$150 (includes both days of content, including the keynote)

To register

Visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/BLI>

Don't miss the
only professional
development
program planned
exclusively for
board members!

Reflections from past attendees

"So often we worry about issues that impact our district, and we don't realize that other districts are facing the same challenges. BLI offers us an opportunity to come to that understanding and attend workshops that help provide ideas and resources to overcome those challenges."

Anthony Gomez, board member, Cuyahoga Falls City

"The Board Leadership Institute is like a smaller version of the OSBA Capital Conference that is developed specifically for board members by other board members. It's a chance for board members to network and get valuable information."

Terry Gibson, board member, Lockland Local (Hamilton) and Great Oaks Career Campuses

"I feel it's so important to attend the Board Leadership Institute to learn and be able to grow as a board member, make good decisions and be a key leader in your community."

Julie Altawil, board member, Howland Local (Trumbull)

"Having a wealth of knowledge this wide and deep at one event helps every board member, no matter the size of your district or how long you have served. We invest so much in the education of our students. It is critical to take the opportunity BLI affords us to educate ourselves."

Fred Hunt, board member, Hamilton County ESC and Great Oaks Career Campuses

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.



Collective Bargaining in 2021

Tuesday, April 20 • 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. • Virtual • Cost: \$60

Join us to hear how negotiations are being handled during the pandemic, learn what your involvement in negotiations is as a board member and get tips for crisis communications.

10 a.m. Welcome

Van D. Keating, senior staff attorney, OSBA

10:10 a.m. Bargaining basics and the search for alignment

Ohio law establishes a process that state public entities, such as schools, must use to conduct negotiations with their employee unions. However, there is much more to understand than just the short-term tactics of bargaining. Take a high-level view of the “why” around the collective bargaining process and the need for school district alignment going into that process.

John E. Britton, Esq., Ennis Britton Co. LPA

11 a.m. Break

11:10 a.m. Bargaining during the pandemic

This session will explore the negotiation challenges schools have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Bargaining face to face suddenly shifted to virtual bargaining, using a variety of computer applications and programs that were unfamiliar to schools. School attorneys will discuss what changes have occurred and how to prepare for bargaining in this new environment.

Eric J. Johnson, Esq. and Megan E. Greulich, Esq., Walter Haverfield LLP

Noon

Lunch break

12:30 p.m. Strategies to end negotiations

Eventually, all negotiations must come to an end. In this session, an experienced negotiator will discuss the various strategies schools use to reach settlement, whether it is through impasse and mediation, fact finding or even strikes. This session also will discuss emerging union trends related to employees’ return to in-person classroom instruction.

Kevin J. Locke, Esq., Pepple & Waggoner Ltd.

1:20 p.m. Break

1:30 p.m. Crisis communications

Collective bargaining often creates tense situations between school district management and employee unions. Unfortunately, when a crisis arises, boards often struggle with what, when and how to communicate with parents and the public. This session will explore how school boards can best communicate during crisis situations.

Thomas Fladung, managing partner, Hennes Communications

2:20 p.m. Wrap-up

2:30 p.m. Adjourn

To register

Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops or email **Laurie Miller** at Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org.



WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

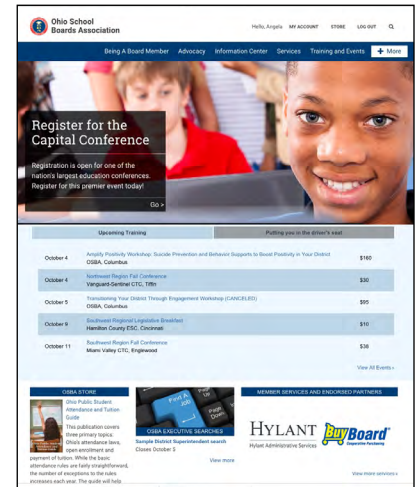
Register at www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops

OSBA members can access member-only information, including workshop registration, by logging in to the OSBA website.

How to log in

Click on “Log in to your account” on top right of the website. Log in using your email address on file and your password. Click “Reset your password” if needed.

If it says “We could not find your email address,” or if this is your first time logging in to the site, click “Create new account.” At the username prompt, enter your email address, select your affiliation and school district, and click “Submit.” Create a password and add your job title on the next screen. An email with a link to activate your account will be sent to you. Click on the link to activate your account, and you will be directed to a home screen.



OSBA Student Achievement Fair

Monday, Nov. 8, 2021
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Greater Columbus Convention Center

Nominate your student program, performing group or artwork today! The OSBA Capital Conference Student Achievement Fair highlights outstanding student performance groups and fresh, innovative initiatives from school districts across the state.

Student Achievement Fair district programs

OSBA is accepting nominations for programs that showcase exemplary student achievement. Examples of district programs in the Student Achievement Fair include one-to-one technology programs, STEM engineering for middle grades, a workforce exchange program and career center culinary arts program. One hundred programs will be selected. While multiple programs may be submitted for consideration, no more than two per district will be selected, so districts should prioritize their submissions.

Student Achievement Fair performing groups

OSBA will choose one performing group from each of the association's five regions to perform during the Student Achievement Fair. Past performances have included cheerleaders, choirs, bands, orchestras and percussion ensembles. Each group will perform for 20 minutes. The nomination deadline is **May 19**.

Student art display

The Student Achievement Fair features a student art show. Outstanding artwork by students from school districts across the state will be on display. Don't miss this chance to see some of the highly creative work coming out of Ohio's public schools.

Contact **Gwen Samet** (gsamet@ohioschoolboards.org) or **Teri Morgan** (tmorgan@ohioschoolboards.org) at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA with any questions.

Visit <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/saf-nominations> to nominate a student performing group or district program today!

News, continued from page 6

education experiences and outcomes for students with disabilities. The report addresses achievement gaps that persist among students with disabilities despite the fact that, in most cases, “these students are capable of reaching the standards and levels of proficiencies that the state has set,” DeMaria said.

The second report, he said, looks at high school redesign, asking if the current high school structures are preparing students for their plans after high school.

In addition, DeMaria has convened a superintendents’ advisory group to better understand what ODE’s role could be in supporting district equity activities. He recognized OSBA for its Diversity & Equity Consulting Services and the free diversity and equity resources available at www.leadingourlearners.org/diversity-and-inclusion that help districts engage in the “difficult work that may not always come naturally or easily to people.

“How do we engage in those conversations that help us move toward both being more tuned into those realities and creating the conditions for each of our children to be successful?” he asked, noting this echoes the state’s strategic plan focused on ensuring that each child’s “education experience is an excellent one.”

“Keep up the great work you’re doing,” he said. “You’re making a difference for the students in your

community.”

OSBA Director of Legislative Services **Jennifer Hogue** reviewed current legislative issues, including House Bill (HB) 110, the biennial budget, and HB 1, the Fair School Funding Plan.

HB 110, she said, is currently pending in the House Finance Committee and hearings are being held in the subcommittees.

Although school funding in HB 110 “looks as it has in the past two years,” it provides a growth supplement, payments to districts experiencing public utility valuation reductions and funding adjustment for career centers based on student enrollment. It also continues the Student Wellness and Success funds over the next biennium, with \$1.1 billion provided over the next two years, and adds to the allowable uses for those funds.

HB 1 hearings are in progress in the House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education, and OSBA delivered proponent testimony on Feb. 25. Hogue encouraged trustees to contact their legislators to show their support. “This plan covers all of the bases,” she said.

Although the U.S. Department of Education is not allowing states to waive testing this year, states have the option to shorten the tests, give the tests at a later date or limit the testing to only the federally required assessments. HB 67 and Senate Bill (SB) 37 seek to provide flexibility for the state and federally required

assessments.

Hogue discussed several other bills of note, including HB 117, which would increase prior territory transfer expansion efforts to apply to townships, municipalities and villages; HB 54, which would dissolve current academic distress commissions and require districts to establish an improvement team for each F-rated school building; and SB 1, which would require a half unit of financial literacy for graduation in addition to the current financial literacy requirements.

In other items, the trustees:

- reviewed the association’s 20-year building improvement plan and approved a building reserve fund to pay for necessary improvements;
- reviewed the fiduciary duty of care and other obligations for serving on the board of trustees;
- approved a one-time request by the Southeast Region Executive Committee to access contact information for members in their region to encourage greater involvement in grassroots lobbying and advocacy efforts impacting the region;
- received an update on OSBA’s strategic plan, Visionary Initiatives for Strategic Action;
- received an update on the National School Boards Association (NSBA) from Lewis and **John W. Halkias, Plain Local (Stark)**, who serves on NSBA’s Board of Directors.

The next meeting of the OSBA Board of Trustees is July 17.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Will Schwartz, deputy director of legislative services

State report card system under review in Ohio House

The Ohio House of Representatives will soon consider proposed changes to Ohio's state report card system offered by Reps. **Don Jones** (R-Freeport) and **Phillip M. Robinson Jr.** (D-Solon). At a March 10 press conference, Jones and Robinson joined with House colleagues, local school district superintendents and statewide education association directors to unveil House Bill (HB) 200, which would eliminate Ohio's A-F letter grades and overall summative ratings for public school districts and schools.

The bill sponsors were joined by:

- Rep. **Adam C. Bird** (R-New Richmond);
- Dr. **Cameron S. Ryba**, superintendent, **Strongsville City**;
- **Marlon Styles Jr.**, superintendent, **Middletown City**;
- **David Axner**, executive director, Buckeye Association of School Administrators;
- **Rick Lewis**, chief executive officer, Ohio School Boards Association;
- **Jim Rowan**, executive director, Ohio Association of School Business Officials.

HB 200 is the culmination of a state report card study committee's work. The committee met in 2019 to evaluate the report card system. That 10-member panel, which was

created by HB 166 of the 133rd General Assembly, was composed of legislators; Superintendent of Public Instruction **Paolo DeMaria**; Styles; Ryba; and Dr. **Stephanie Starcher**, superintendent of **Fort Frye Local (Washington)**. Starcher was unable to attend the March 10 press conference.

The committee conducted several meetings to hear comments from education groups and individuals about issues associated with the current report card system as well as recommendations to revise the system. The committee met in December 2019 for the final time and issued its legally mandated report. However, no recommendations were made. Instead, the report merely restated all the recommendations it heard from the groups and individuals.

Jones, who was co-chair of the state study committee, told reporters at the time, "I look at this report as a conversation starter, not the end of the conversation. It will provide a strong foundation as we look to next steps for improving the state's report card system." The other co-chair, **Louis W. Blessing Jr.** (R-Cincinnati), said, "The value of this report is that it brings several viewpoints from dedicated education policy experts into one place. Moving

forward, the legislature can use this document as guidance in seeking change." Over the ensuing months, the House, led by Jones, worked to compile the recommendations and weave them into legislation now contained in HB 200.

The bill would establish six new performance ratings, instead of ratings of A, B, C, D or F. The proposed ratings include: significantly exceeds expectations; exceeds expectations; meets expectations; making substantial progress toward expectations; making moderate progress toward expectations; and in need of support. These ratings are similar to the ratings used in Massachusetts' School and District Profile rating system.

Districts and schools in Ohio now earn letter grades on six components: achievement; progress; gap closing; graduation rate; improving at-risk K-3 readers; and prepared for success. Each of these component grades is weighted and then used to calculate an overall summative rating. Achievement and progress each represent 20% of the overall rating, while each of the remaining four components represent 15%.

HB 200 would continue rating
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Legislative Report, continued from page 8

those areas, except for the prepared for success component, which would be reported but not graded. HB 200 also would make several changes to each component outlined below.

The achievement measure, which is based on a district or school's performance index score, represents how well students score on state tests. Points are received for every level of achievement, with more points awarded for

higher scores. The bill would benchmark the highest score as the average of the highest 10% of scores achieved in the 2018-19 school year and require that maximum score to be updated every five years. It also would add a new score level — approaching proficient — that would have a weight of 0.8 and would fit between the proficient level (currently a 1.0 weight) and basic level (currently a 0.6 weight).

Achievement would no longer include the indicators met measure, which represents absolute student performance on up to 26 state tests and measures the percentage of students who score proficient or higher in a grade and subject. That measure would remain on the report card as a reported but ungraded measure.

The progress measure evaluates the growth all students are making

Continued on page 10



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— Pamela Freshour,
Pleasant Local (Marion)

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based on their past state test performances. To assess this growth, Ohio employs a series of calculations to produce a value-added measure. The bill requires the progress measure to use the higher of the most recent three-year average of value-added data or the most recent year of value-added data. It also expressly prohibits using subgroups to calculate the measure, which effectively removes from the measure's calculation the value-added performance of gifted students, students with disabilities and students in the lowest quintile of statewide achievement. Those first two subgroups are, instead, reflected in the gap closing measure.

The gap closing measure compares the performance of each subgroup against the expected performance goals for that subgroup to determine if gaps exist and whether improvement is happening. The bill allows the rating method to use the value-added progress dimension score of each subgroup, instead of only the performance index score, as under current law.

The third-grade reading guarantee measure, currently titled improving at-risk K-3 readers, would show the percentage of students who are promoted to fourth grade and are not retained under the state's third-grade reading guarantee. The measure can include only students who were enrolled in that district or school since kindergarten. It does,

however, require data to be reported, but not graded, showing the percentage of all students — not just those who were in the same district or school for those four years — who are promoted to the fourth grade and are not retained. Finally, the report card must report the percentage of students in kindergarten through third grade who attained a proficient score on the reading component of a state-approved diagnostic assessment or the third-grade English language arts assessment.

No changes are made to the graduation rate measure, which requires the four- and five-year adjusted cohort graduation rates of districts and schools to be displayed and graded on the report card.

The contents of the current prepared for success component, which is changed to a report-only measure, are revised by the bill to include several new items. The bill would require the report card to include the percentage of students in the four- and five-year graduation cohorts who:

- completed grades nine-12 while enrolled in a district or school;
- officially withdrew from a district or school and did not receive a high school diploma;
- had an Individualized Education Program and satisfied the conditions for a high school diploma but opted not to receive a diploma;
- earned one or more state diploma seals for graduation purposes;
- participated in Advanced

Placement classes and the percentage of them who received a score of three or better on the corresponding exam;

- participated in International Baccalaureate classes and the percentage of them who received a score of four or better on the corresponding exam;
- earned at least three college credits through College Credit Plus, career-technical courses offered through dual enrollment or statewide articulation or other advanced standing programs;
- completed an internship;
- earned a proficient score or higher on three or more state technical assessments in a single career pathway;
- earned an industry-recognized credential;
- completed a pre-apprenticeship or an apprenticeship in the student's chosen career field;
- provided evidence of acceptance into an apprenticeship program after high school that is restricted to participants who are at least 18 years old.

Ohio's current report card system was enacted in 2012 with the 129th General Assembly's HB 555. However, despite the system being law for nearly a decade, there have been only two years in which districts and schools have received an overall letter grade: the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years. Phase-in delays, safe harbor pauses and COVID-19 reprieves forced lawmakers to not use overall letter grades, but in some

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

Westerville student-athletes serve as pallbearers for stranger

When **Nate Morse** received the unique request from his grandmother, he immediately contacted his teammates on **Westerville City's** Westerville North High School wrestling team.

"My grandma met this lady at church, and she didn't have anyone to carry her casket," Morse told a local newspaper. "I sent a text out asking the team, and within 10 minutes, I had six guys."

Wrestlers **Brennan Albertini, Sylvester Bockarie, Evan Butcher, Nico Candido, Jake Gooding** and Morse served as pallbearers for the 92-year-old Gahanna resident who had little family in the area.

Coach **David Grant** said his team seems to be a go-to source in the community whenever someone needs help. The student-athletes have helped organizations such as Neighborhood Bridges, a nonprofit that began in 2017 in response to the growing rate of poverty in

suburban and rural America.

Earlier this month, the team made a run at the Division I central district title, sending 11 competitors to the tournament, where they finished fourth of out 41 teams. They've been a powerful force off the mat, too.

"We've shoveled driveways and helped people out," Butcher said. "Whenever we get the chance, it's always like, 'Let me help you.'"

Source: ThisWeek Community Newspapers

Legislative Report, continued from page 10

cases for most of the other years, individual components did receive letter grade ratings.

HB 200 is only the second serious attempt by the legislature to revise the report card system, the most recent instance being a late legislative push by former Rep. **Mike Duffey** (R-Worthington), who introduced HB 591 in the 132nd General Assembly. Despite garnering support from statewide education groups and House colleagues, Duffey's bill failed to progress before the legislative session expired. Duffey's tenure in the House ended at the same time due to term limits.

HB 200's changes regarding A-F letter grades are expected to face opposition with key members of the Senate, most likely President **Matt Huffman** (R-Lima) and Sen. **Andrew O. Brenner** (R-Powell), chair of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee. Education groups, like Ohio Excels and the Fordham Institute, also are expected to push back on those provisions of the bill.

The bill was scheduled to receive its first hearing before the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee March 16.

Editor's note: Information in this article was current as of March 12, 2021.



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March 2021

- 23 Challenging Times: The impact on students and what we've learned..... Virtual
- 25-26 Special Education Law Workshop..... Virtual
- 31 End of second ADM reporting period — RC 3317.03(A).

April 2021

- 5 Last day for voter registration for May election — RC 3503.01, 3503.19(A) (30 days prior to election).
- 6 OSBA Southwest Region Executive Committee Meeting Virtual
- 7 OSBA Master of Transportation Administration Program: Designing your operational plan and building keys for success Virtual
- 20 Collective Bargaining in 2021 workshop..... Virtual
- 20 Coffee Chat: Improving the workers' comp experience..... Virtual
- 23-24 Board Leadership Institute..... Virtual
- 25 OSBA Southeast Region Executive Committee Meeting Virtual
- 26 Last day to submit certification for income tax levy to Ohio Department of Taxation for August election — RC 5748.02(A) (100 days prior to the election).
- 28 Transportation State Reports and Cost

- Analysis Workshop..... Virtual
- 30 Last day to submit emergency or current operating expenses levy to county auditor for August election — RC 5705.194, 5705.195, 5705.213 (95 days prior to the election).

May 2021

- 4 Special Election Day; Primary Election Day — RC 3501.01 (first Tuesday after first Monday).
- 5 OSBA Northeast Region Executive Committee Meeting Virtual
- 5 Last day for school district to file resolution of necessity, resolution to proceed and auditor's certification for bond levy with board of elections for August election — RC 133.18(D); last day for county auditor to certify school district bond levy terms for August election — RC 133.18(C); last day to submit continuing replacement, permanent improvement or operating levy for August election to board of elections — RC 5705.192, 5705.21, 5705.25; last day to certify resolution for school district income tax levy for August election to board of elections — RC 5748.02(C); last day to submit emergency levy for August election to board of elections — RC 5705.195; last day to submit phased-in levy or current operating expenses levy for August election

- to board of elections — RC 5705.251(A) (90 days prior to the election).
- 14 OCSBA Spring Conference..... Virtual
- 15 Last day for certain board members and all administrators to file 2020 financial disclosure statements with the Ohio Ethics Commission — RC 102.02(A)(4)(a).
- 18 Coffee Chat: Addressing learning loss: A data-driven approach..... Virtual

June 2021

- 1 Reasonable Suspicion Training...Virtual
- 1 Last day to take action to nonrenew contracts of administrators other than superintendent and treasurer. — RC 3319.02(C); last day to take action on and give written notice of intent not to reemploy teachers — RC 3319.11(D); last day to take action on and give written notice of intent not to reemploy 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).
- 22 Reasonable Suspicion Training.....Columbus
- 26 OSBA Northwest Region Executive Committee Meeting Virtual
- 30 2020-21 school year ends — RC 3313.62; end of third ADM reporting period — RC 3317.03(A).