

BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



Virtual Board Leadership Institute is next week — are you registered?

Join us virtually for the Board Leadership Institute (BLI), April 23 and 24. This innovative professional development event is programmed exclusively for board members by board members. BLI provides top-notch training and features five learning sessions and opportunities to network with fellow attendees, presenters and OSBA staff. The keynote speaker is **Gerry Brooks**, a veteran educator who specializes in helping teachers improve their instructional skills and showing administrators ways to provide positive, constructive leadership. Tuition is just \$150 for this two-day event. Visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/BLI> for more information and to register. For additional details on BLI, see “Virtual Board Leadership Institute offers keys to student success” on page 5.

Deadline for OSBA Black Caucus scholarship drawing near

The application deadline for the 2021 OSBA Black Caucus Leo Lucas Scholarship is April 21. The program 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>. 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.

Purple Star Award applications now available

The Ohio Department of Education is urging schools to apply for the Purple Star Award. The award honors military-friendly schools that show a major commitment to serving students and families connected to the U.S. military. Awardees receive a special recognition to display in their buildings. A school will be honored with the award if it completes all the required activities. The deadline is May 21. Details and a link to the application form are posted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/94563>.

State answers FAQs on drills, other safety concerns during pandemic

The State Fire Marshal has posted an FAQ list for schools on how to handle tornado drills, fire drills and other safety issues during the COVID-19 pandemic. The list also addresses requirements for curtains or plastic sheeting used to help maintain social distancing; submitting fire drill reports; and quantity limits and storage requirements for hand sanitizer, which is flammable. To access the FAQ list, visit www.com.ohio.gov/fire/SchoolDrills.aspx. School officials are encouraged to contact their local fire code officers who can work with them to institute policies and practices on necessary

April 12, 2021

Volume 53 Issue 7

Contents

More news.....	2
<i>OSBA partnering with COSI on distance learning project; OSBA online</i>	
Bulletin Board.....	3
Information	5
News	7
Legislative Report	8
Public Schools Work!.....	10

Route workshop information to:

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

distancing, safety and sanitization protocols to help provide protection from pandemic-related risks without compromising fire safety.

OSBA partnering with COSI on distance learning project

The Center of Science and Industry (COSI) in Columbus is partnering with OSBA and a number of other groups on the Ohio Distance Learning Initiative. The program is designed to close learning gaps caused by the pandemic. Led by COSI and supported by a collaboration of meal providers, libraries, cultural institutions and associations across the state, the initiative is delivering 50,000 free Learning Lunchboxes throughout Ohio. These hands-on science kits provide activities aligned with Ohio's learning standards and promote science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM); culture; history; and more. COSI also will distribute

Drive Your Tractor to School Day returns at Licking Valley

With an escort from the sheriff's office, a line of tractors pulled into **Licking Valley Local's (Licking)** Licking Valley Middle School with students anxiously awaiting their arrival.

It was a way to celebrate the students' farming heritage — a day that was missed last year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"All the kids came out to see the parade of tractors going by Licking Valley Middle School on the day before spring break begins," a sheriff's deputy said during a livestream of the event. "Kids had a lot of fun with it."

The sheriff's escort was there to ensure that no cars tried to jump the line and cut into the parade of tractors that was about a half-mile long.

Source: [nbc4i.com](https://www.nbc4i.com)

a limited number of STEAM kits throughout Ohio to boost learning at home and in the community. At some locations, meals also will be delivered through local food banks. COSI and its partners will host socially distanced drive-through events to distribute the kits. The sites also will be

transformed into community Wi-Fi hotspots where the public can download learning resources through the free COSI mobile app, which has offline capabilities. The full list of sites is available at <https://cosi.org/roadshow-events>.

OSBA online

● www.ohioschoolboards.org
Have you seen OSBA's latest video series, "#ZoomFor2 on Tuesdays"? It features OSBA Deputy Chief Executive Dr. **Kathy McFarland** and Membership Retention and Engagement Consultant **Mark E. Bobo** hosting brief conversations on hot topics with a rich range of education experts. The program also provides links to additional information on each episode's topic. The series runs every Tuesday on OSBA's Twitter (twitter.com/ohschoolboards); Facebook (www.facebook.com/OHSchoolBoards); and Instagram (www.instagram.com/ohschoolboards) pages.



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

A one-year subscription to Briefcase is \$145 for up to 15 subscribers. Briefcase also is available electronically by email or by fax. For more information, contact Susie Cinadr at the address or fax number above or email scinadr@ohioschoolboards.org. Briefcase is published semimonthly by the Ohio School Boards Association.

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

© 2021, Ohio School Boards Association; all rights reserved

The appearance of an advertisement in an OSBA publication is neither a guarantee nor endorsement by OSBA of the product, service or company or the claims made for the product, service or company in such advertising.

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

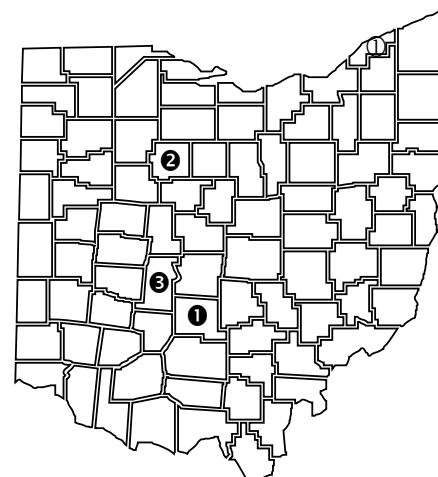
OSBA executive searches

Superintendent

District	Deadline	Contact
❶ Teays Valley Local (Pickaway)	April 14	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
❷ Mohawk Local (Wyandot)	April 14	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
❸ Tolles Career & Technical Center	May 10	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000

Treasurer

District	Deadline	Contact
❶ Mentor EV	April 14	OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



Other searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Bellaire Local (Belmont)	April 16	Cathy Moore , treasurer, Bellaire Local, (740) 676-1826, ext. 1001
Treasurer	Clyde-Green Springs EV	April 23	Beth Dorobek , administrative assistant, Clyde-Green Springs EV, (419) 547-0588

National searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	White Sulphur Springs, Mont.	April 15	Karla Smerker , paralegal, Montana School Boards Association, (406) 442-2180
Superintendent	Eudora, Kan.	April 16	Dr. Brian Jordan , deputy executive director, Kansas Association of School Boards, (800) 432-2471
Superintendent	Emporia, Va.	April 23	Gina Patterson , executive director, Virginia School Boards Association, (434) 295-8722

Board changes

Benjamin Logan Local (Logan) appointed **Chris Larson** to the board effective March 22. He replaced **Tod Johnson**, who resigned. ●●● **Chagrin Falls EV Board of Education** member **Greg Kanzinger** announced his

Editor's note

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

resignation effective immediately. ●●● **Eastern Local (Meigs)** Board of Education member **M. Adam Will** announced his resignation effective March 17. ●●● **Southwestern Local (Hamilton)** appointed **Robert Kief** to the board effective March 18. He replaced **Linda Lederle Peak**, who resigned Feb. 18. ●●● **Trimble Local (Athens)** appointed **Gary Arnold** to the board March 8. He replaced **Norma Arnold**, who passed away. ●●● **West Liberty-Salem Local (Champaign)** Board of Education member **Chuck Buck** announced his resignation effective March 22.

Administrative changes

Superintendents

Arcadia Local (Hancock) hired Arcadia Elementary School Principal **Dave Golden** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Bruce A. Kidder**, who is retiring. ●●● **Ayersville Local (Defiance)** hired Ayersville Elementary School Principal **Beth Hench** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Donald F. Diglia**, who is retiring. ●●● **Canton Local (Stark)** hired **Brett Yeagley** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. Yeagley currently is the high school principal at **Minerva Local (Stark)**. He will replace **Stephen Milano**, who is retiring. ●●● **Circleville City** hired Dr. **Kimberly Halley** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Jonathan Davis**, who took the superintendent position at **Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center**. Halley currently is assistant superintendent at **Buckeye Valley Local (Delaware)**. ●●● **Delaware Area Career Center** hired **Jay Poroda** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Mary Beth Freeman**, who is retiring. Poroda currently is assistant superintendent at **Tolles Career & Technical Center**. ●●● **Dublin City** Superintendent **Todd F. Hoadley** announced his resignation effective March 8. He has taken another position in the district. ●●● **Geneva Area City** hired Dr. **Terri Hrina-Treharn** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Eric M. Kujala**, who is retiring. Hrina-Treharn currently is assistant superintendent at **Rootstown Local (Portage)**. ●●● **Middletown City** hired Senior Director of Human Resources **Deborah Houser** as assistant superintendent effective July 1. ●●● **Northern Local (Perry)** hired Curriculum Administrator **Angela Gussler** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Thomas Perkins**, who took the executive deputy director position at the Buckeye Association of School Administrators. ●●● **Norwayne Local (Wayne)** hired Middle School Principal **Kevin Leatherman** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Karen O'Hare**, who is retiring. ●●● **Revere Local (Summit)** hired **Micki Krantz** as assistant superintendent effective immediately. She previously was director of secondary education at **Shaker Heights City**. ●●● **West Branch Local (Mahoning)** hired Interim Superintendent **Micki Egli** as superintendent effective immediately. ●●● **West Holmes Local (Holmes)** hired **New Philadelphia City** high school Principal **Eric Jurkovic** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Interim Superintendent **John Thomas**.

Treasurers

Bay Village City hired **Meghan Rohde** as treasurer effective April 26. She will replace Interim Treasurer **John Scott**. Rohde currently is chief financial officer/treasurer at **Clyde-Green Springs EV**.

Continued on page 5



OSBA Contract Analysis Service

OSBA provides a cost-effective professional analysis of both certified and classified collective bargaining agreements. These written reviews serve as a critique of current contract provisions, suggest potential pitfalls regarding legal compliance and provide specific recommendations as you go into your next round of collective bargaining.

Contact **Van D. Keating** at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA for more information.

Bulletin Board, continued from page 4

Sympathies

Carl Walter Breyley, former **Black River Local (Medina)** Board of Education member and a member of the former **Medina County School Board**, died March 19. He was 91. ●●● **Bradford EV Board of Education member Michael "Mike" E. Miller** died March 8. He was 65. ●●● Former **Brunswick City Assistant Superintendent William Louis Kubinski** died March 1. He was 79. ●●● Former **Brunswick City Board of Education member John Cornelius White** died March 8. He was 86. ●●● Former **Cincinnati Public Board of Education member Herbert Brown** died March 11. He was 80. ●●● Former **Edison Local (Jefferson) Board of Education member Warner W. Sanders** died March 13. He was 88. ●●● **John Dougherty**, a former **Jackson Local (Stark)** and State Board of Education member died March 6. He was 87. ●●● Former **Mid-Ohio ESC Board of Education member Joseph Mudra** died March 19. He was 71. ●●● Former **New Lexington City Board of Education member Dean Dickson** died March 1. He was 68. ●●● Former **Noble Local (Noble) Board of Education member Steven V. Hall** died March 1. He was 70. ●●● Former **Paulding EV Board of Education member William C. Smith** died March 7. He was 90. ●●● Former **Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City Board of Education member Susan Jane Van Dyke** died March 9. She was 85.



INFORMATION

by Angela Penquite, deputy director of communication services

Virtual Board Leadership Institute offers keys to student success

Student success is the goal of every school board member. During the 2021 virtual Board Leadership Institute (BLI), April 23-24, board members can discover new strategies, programs and solutions to help their students and school district while learning from the experts and networking with attendees, presenters and OSBA staff.

BLI is the only professional development event designed to provide board members with the information they need to successfully lead their districts. Whether a new board member or a seasoned veteran, you'll benefit from the keynote presentation by

education expert **Gerry Brooks** and five in-depth learning sessions covering the latest on legislation, board development, student achievement and other critical topics.

The two-day event kicks off at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, April 23, with Brooks' keynote session, "Personal climate and culture ... it's up to you." Learn strategies for making the workplace a pleasant place where faculty, administrators and support staff all maintain mutual respect; discover policies to promote a healthy, respectful work environment; and hear how to maximize opportunities to get to know staff members and create

camaraderie.

Three learning sessions are slated for Friday afternoon. In "A fresh perspective on family engagement," OSBA Senior Student Achievement Consultant **Kim Miller-Smith** will 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. This session begins at 12:40 p.m.

At 1:50 p.m., **Carrollton EV Superintendent Dr. David Quattrochi** and Food Service Director **Barbara Burns** will join

Continued on page 6

Information, continued from page 5

Cincinnati Public Director of Student Dining Services **Jessica Shelly** and Chief Strategic Officer **Sarah Trimble-Oliver** to present “Every child succeeds with breakfast.” Hear how innovative strategies positively impact student success and support operating budgets as these districts share strategies to boost participation and maximize federal and state dollars to protect operating funds and balance food costs.

The first day of BLI wraps up with a legislative update at 3 p.m. OSBA lobbyists will review recent developments in the Ohio General Assembly, including the biennial budget legislation and its potential impact on your district.

Day two begins with an optional networking session on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. OSBA staff will be available to answer your questions as you start the day networking with fellow attendees.

Two learning sessions will complete Saturday’s agenda. At 10 a.m., **Milford EV** Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources **Jennie Berkley** and Mental Health Coordinator **Will Cates** will present “A systematic mental health approach.” 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.

The final learning session — “Confronting Ohio’s EdChoice

vouchers” — begins at 11:10 a.m. Real Choice Ohio created the Confronting EdChoice Voucher Project, which focuses on the retention and return of students in Ohio’s overreaching school voucher system. This session will provide tools and review techniques on how to best communicate with parents and students. Session presenters are **Reynoldsburg City** Superintendent **Melvin J. Brown**; **Toledo City** Board President **Chris Varwig**; Real Choice Ohio Executive Director **Michael L. Collins**; Ohio Coalition for Equity & Adequacy of School Funding Executive Director **William L. Phillis**; and Ohio Education Association President **Scott DiMauro** and Director of Government Relations, Communications and Marketing **Steve Dyer**.

The registration fee for BLI, including the five learning sessions, networking event and keynote presentation, is \$150. Note that BLI is designed exclusively for board members. Board members can register for the virtual event at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/BLI>.

This year, your district staff can take advantage of a BLI special event. Administrators and other school staff can register to participate in Brooks’ keynote session, “Personal climate and culture ... it’s up to you.” Specializing in helping teachers improve their instructional skills and showing administrators ways to provide positive, constructive leadership, Brooks will present tips

for creating better working environments throughout your district. Registration for this special presentation is \$60; register at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/35839>.

Note: Board members who register for BLI do not need to register separately for this event; it’s included in their BLI registration.

Focused on the skills you need to lead your district, BLI will broaden your expertise, sharpen your leadership skills and better equip you to tackle the challenges facing your district. For more information, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/BLI> or contact OSBA at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA.



We can help you reach agreement

OSBA’s bargaining consultation services offer your district comprehensive representation services during negotiations and/or traditional and alternative bargaining styles.

Bargaining consultation clients receive:

- low-cost service fees;
- flexible rates;
- experienced negotiators;
- statewide experience.

For more information on how bargaining consultation can work for your district, contact OSBA’s legal services division at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA.



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 a 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.



UPCOMING TRANSPORTATION WORKSHOPS

Transportation State Reports and Cost Analysis

Wednesday, April 28 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m. • Virtual • Cost: \$60

Join us for a session that will delve into appropriate data collection, what you need to track and why, and how to collate that data into an accurate state report. Whether you are new to transportation or a veteran, or if you work in the transportation office or the treasurer's office, this workshop will provide the tools you need to file reports correctly and get all the funding your district is entitled to.

Key takeaways from this workshop will include:

- The data required for T1 and T2 reports.
- Instructions on reviewing the different portions of T1 and T2 reports and submitting data to the Ohio Department of Education.
- How to evaluate the funding impact of these state reports and use the data to calculate your own operating costs.

To register

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

Reasonable Suspicion Training

Tuesday, June 1 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m. • Virtual • Cost: \$60

OSBA is offering a reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol training program for supervisors. Completion of this course is required for all supervisors of safety-sensitive CDL (commercial driver's license) drivers, including school bus drivers. Best practice is that each district have at least two administrators trained in this requirement.

The course meets the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration U.S. Department of Transportation requirements. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion.

To register

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



The 44th annual Ohio Council of School Board Attorneys **School Attorney Workshop**

Friday, May 14 • 8:45 a.m.–4 p.m. • Virtual • Cost: \$220

Hear from experienced education lawyers and discuss the latest developing legal issues in schools at the OCSBA School Attorney Workshop. Earn up to 5.5 CLEs (see below for more information).

Agenda

- 8:45 a.m. Welcome**
Van D. Keating, senior staff attorney, OSBA
- 9 a.m. Emerging transgender student issues**
Federal and state laws prohibit discrimination, bullying and harassment against transgender students. However, adopting policies and educating students about gender stereotypes or expectations can be complicated for schools. **Columbus City** shares its experiences in addressing transgender student issues.
Wanda Lillis, Esq., Columbus City Schools
- 10 a.m. Successfully navigating the athletic booster/gifts/ethics triangle**
Athletic booster groups play an important role in school sports but also can inadvertently create legal issues for the school district. This session will examine the interplay among boosters, gifts and ethics and how schools can successfully avoid conflicts that frequently develop.
Robert McBride, Esq., Ennis Britton Co. LPA
- 11 a.m. Break**
- 11:15 a.m. Special education and remote learning – lessons learned**
The pandemic has forced many changes in special education, especially as schools implemented remote learning for their students. Not all of these changes have been readily accepted, with numerous legal challenges being filed. In this presentation, a school attorney will look at what has and has not worked with special education and remote learning.
Jessica L. Dawso, Esq., Scott Scriven LLP
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:30 p.m. Developments in employee work slowdowns and stoppages**
The most powerful union tactic in negotiations has always been the strike, yet it has seldomly been used in recent years. However, school employee unions have not forgotten about strikes, and new forms of work stoppages and slowdowns have appeared and been used with growing frequency. The focus of this session will be on the newest types of employee job actions and steps schools can use to effectively counter them.
Alexander L. Ewing, Esq., Frost Brown Todd LLC
- 2:30 p.m. Break**
- 2:45 p.m. Ethical considerations in representing schools remotely**
With schools conducting most of their meetings remotely, attorneys not only have to adapt to these new settings but also must remain on alert for potential new ethical situations. How best to represent and advise schools in remote settings while avoiding ethical conflicts will be the main focus of this session.
Jason R. Stuckey, Esq., Bricker & Eckler LLP
- 4 p.m. OCSBA membership meeting**
- 4:10 p.m. Adjourn**

This program has been approved by the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education for 5.50 total CLE hours, with 1.25 hours of attorney professional conduct instruction.

This workshop is open to OCSBA members, school board members and in-house counsel of school districts that are members of OSBA. Unauthorized audio recording or videotaping of any session is strictly prohibited.

To register

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



WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

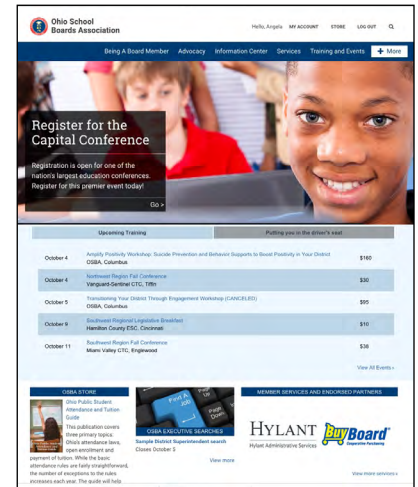
Register at www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops

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!



Ohio School
Boards Association



Is a superintendent or treasurer search in your future?

OSBA went beyond all expectations we could have imagined. The process allowed us to think about our district's future. Our staff and community were very pleased with the amount of involvement afforded to them. Thanks to our consultant and OSBA, we hired a person who also believed in our district vision.

— Pamela Freshour,
Pleasant Local (Marion)

OSBA's searches are:

- ✓ **Led by professional search consultants with school board experience**
- ✓ **Customized to your district's needs**
- ✓ **Affordable**
- ✓ **Offered with the OSBA guarantee***
*In the unlikely circumstance you are unable to make a clear decision, OSBA will reopen the search and work with you until the right choice is made.

Need more information?

OSBA Search Services

8050 N. High Street, Suite 100 • Columbus, Ohio 43235

(614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA

www.ohioschoolboards.org/osba-search-services



NEWS

by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

Part-time administrative associates join OSBA staff

Two part-time administrative associates have joined the OSBA staff to help support the association's Division of Board and Management Services.

Tina Geygan and **Patty Hettinger** started Feb. 23.

Geygan, a graduate of **Columbus City's** Northland High School, earned a bachelor's degree from the former Ashford University in Iowa and a master's degree in psychology from Northcentral University in Arizona. She also serves as an independent provider for the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

"I have had the opportunity to teach students at all grade levels in many subjects," Geygan said. "I've also held a management EMIS coordinator position and know the ins and outs of how a school

operates on a daily basis."

Geygan currently is pursuing a doctorate in psychology.

Hettinger, a native of New Jersey, has worked in the retail sector for Big Lots Inc., where she was an executive assistant and assistant buyer. She also served as an assistant buyer for the online retailer Zulily.

Hettinger, a product of public schools, grew up in a military family.

"I was an Air Force brat," she said. "We moved around a lot, six times in two-and-a-half years. My poor mother."

Both Geygan and Hettinger work with district staff to keep policy manuals and student handbooks up to date. OSBA policy consultants assist boards of education in developing and

updating their school board policy manuals and are supported by the expertise of OSBA's legal, labor relations, legislative and board and management services staff.

Geygan also serves as a liaison to the many members and district administrators and staff who seek training and expertise from the association's transportation consultants **Pete Japikse** and **Doug Palmer**. They support districts with transportation issues such as safety, operations and finances.

Hettinger also helps with OSBA's superintendent and treasurer search services, which guides school boards as they make key hiring decisions.

Learn more about these valuable member services at **www.ohioschoolboards.org**.

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



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Will Schwartz, deputy director of legislative services

New district territory transfer bill risks further turmoil

A veteran Ohio lawmaker is doubling down on an attempt to allow nearly every Ohioan to transfer their home out of their current school district. Rep.

Thomas E. Brinkman Jr. (R-Mount Lookout) introduced House Bill (HB) 117 on Feb. 16 to allow individuals who reside in a city, township or village that is split among two or more school districts to petition to transfer their property from one school district to an adjacent district.

If this bill sounds familiar, that is because a substantially similar provision was enacted two years ago in HB 166, the main operating budget bill for the 133rd General Assembly. The main difference between the two versions is HB 117 applies to residents in cities, villages and townships, and HB 166 applied only to residents in townships. If this concept sounds familiar, that is because ever since HB 166 was signed into law by Gov. **Mike DeWine** on July 18, 2019, residents across the state have sought to employ the law to their gain while school districts have sued to stop its implementation.

Under HB 117, Ohioans who live in a city, township or village that contains the territory of at least two school districts would be eligible to petition to transfer their

territory from their school district to an adjacent school district. To do so, a petition must garner a minimum of 10% of the electors who reside in the territory to be transferred and who voted in the last general election. That means a homeowner could file a petition to transfer only their home and need only 10% of those residing *in the home* and who voted in the most recent general election to sign the petition.

Should such an exceptionally low bar be met, the petition to transfer the territory must then be placed on the ballot at the next general, primary or special election. As was the case with signatures, only those affected by the transfer are eligible to vote on the transfer petition, meaning only eligible voters in the hypothetical one-home scenario are eligible to vote. If the ballot question is approved by a simple majority of those voting, the transfer is considered approved, and the State Board of Education — normally an autonomous arbiter on school territory transfer issues — is explicitly mandated to approve the transfer request. Disapproval is not an option.

The Fast-Track Territory Statute, as it has been referred to in court documents, debuted as part of a

substitute bill for the state budget bill adopted by the House Finance Committee on May 2, 2019. That version of the bill included a new section of law: Ohio Revised Code 3311.242, which laid out the new transfer law. Just a month later, this provision would be removed by the Senate Finance Committee but later reinserted into the bill on July 16, 2019, by the conference committee on HB 166. The provision survived DeWine's veto pen and became effective Oct. 17, 2019.

The transfer provision, with all its controversy, exists alongside several other longstanding provisions of law that also allow Ohioans to petition to transfer their property. In stark contrast, however, those provisions have worked for decades to protect students, property owners and educational institutions while allowing transfers on case-by-case bases with oversight and accountability mechanisms in place.

For example, in cases where residents wish to transfer territory from one district to an adjacent district, there must be signatures obtained from at least 75% of the individuals — far higher than the 10% in HB 117 — who reside in the affected area and who voted in

Continued on page 9

Legislative Report, continued from page 8

the previous general election. If the requisite signatures are obtained and the transfer issue garners enough votes at the election, the transfer proposal advances to the State Board of Education, which often is tasked with approving or disapproving transfer requests. Its consideration of each transfer proposal must weigh multiple factors, including the educational, financial and racial implications of the transfer.

Additionally, the affected school districts can weigh in on transfer requests and, in extreme cases, nullify pending transfers.

Since the enactment of the HB 166 territory transfer law, 12 separate territory transfer requests were initiated across 13 school districts. The 2020 primary election saw two successful requests to transfer territory in Stark County from **Plain Local** to **Jackson Local** and to **North Canton City**. The

first proposal passed 150-5, and the second passed 13-1. Public awareness of the provision grew as the Aug. 4, 2020, ballot saw eight separate petitions to transfer territory in Wood County from **Bowling Green City** to five other districts across Wood, Hancock and Henry counties. Four issues passed and four failed. Two of the successful issues passed by a total vote of 1-0.

Continued on page 10



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 ask 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 www.ohioschoolboards.org/informed-governance-demand-series.



PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

Galion students gain real-world experience by serving

Fifth-graders at **Galion City's** Galion Intermediate School decided to raise money for the local humane society, a service project that's also delivering real-world experiences.

Students are collecting donations from classmates who choose to dress down every Friday through the end of April. For 25 cents, students can wear jeans; 50 cents allows them to wear jeans and a shirt of their choice; and for \$1 they can wear jeans, a shirt of

their choice and a hoodie. The funds raised will benefit the Humane Society Serving Crawford County.

As the donations come in, district Treasurer **Charlene Parkinson** has been teaching students money management.

"Each week, I work with the students to accurately count the money that has been donated and provide an overall total of the donations collected," she told a local newspaper. "I then help them

prepare the donations to be deposited into the bank account for the district."

Through March 15, students had collected nearly \$900. Once the final donations are accepted, students will present the funds to the Humane Society Serving Crawford County. "Community service has become an important part of the culture at Galion Intermediate School," Principal **Alex Sharick** said.

Source: richlandsource.com

Legislative Report, continued from page 9

The following month, U.S. District Court Judge **Michael H. Watson** ruled that the territory transfer statute — Ohio Revised Code 3311.242 — was unconstitutional. On Sept. 11, 2020, Watson said the statute violated the single-subject rule of Article II, Section 15 of the Ohio Constitution. That section provides that no bill shall contain more than one subject and that the subject shall be clearly expressed in its title. In his decision, Watson held that the territory transfer provision was a "mere rider tactically inserted into the must-pass budget bill in order to secure its passage" and "has no discernible practical, rational or legitimate relationship

to the state budget, and, therefore, its inclusion in the same violates the one-subject rule."

Two months after the ruling, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 89, a bill that originally pertained to career-technical education but was later amended to revise the Educational Choice Scholarship Program for vouchers and repeal the territory transfer law, effective Sept. 1, 2021. HB 117 would eliminate this delayed repeal, effectively breathing new life into the transfer law.

While it is conceivable that HB 117 could be found to be constitutional as a stand-alone bill, such as it is, there can be no disagreement that the past two

years have caused considerable unrest and turmoil to multiple communities across the state. And should HB 117 become law, the future is foretold: hundreds of transfer petitions will be filed each year, their passage will be virtually ensured and the academic and financial motives of those filing petitions will be unknown, indecipherable and never revealed due to the lack of accountability and oversight in the bill.

HB 117 is currently pending in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee where it has received only one hearing.

Editor's note: Information in this article was current as of April 4, 2021.

April 2021

- 13 Challenging Times: The impact on students and what we've learned..... 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).
- 27 Getting to Know OSBA Policy Services..... Virtual
- 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).

July 2021

- 1 2021-22 school year begins — RC 3313.62; last day for board to notify teaching and nonteaching employees of succeeding year salaries — RC 3319.12, 3319.082; board may begin to adopt appropriation measure, which may be temporary — RC 5705.38(B); treasurer must certify available revenue in funds to county auditor — RC 5705.36(A)(1).