

# BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



## Primary election voters support majority of school tax issues

Ohio voters approved 68% of the school tax issues in the May 4 primary election. The passage of 50 of 73 issues was an increase from the 2020 primary election, when voters approved 63 of 99 school issues for a passage rate of 64%. Fifty percent of new school tax requests were approved this year, with 20 of 40 issues passing, an increase from 2020. In last year's primary, voters approved 20 of 53 new tax issues for a 38% passage rate. Strong support for renewal levies continued, with 30 of the 33 issues earning approval, a 91% passage rate. That is a slight dip from the 2020 primary election renewal passage rate of 93%. In that election, 43 of 46 renewal issues were approved. While election results are complete, they have not been officially certified by the Ohio secretary of state. For district-by-district details on current and past elections, visit OSBA's levy database at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/19699>.

## Education department announces the 'I educate Ohio' campaign

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) on May 10 launched the I educate Ohio initiative to celebrate, elevate, recruit and diversify the education professions and educator pipeline. This new initiative recognizes the value of educators and celebrates all the adults working in the state's schools. It advocates for the importance of every school employee's unique role, honors the individuals who build a foundation for learning and celebrates education professionals and their contributions to their school communities. ODE joins OSBA and the Ohio Education Association; Ohio Federation of Teachers; Buckeye Association of School Administrators; Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators; Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators; and Ohio Association of Public School Employees in this effort. Visit [education.ohio.gov/ieducate](http://education.ohio.gov/ieducate) to learn more and take part in Ohio's efforts to recognize the contributions of every education professional.

## Cleveland Municipal board member assumes OSBA presidency

OSBA President-elect **Robert M. Heard Sr., Cleveland Municipal**, became OSBA president on May 8. He replaced **Scott E. Huddle, Mad River Local (Montgomery)**, who resigned. Heard will be supported in his role by Immediate Past President **Lee Schreiner, South-Western City**, along with members of the OSBA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees. For more information, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/68809>.

## OSBA seeks nominations for regional, state committees

OSBA is accepting applications for 2022 regional and state committee seats. Serving on a committee provides an opportunity to enhance interaction with board members

**May 24, 2021**

Volume 53 Issue 10

### Contents

More news.....	2
<i>USDA extends</i>	
<i>P-EBT food benefits</i>	
<i>through the summer;</i>	
<i>OSBA online</i>	
Bulletin Board.....	3
News .....	4
Legislative	
Report .....	6
Public Schools	
Work!.....	7

### Route workshop information to:

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

from other districts and represent your fellow board members and district at regional and state events. Any school board member interested in serving on a committee is encouraged to submit an application for various elected offices and appointed committees within the association. If you are serving on a 2021 committee and would like to continue serving in 2022, you also must submit an application form. For instructions on how to apply, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/42939>. That webpage also has information on available committee positions, descriptions of each committee's function and the time commitment for each. The deadline to apply is June 30.

### **USDA extends P-EBT food benefits through the summer**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced a new effort funded by

### **Boardman students spread school colors on service day**

Students at **Boardman Local's (Mahoning)** Glenwood Junior High School helped give their building a makeover during the largest youth and civic action event in the world.

Students painted the outside panels of their building in school colors as part of Global Youth Service Day last month.

Organizers were able to get a nearly \$2,000 grant to help cover paint and supplies.

"I think it's really important for our students to give back not just to the community but to the school as well," science teacher **Laura Frost** told a local newspaper. "Doing something like this can have a lasting impact is really helpful on themselves." About 20 students and 15 faculty members helped brighten up the building.

Source: WFMJ-TV

the American Rescue Plan to provide adequate nutrition to more than 30 million children over the summer by expanding Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits. Summer months are difficult for low-income children, because they lack access to school meals that fill a

nutrition gap during the school year. When school is out of session, summer feeding programs reach just a small fraction of the students served during the school year. This summer, USDA will offer P-EBT benefits to all low-income children of all ages, helping families put food on the table during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## **Briefcase**

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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.

### **OSBA online**

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

Need just the right gift to recognize your district's leaders and staff at the end of a very challenging school year? Then visit the online OSBA Store, which offers customized plaques and other items that are perfect for singling out those in your school district for special recognition. Offerings include clocks, desk nameplates, plaques and more. Many items can be customized with your school district logo for an additional fee. Visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/13302> to learn more.



# BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, senior administrative assistant of communication services

## National searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Nashville, Ind.	May 30	Dr. <b>Michael T. Adamson</b> , director of board services, Indiana School Boards Association, (317) 229-3270

## Board changes

**Avon Local (Lorain)** Board of Education member **Heather Mahoney** announced her resignation effective May 6. She is moving out of state. ●●● **Orange City** Board of Education member **Deborah L. Kamat** announced her resignation effective May 3. ●●● **Patrick Henry Local (Henry)** Board of Education member **Mark Feehan** announced his resignation effective immediately. ●●● **Ravenna City** Board of Education member **Roger A. Boltz** announced his resignation effective April 23. He will continue to serve on the **Maplewood Career Center** board.

## Administrative changes

### Superintendents

**Avon Local (Lorain)** hired Assistant Superintendent **Ben Hodge** as superintendent effective July 1. He will replace **Michael K. Laub**, who took the superintendent position at **North Royalton City**. ●●● **Madison Local (Butler)** Superintendent Dr. **Lisa L. Tuttle-Huff** announced her resignation effective July 31. ●●● **Manchester Local (Summit)** hired **Shaun Morgan** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Dr. **James Robinson**, who is retiring. Morgan currently is junior high school principal at **Springfield Local (Summit)**. ●●● **Ravenna City** hired Dr. **Laura Hebert** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Dennis Honkala**, who is resigning. Hebert currently is high school principal at **Twinsburg City**. ●●● **Revere Local (Summit)** hired Dr. **Michael L. Tefs** as superintendent effective July 1. He will replace Dr. **Matthew L. Montgomery**, who took the superintendent position at Lake Forest Schools in Illinois. Tefs currently is superintendent at **Wooster City**. ●●● **Strasburg-Franklin Local (Tuscarawas)** Superintendent **Cindy Brown** announced her retirement effective July 31. ●●● **Tipp City** EV Assistant Superintendent **Steve Verhoff** announced his resignation effective June 30. He has taken the academic supervisor of instruction position at **Upper Valley Career Center**.

### Treasurers

**Green Local (Wayne)** Treasurer **Barbara Markland** announced her resignation effective May 21. She has taken the school administration fiscal consultant position at the Ohio Department of Education. ●●● **Midview Local (Lorain)** hired **Michael Resar** as treasurer effective immediately. He will replace Interim Treasurer **Larry Hanneman**. Resar currently is treasurer at **Keystone Local (Lorain)**. ●●● **Nordonia Hills City** hired **Matthew Brown** as treasurer effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Karen E. Obratil**, who is retiring. Brown currently is treasurer at **Euclid City**. ●●●

### Editor's note

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

Tipp City EV Treasurer **David Stevens** announced his resignation effective May 31.

## Sympathies

Former **Anthony Wayne Local (Lucas)** Board of Education member **Gerald “Gerry” L. Johnson** died April 29. He was 93. ●●● Former **Buckeye Local (Medina)** Board of Education member **Stuart George Zacharias** died April 27. He was 94. ●●● Former **Edison Local (Jefferson)** Board of Education member **Herbert Miles** died April 18. He was 74. ●●● Former **Madison Local (Richland)** Board of Education member **John Max Scheurer Jr.** died April 14. He was 80. ●●● **Richard “Dick” Lee Farrell**, former superintendent at **Old Fort Local (Seneca)** and the former **Erie County School District**, died April 30. He was 88.



## NEWS

by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

### OSBA's 'big yellow school bus' expert retires

Ask **Pete Japikse** about the school bus, and he'll tell you it's an American institution.

For years, OSBA's senior transportation consultant has been a champion for “the big yellow school bus,” as he likes to call it, which plays a critical role in the education of Ohio's children. Every day, 800,000 students safely ride more than 15,000 school buses between their homes and schools.

Japikse, who will retire at the

end of the month after nine years with the association and more than 40 years of school transportation knowledge, became the guru who transportation supervisors, superintendents and even legislators sought out for answers.

“My whole philosophy about school transportation management in the state was that I thought it was important to give school districts the tools, the knowledge and the answers, so they can provide safe and effective

transportation for their students,” he said.

He did just that, creating the association's transportation services from scratch. It was Japikse's personal vision, OSBA Chief Executive Officer **Rick Lewis** said.

“I am thrilled for his well-earned retirement but know our members will certainly miss his expertise,” Lewis said. “As a member of the OSBA staff, he

*Continued on page 5*



## 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.



# Reasonable Suspicion Training

Tuesday, June 1 • 10 a.m.–noon • 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](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops). If you can't attend this virtual workshop, purchase the on-demand session at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/18760> to view at your convenience.



## What's your summer learning plan? Broaden your horizons on your own time

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

You don't want to miss OSBA's 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](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/informed-governance-demand-series).





# Levy Success

Friday, June 11 • 9 a.m.–noon • Virtual • Cost: \$100

Find out what board members and administrators can do during a levy campaign the next time a district is on the ballot. This workshop will provide numerous successful communication strategies districts have used to reach all stakeholders in their community.

**9 a.m.            Welcome**

**9:05 a.m.        Board roles and responsibilities**

Review the board's unique role in preparing the district and the community when putting a levy on the ballot.

*Teri Morgan, senior deputy director of board and management services, OSBA*

**9:30 a.m.        Break**

**9:35 a.m.        Passing a levy in the new normal**

Discuss best practices for planning, clear messaging, fundraising, team effort, direct voter contact and voter targeting.

*Jerry Rampelt, founder emeritus; Michael Collins, executive director; Ryan Collins, digital media; Andrea Kruse, communications; and Nathan Miner, business development; Support Ohio Schools Research and Education Foundation*

**10:45 a.m.       Break**

**10:50 a.m.       Passing a levy in the new normal, continued**

Discussion of best practices continues.

*Jerry Rampelt, Michael Collins, Ryan Collins, Andrea Kruse and Nathan Miner*

**Noon             Adjourn**

To register  
Visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops)





**Join us for this year's Sports Law Workshop where you'll learn:**

- ways to best handle coaches' contracts and actions;
- where the line is between Title IX and state law regarding transgender students;
- what cases are impacting sports and how technology is affecting sports.

**Thursday, June 24**

<b>1 p.m.</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
<b>1:05 p.m.</b>	<b>Coaching contracts and coaching do's and don'ts</b>
<b>2:10 p.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>2:25 p.m.</b>	<b>Title IX and transgender student athletes</b>
<b>4 p.m.</b>	<b>Adjourn for the day</b>

**Friday, June 25**

<b>9 a.m.</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
<b>9:05 a.m.</b>	<b>Sports case law update and technology in sports</b>
<b>10:25 a.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:40 a.m.</b>	<b>Ohio High School Athletic Association update</b>
<b>Noon</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>

**To register**

Visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops)



# WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

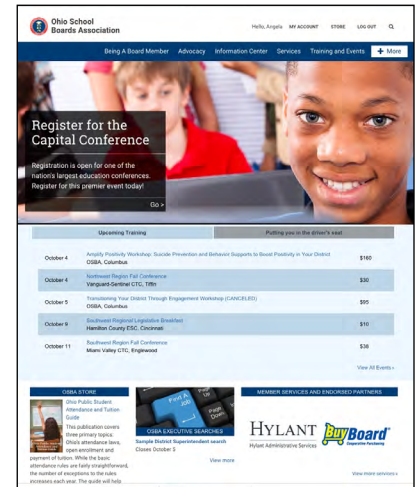
Register at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops)

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.



# Hot summer special!

## Save up to \$200

on customized board development workshops scheduled this summer

Now more than ever, board members must be an effective and efficient team to confront the challenges ahead in helping students achieve post-pandemic.

OSBA is offering a discount on customized workshops and retreats offered June 1 through Aug. 15. Districts can save \$100 on a half-day workshop and \$200 on a full-day workshop.

Schedule a virtual or in-person workshop or retreat with OSBA's board and management services consultants to help facilitate conversations and training to ensure your leadership team is ready for the new academic year.



Call OSBA at (614) 540-4000, for more information or to schedule your workshop today



created our Master of Transportation Administration (MTA) and Virtual Transportation Supervisor (VTS) programs and helped guide OSBA members through transporting students in a pandemic.”

Dozens of transportation supervisors, superintendents and others have completed the three-year MTA curriculum, which includes classes in three proficiencies: compliance and safety; operations management; and governance, including policy and fiscal matters.

VTS is a subscription-based support program for districts that provides a cost-effective collection of services to help with transportation issues, tasks and management needs. Subscribers have access to OSBA’s extensive transportation resource library and support with the T1 and T2 state reporting requirements.

Learn more about OSBA’s

transportation services at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/transportation-services](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/transportation-services).

“I really wanted to provide administrators with educational opportunities to better equip them to help solve their problems and to make them more confident and more knowledgeable,” Japikse said. “If you help people to be effective managers, not just reacting to things but also anticipating and planning and managing for the future, you can help move everybody forward.”

Japikse started training classes for administrators when he served as the Ohio Department of Education’s first director of pupil transportation, 12 years prior to coming to OSBA. He spent 20 years as a transportation administrator in southwest Ohio districts, including **Cincinnati Public, Forest Hills Local (Hamilton), Princeton City and Winton Woods City**.

“The first 20 years was learning

the business, and the next 21 years were spent helping others learn the business,” Japikse said. “I wanted to be there for them and be someone they could lean on.”

Among those who’ve learned under Japikse is OSBA transportation consultant **Doug Palmer**, who will oversee the association’s transportation programs and services.

Palmer spent 10 years as the transportation supervisor for **Napoleon Area City** before coming to OSBA in 2016.

In retirement, Japikse plans to spend a lot more time with his other loves: sailing, motorcycles and his grandchildren.

“I can tell you I’ll be taking the summer off, which is usually a busy time for school transportation planning,” he said. “But I don’t know if ‘this is it.’ When your blood turns yellow because of school buses, you can’t just walk away from it.”



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students’ full  
potential

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workshops deliver  
customized results to  
guide your district to  
success

To schedule your customized training session, contact **Kim Miller-Smith**, senior student achievement consultant, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org).



Ohio School  
Boards Association



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Jennifer Hogue, director of legislative services

### Legislature considering changes to State Board of Education

House Bill (HB) 298 was recently introduced by Reps. **Adam C. Bird** (R-New Richmond) and **Joseph A. Miller III** (D-Amherst). HB 298, referred to the House Government Oversight Committee, would remove the eight appointed members from the State Board of Education. This bill would reduce State Board of Education membership from the current 19 members to 11 members, all of whom would be elected. In addition to the bill's sponsors, HB 298 is supported by 41 co-sponsors as well as OSBA.

It seems appropriate to use this opportunity to provide a history lesson on the creation of the State Board of Education and look at how its membership has changed over time. The board was first created in November 1953 through the passage of an amendment to Ohio's Constitution. Article VI, Section 4 of the Ohio Constitution reads: "There shall be a state board of education which shall be selected in such a manner and for such terms as shall be provided by law. There shall be a superintendent of public instruction, who shall be appointed by the state board of education. The respective powers and duties of the board and of the superintendent shall be prescribed by law."

After the constitutional

amendment passed, the General Assembly appointed the Ohio School Survey Committee to conduct a review of Ohio's public schools and plan for how they would proceed. The committee completed its work and submitted recommendations to the General Assembly, one of which called for the board to consist of nine elected members. The General Assembly rejected this recommendation and instead created a board with 23 elected members, one from each of Ohio's congressional districts.

Members were first elected to the State Board of Education on a nonpartisan ballot in November 1955 and seated in January 1956. Since then, the board's membership has changed over time, and the number of members has fluctuated. But one thing remained constant: All members of the board were elected.

The all-elected State Board of Education disappeared in 2000 with the passage of HB 711. This legislation added eight members to the board to be appointed by the governor.

OSBA has long supported an all-elected state board of education. The following language from the OSBA Legislative Platform very clearly supports HB 298:

The State Board of Education has a constitutional and statutory

obligation to set forth the needs of public education in its budget and policy recommendations to the governor and members of the General Assembly. OSBA supports a State Board of Education composed entirely of elected members.

*OSBA supports legislation that:*

- Provides for an elected State Board of Education.
- Provides for a reduction in the number of appointed board members.
- Provides for the regulation of education standards by an elected State Board of Education.
- Provides no appointed board members.

*OSBA opposes legislation that:*

- Attempts to remove regulatory control of educational standards from the State Board of Education as it fulfills its statutory responsibilities, including, but not limited to, the creation of a professional practice board.

As the General Assembly debates and discusses HB 298, it is important that you reach out to the legislature and express the importance of an all-elected State Board of Education. Having an elected board provides citizens with a direct means to influence the education policies and programs being considered by the board.

*Continued on page 7*



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

## Maumee students connect through virtual exchange program

In the library of **Maumee City's** Maumee High School, juniors and seniors were interacting with peers across the Atlantic Ocean.

Maumee High School is a sister school to Germany's Casimirianum Coburg through Toledo's Sister Cities International program. Sister cities are established through agreements with both cities' mayors. The aim is to cultivate positive relationships between residents of foreign countries.

Nearly 50 students participate in

the German American Virtual Exchange Program.

**Maria Herman**, a German language teacher at Maumee High School, told a local newspaper she wanted students to engage in a new cultural experience, which also has given them a way to meet new people during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Part of the reason I wanted to teach German was because I wanted students to know that different is just different, it's not

better or worse," Herman said. "Let's stop judging and start accepting."

Maumee High School senior **Kylee Downey** said she was thrilled "to have any sort of exchange with Germany" considering the pandemic. She has long wished to learn more about German culture.

She said being able to talk to kids her age "was nice" and "an eye-opening experience."

Source: The Blade

*Legislative Report, continued from page 6*

Other recently introduced legislation includes:

- **HB 303**, introduced by Rep. **D.J. Swearingen** (R-Huron), would make changes to career-technical education and the compensation of joint vocational school districts located in community reinvestment areas.

- **Senate Bill 178**, introduced by Sen. **Bill Reineke** (R-Tiffin), would reform the functions and responsibilities of the State Board of Education, the superintendent of public instruction and the Ohio Department of Education.

*Editor's note:* Information in this article was current as of May 13, 2021.



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## 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 re-employ teachers — RC 3319.11(D); last day to take action on and give written notice of intent not to re-employ nonteaching employees (Note: this requirement does not apply to municipal school district employees as defined in RC 3311.71) — RC 4141.29(1)(f).  
11 Levy Success ..... Virtual  
24-25 Sports Law Workshop ..... Virtual  
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 3319.082, 3319.12; 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).  
6 Last day for voter registration for August election — RC 3503.01, 3503.19(A) (30 days prior to election).  
10 Pre-Board Candidate Webinar... Virtual  
10 Last day for termination of teaching contract by a teacher without consent of the board of education — RC 3319.15.  
15 Last day to adopt school library district tax budget on behalf of a library district — RC 5705.28(B)(1).  
16 OSBA Executive Committee meeting ..... Virtual  
17 OSBA Board of Trustees meeting ..... Virtual  
24 OSBA Black Caucus meeting ..... Virtual  
26 Last day to submit certification for November income tax levy to Ohio Department of Taxation — RC 5748.02(A) (100 days prior to election).  
30 Last day for board of education to adopt a plan to require students to access and complete online classroom lessons ("blizzard bags") in order to make up hours for which it is necessary to close schools — RC 3313.482(A)(1); semiannual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates (by 4 p.m.) detailing contributions and expenditures made through June 30, 2021 — RC 3517.10(A) (4); last day to submit emergency, current

- operating expenses or conversion levy to county auditor for November general election — RC 5705.194, 5705.195, 5705.213, 5705.219(C) (95 days prior to election).  
31 OSBA Legislative Platform Committee meeting..... Virtual

## August 2021

- 1 Last day to file statistical report with Ohio Department of Education — RC 3319.33.  
2 OSBA Southwest Region Executive Committee meeting ..... TBD  
3 Special Election Day — RC 3501.01 (first Tuesday after the first Monday).  
4 OSBA Central Region Executive Committee meeting ..... Columbus  
4 OSBA Northeast Region Executive Committee meeting ..... TBD  
4 Last day to file (by 4 p.m.) a nominating petition as a board of education candidate for the November general election — RC 3513.254, 3513.255; last day for school district to file resolution of necessity, resolution to proceed and auditor's certification for bond levy with board of elections for November election — RC 133.18(D); last day for county auditor to certify school district bond levy terms for November election — RC 133.18(C).