



Serving the public school leadership team

### Olympic gold medalist Amanda Beard to speak at Capital Conference

Swimmer, author and entrepreneur **Amanda Beard** will headline the Nov. 15 luncheon at the Capital Conference. Just 14 years old when she made her first appearance in the Olympic Games, she was the second youngest swimmer in history to medal, earning one gold and two silver medals. She went on to earn national and world titles for the 200-meter breaststroke in addition to gold, silver and bronze medals during three more appearances in the Olympics. She released her autobiography in 2012 and has been a correspondent for print and television media worldwide. Most recently, she co-founded Beard Swim Co., a learn-to-swim program with the philosophy that the ability to swim is one of the greatest gifts you can give a child. For more information on the Capital Conference, which runs Nov. 13-15 in Columbus, visit http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org or contact OSBA.

### Supreme Court rules coach's prayer on football field is protected speech

On June 27, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a public school football coach can openly pray on the football field after games. The court, in a 6-3 decision, determined the coach's actions, which it described as "a quiet prayer of thanks" while "students were otherwise occupied," amounted to private speech protected by the First Amendment that could not be restricted by the board of education. OSBA's legal division provides an analysis of the case on the Legal Ledger blog at www.ohio schoolboards.org/blogs/legal-ledger.

### Ohio data shows student learning is recovering from pandemic loss

Researchers at Ohio State University report that Ohio assessment scores indicate third-grade students have reduced the learning loss gap stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic by nearly two-thirds from last year. For some student subgroups — including English learners and students with disabilities — achievement has largely recovered to pre-pandemic levels. While not all student groups showed this level of improvement, researchers said these results indicate that learning gaps can be reversed, especially when implementing resources and funding to close them. The full report is available at http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/56488.

### OSBA kicking off 21st annual Media Honor Roll program

OSBA will launch its 2022 Media Honor Roll program next month. The program provides school districts the opportunity to recognize their local journalists for providing fair and accurate coverage of their schools. It is designed to help districts build and maintain positive, productive relationships with the news media to help ensure fair and balanced reporting along with continuing community support. Details

### July 11, 2022

Volume 54 Issue 13

### **Contents**

Bulletin Board......3

Communications...5

Public Schools
Work!.....7

# Route workshop information to:

- Administrators
- ☐ Principals
- ☐ Counselors
- ☐ EMIS coordinators
- ☐ Student services professionals

will be sent to superintendents and communications directors and posted at http://links.
ohioschoolboards.org/35524 in early August.

# Capital Conference registration opens July 25

Attendees can register for the 2022 OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show beginning July 25. OSBA is once again offering a group registration rate for Ohio's premier professional development event. Once a member district registers at least seven individuals for the group rate of \$2,100, an unlimited number of additional people from the district can register for free. This offer represents a substantial discount from the individual registration fee of \$320. Keynote speakers at this year's conference include awardwinning actor, writer and musician John Lithgow and skydiver and storyteller Kenyon Salo. For more

### Mansfield City board members tour tiny home

**Mansfield City** school board members got an up-close look at a tiny house being constructed by building trades students at Mansfield Senior High School.

The 200-square-foot home is just 27 feet long.

Building trades teacher **Greg Morris** told board members in June that the house is about 85% complete. Once it's finished, the district will sell the home to recoup the cost of materials. A local auctioneer has agreed to auction the home at no cost to the district.

The home already has a metal roof and vinyl siding.

A small kitchen area is equipped with cabinets, a countertop and a fold-out dining table, with space for appliances. The sleeping area is large enough for a full-size bed, Morris told a local newspaper.

Source: richlandsource.com

information, visit http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org.

# Career-tech education conference just weeks away

The Career Development Through Career Connections Conference is set for July 27 in Columbus. Career Connections offers ways for teachers, school counselors, families and others to show students of all ages the types of careers possible for them. The conference includes sessions on career advising in middle school, leveraging business advisory councils, building financial literacy and entrepreneurial mindset, and developing high-quality workbased learning in your school. Learn more at http://ohioacte.org/event-4658562.



### 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: **Robert M. Heard Sr., Cleveland Municipal**OSBA Chief Executive Officer: **Richard C. Lewis,** CAE
Editor: **Angela Penquite**, deputy director of communication services
Assistant editor: **Scott Gerfen**, senior communication manager

A one-year subscription to Briefcase is \$150 for up to 15 subscribers. Briefcase also is available electronically by email. 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.: Data Operations Center, Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 N. High St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235-6481.

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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

As leaders in your districts, it's important to look to the future and anticipate opportunities and roadblocks in preparing students for school and lifetime success. OSBA offers comprehensive strategic planning services for school districts to help guide them toward their goals. Discover how these services can benefit your district at http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/13911.



# **BULLETIN BOARD**

compiled by Melanie Price, senior administrative assistant of communication services

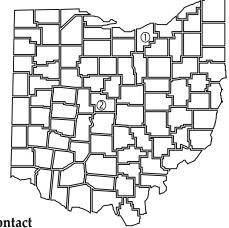
### **OSBA** executive searches

### **Treasurer**

District Deadline Contact

① Elyria City July 11 OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000

② Big Walnut Local (Delaware) July 20 OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



### **National searches**

Position Location Deadline Contact

Superintendent Beloit, Wisc. Aug. 8 Dan Nerad, search services consultant,

Wisconsin Association of School

Boards, (920)655-7313

### **Board changes**

**Eastwood Local (Wood)** Board of Education member **Sherri Sheffler** announced her resignation effective immediately.

### Administrative changes

### **Superintendents**

Ashtabula Area City Superintendent Mark Potts announced his retirement effective July 31. The district hired Dr. Kelly Washington as assistant superintendent effective Aug. 1. ••• Edison Local (Erie) hired Corey Ream as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Thomas C. Roth, who is retiring. Ream currently is director of operations at Norwalk City. ••• Marion City hired Steve Mazzi as interim superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Dr. Ronald Iarussi, who is resigning. Mazzi was previously director of human resources at Westerville City. ••• Riverdale Local (Hardin) hired Gregory Rossman as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Jeff Young, who took the superintendent position at Hancock County ESC. Rossman currently is the junior/senior high school principal at Ridgedale Local (Marion). ••• Strasburg-Franklin Local (Tuscarawas) hired Vince Lindsey as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Adam Hall, who is retiring. Lindsey is currently the middle school principal at Massillon City. ••• Tuscarawas Valley Local (Tuscarawas) hired Dr. Derek Varansky as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Mark A. Murphy, who will remain a member of the district leadership team. Varansky is currently the district's director of curriculum, instruction and programs.

### Editor's note

Job postings must be received six weeks before the application deadline to ensure timely publication.

Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Treasurers**

Cardinal Local (Geauga) hired Belinda Glavic Grassi as interim treasurer effective immediately. She replaced Julia Rozsnyai, who resigned. ••• Madison Local (Lake) hired Sarah Palm as treasurer effective Aug. 1. She will replace Michael J. Vaccariello, who took a position at Mentor EV. Palm currently is treasurer at Crestwood Local (Portage). ••• River View Local (Coshocton) Treasurer Lee Jane Williamson announced her retirement effective Jan. 31, 2023.

### **Sympathies**

Former **Crestview Local (Richland)** Board of Education member **Timothy M. Clingan** died June 8. He was 75. ••• Former **Mathews Local (Trumbull)** Board of Education member **Mary J. Rappach** died June 14. She was 84.



# 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.

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





Saturday, July 30 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m. • OSBA office, Columbus • Cost: \$185\*

Recently appointed to your school board? Attend this one-day workshop for first-term board members and get up to speed on hot topics.

\*OSBA's Boardmanship book is included in the workshop tuition.

### Agenda

8:15 a.m. Breakfast and registration

8:45 a.m. Welcome

9 a.m. Boardmanship: What it's really all about

Come prepared to share your biggest board challenges. Learn how to build better and more trusting relationships with district administrators and understand best practices for staff and district communications as well as the most appropriate roles for board members, superintendents and treasurers.

Roderick Cheatham and Dr. William D. Waidelich, board and management services consultants, OSBA

### 10:15 a.m. Why legislation and advocacy are so important

Learn about the legislative process and the important role you play as a board member.

Nicole Piscitani, lobbyist, OSBA

11 a.m. Break

### 11:15 a.m. School finance

Start your journey into the components of school finance, including both local funding and state funding and how they interact with each other to determine your overall school district funding.

Nicole Piscitani, lobbyist, OSBA

### Noon Lunch and networking

### 12:30 p.m. Good governance through policy

Policies are essential tools for effective district governance. This session will review best practices for policy development and implementation. It also will feature discussions of pitfalls and possibilities boards face in policy to help you improve student success and district operations through policy governance.

Kenna S. Haycox, senior policy consultant, OSBA

### 1:45 p.m. Let's get legal: Ethics, parliamentary procedure, resources and hot topics

Learn more about the role of a board member and how board members can best work together to advance student achievement. Get answers to your questions about communications among and between leadership team members, staff and the public.

Jennifer A. Hardin, senior deputy director of legal services, OSBA

2:45 p.m. Break

2:55 p.m. Let's get legal, continued 4 p.m. Closing remarks and questions

To register, visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops

# Free webinar:







# Accelerating student success through board policy

Wednesday, Aug. 10 • 11 a.m.-noon

### Does your district need a policy evaluation?

Join policy experts from OSBA and Neola for a foundational overview of the importance of effective policy implementation, best practices for governing through policy and how to evaluate the impact on student success. Learn how to move from a compliance view of policies to a student achievement focus. We will review the top 10 policies that impact student achievement and provide practical next steps for you to evaluate your district's policies and policy process.

- Learn the importance of governing through policy.
- Gain an understanding of the impact board policy has on student success.
- Learn practical steps to evaluate your local policies through a student achievement lens.

To register, visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops



# **Solving the Mystery of Bonds and Insurance**

Tuesday, Aug. 16 • 8:30 a.m.-9 a.m. • Virtual • Cost: Free

Learn about the different applications of these important risk financing mechanisms. Ohio School Plan reviews some real-world examples to help make bonds and insurance less mysterious.

### **Key takeaways:**

- Review how each risk factor transfer mechanism works and why each is important.
- Discover what the legislative changes mean for school districts.
- Learn how to implement those legislative changes.

To register, visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops

# Attendance, Tuition and Custody Law Workshop





# Friday, Aug. 5 • 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. • Renaissance Columbus Westerville Polaris, Westerville • Cost: \$190

Laws addressing attendance and tuition issues are complex and change frequently. Attendance coordinators can review the latest legal developments at this information-packed seminar. The workshop will be submitted to the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education (CLE) for CLE credit.



### **Agenda**

8:50 a.m. Welcome

### 9 a.m. Hot topics for the 2022-23 school year

Review the hot topics you need to know heading into the 2022-23 school year. Join our panelists for the answers to their most frequently asked questions about district of residence, student enrollment and withdrawal, tuition costs, EMIS coding, and other school operation questions.

Tammy Hrosch, EMIS manager, META Solutions; and Andrew Smith, Area 2 coordinator, Ohio Department of Education (ODE)

### 10:15 a.m. Break

### 10:30 a.m. Supporting students experiencing homelessness

Join us for a review of the state's resources, strategies, guidance and sample procedures to support students experiencing homelessness in Ohio. Learn what districts are doing to identify and reduce existing gaps in attendance, access to technology and academic performance, as well as address the behavioral health care needs for students experiencing homelessness.

Rebeka Beach, manager of Project Connect, Cincinnati Public; Penny Boggs, supervisor of shared services, and Stephanie Collinsworth, regional homeless liaison, Ohio Valley ESC; and Susannah Wayland, state homeless education coordinator, ODE

### 11:30 a.m. Lunch

### 12:30 p.m. Registering and placing undocumented and immigrant students

As Ohio's population becomes increasingly diverse, districts will encounter increasingly diverse student needs. This session includes a discussion of the issues school districts face, including the types of documents that are acceptable for enrolling foreign-born students, registering undocumented students and age-related placement options for English language learners.

Brian DeSantis, associate attorney, and Samantha Vajskop, associate attorney, Pepple & Waggoner Ltd.

### 1:15 p.m. Break

### 1:30 p.m. Supporting Ohio's military children

Ohio is involved in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. Learn about the district's obligations under this compact, which works to ensure that military children are properly enrolled in schools, have eligibility for school activities and have assistance in meeting graduation requirements. Pete LuPiba, commissioner, Ohio Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission

### 2:15 p.m. Custody quandaries

How do child custody matters impact decisions about attendance and tuition, especially when relatives or nonfamily members share parenting and custody responsibilities? Learn this and more in this annual favorite! Giselle Spencer, shareholder, Ennis Britton Co. LPA; and Janie Gildersleeve, truant officer/home school coordinator, Ashtabula County ESC

### 3:30 p.m. Adjourn

### To register, visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops

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



# **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.





Nominations
are open for the
2022 OSBA Student
Achievement Fair

Monday, Nov. 14, 2022 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Greater Columbus Convention Center

# Nominate your student program or artwork today!

### **Student Achievement Fair district program**

The Student Achievement Fair showcases exemplary programs that highlight student achievement. Examples of previous district programs in the Student Achievement Fair include 1-to-1 technology programs, STEM engineering for middle grades, workforce exchange programs and career center culinary arts programs. One-hundred programs showcasing student achievement will be selected.

### Digital student art display

The Student Achievement Fair features outstanding artwork by students from across the state. Don't miss this chance to nominate some of the highly creative artwork coming from your district's students.

Visit http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/student-achievement-fair for more information and to nominate a program or artwork today!



# **COMMUNICATIONS**

by Connie Potter, communications consultant

# Inviting people into your schools

When staff members look at ways to communicate better with caregivers and community members, the first thought, inevitably, is to send out more newsletters. Or longer ones. Or fancier ones.

While newsletters are a good tool, they should be used in tandem with more traditional methods like inviting people into school buildings for face-to-face conversations. This applies not just to caregivers but also to all community members, including city leaders and senior citizens.

It's called relationship building, and it's done best by meeting personally with people.

Relationships build good partnerships, which pay great dividends for schools. Partnerships with local businesses bring resources and learning opportunities for students, such as internships or expert speakers. Partnerships with caregivers and civic groups bring volunteers and fresh ideas for helping students. And when it's time to pass a levy, relationships and partnerships ensure that voters are

Continued on page 6





2022 Capital Conference and Trade Show Nov. 13-15 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center

Join us for Ohio's premier education conference to gain practical ideas and a renewed commitment to help your district accomplish the critical work ahead.

- 150 learning sessions
- Trade Show
- Student Achievement Fair

Registration opens July 25 http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org

# **Keynote** speakers



Actor and author **John Lithgow** 



Storyteller and skydiver **Kenyon Salo** 

Communications, continued from page 5

knowledgeable about your schools.

Relationships also are crucial in times of crisis because they build a bank of trust and goodwill. When community members feel good about their district and believe they are well-informed about what goes on there, they are more apt to give grace when things go wrong.

# Meaningful community connections

Most community members do not have children in school, but they still are called on to vote in elections and offer other support. That's why it's important to cultivate relationships with them by connecting on a personal level.

There are many opportunities to invite community members into school buildings and classrooms to see firsthand the great things students are learning and doing.

- Send personal invitations to households in local neighborhoods inviting residents to school concerts or plays.
- Offer senior citizens free or discounted passes to high school athletic events and music and drama productions.
- Invite members of civic organizations to volunteer in

- schools. Don't just issue a blanket invitation; offer specific jobs such as being a reading buddy to an elementary student or tutoring a high school student in math.
- Invite local businesses to review curriculum in related classes and offer insight to better prepare students for jobs in their industries. For example, solicit input from a large welding company on specific skills needed for that profession.
- Invite patrons to a lunch prepared by culinary students as a way to show off their skills.
- Host a student art show and invite the community to come.

# Hands-on connections with caregivers

Connecting with caregivers can be easier but still requires planning and creativity. Some schools have had success in hosting curriculum nights that also offer caregivers tools to help their children do better in school. For example, staff might teach them math games to play with their children or offer short workshops on how to navigate the district's new report card.

Instead of simply issuing information, many schools find they build better connections through two-way conversations. School events can be a good time to seek input from caregivers. Some schools set up different stations in the gym where caregivers brainstorm about different topics in small groups and discuss them

Continued on page 7





# PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

# What will your district look like two, five or eight years down the road?

As leaders in your district, it's important to look toward the future and anticipate opportunities and roadblocks in preparing students for school and lifetime success.

Let OSBA be your partner in developing an effective, aligned strategic plan to map your district's future. Call OSBA's Division of Board and Management Services at (800) 589-OSBA to get started today.



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

# Sewing project enhances safety at Elida Local Schools

Nearly 20 volunteers from local churches, as well as students and others, in the **Elida Local (Allen)** School District put their sewing skills to work in the name of safety.

The volunteers created more than 200 custom-made blinds for every classroom door window in the district.

"Student and staff safety is always an administration's top priority, and we are so grateful for their time and talents to help us maintain safe environments for our staff and students," **Julie Simmons**, the district's director of curriculum and instruction, said in a news release. "We also appreciate the funds that were available to us from the Ohio attorney general's school safety grant."

During an emergency with an intruder in the building, teachers can quickly cover door windows with the blinds, which have quick-release straps.

The blinds, which will be

installed before the start of the 2022-23 school year, conceal classrooms, students and staff from view.

"We were so happy to be able to assist with this project and many volunteers eagerly joined in," said **Mary Early**, a member of Elida Immanuel Church.

Elida Local high school students also helped with sewing, ironing and cutting more than 100 yards of fabric.

Source: Elida Local (Allen)

Communications, continued from page 6

afterward with school leaders.

Some principals host regular coffee chats with caregivers. It's a way to meet with them in an informal, comfortable setting to talk about any issues they want to bring up. Often, principals will hear about potential concerns early so they can address them before they become full-blown issues.

Many kindergarten teachers are finding that meeting families in their homes can be a good way to build positive relationships and create a warm first impression. At the same time, it gives teachers more insight into their students' home lives. Caregivers usually appreciate the convenience of

having the teacher come to them so they don't have to miss work or arrange for child care. And they often feel more comfortable asking questions when they are within their own homes.

There are many other ways schools can create meaningful connections with caregivers:

- providing opportunities to connect with the school through volunteering or participating on school committees;
- offering occasional classes on topics of interest such as identifying and helping students with ADHD or how proper nutrition can help student achievement;
- designating time in staff

meetings to write postcards with positive news about individual students;

• making an effort to learn the names of caregivers and students and welcoming them as they come in the door.

Research shows that the more caregivers are engaged in their children's education, the better the student performs in school. Time spent on building strong relationships with caregivers and the community is an investment in better education and a more positive learning environment for every student.

Source: Washington State School Directors' Association

### **Ohio School Boards Association**

8050 North High Street, Suite 100 Columbus OH 43235-6481

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July	2022	3	OSBA Central Region Executive		elections — RC 5748.02(C), 5705.219(G);
15	OSBA Executive Committee		Committee meetingColumbus		last day to submit emergency levy for
	meetingColumbus	3	OSBA Northeast Region		November election to board of elections —
16	OSBA Board of Trustees		Executive Committee		RC 5705.195; last day to submit phased-in
	meetingColumbus		meetingWadsworth and Virtual		levy or current operating expenses levy for
15	Last day to adopt school library district tax	5	Attendance, Tuition and Custody Law		November election to board of elections
	budget on behalf of a library district — RC		WorkshopWesterville		— RC 5705.251(A) (90 days prior to
	5705.28(B)(1).	5	Last day to submit emergency, current		election).
29	Semiannual campaign finance reports must		operating expenses or conversion levy	16	Coffee Chat: Solving the Mystery of
	be filed by certain candidates (by 4 p.m.)		to county auditor for November general		Bonds and InsuranceVirtual
	detailing contributions and expenditures		election — RC 5705.194, 5705.195,	21	OSBA Southeast Region Executive
	made through June 30, 2022 – RC		5705.213, 5705.219(C) (95 days prior to		Committee meetingLogan
	3517.10(A)(4).		election).	23	Town HallVirtual
30	Board 101 Summer	7	OSBA Northwest/Southwest Regions	23	OSBA Central Region Legislative Open
	WorkshopColumbus		Open HouseCelina		HousePlain City
31	Last day for board of education to adopt	10	Accelerating student success through	28	OSBA Northwest Region Executive
	a plan to require students to access and		board policy webinarVirtual		Committee meetingVirtual
	complete online classroom lessons ("blizzard	10	Last day for school district to file resolution	29	OSBA Northeast/Southeast Regions
	bags") in order to make up hours for which		of necessity, resolution to proceed and		Open HouseMineral City
	it is necessary to close schools — RC		auditor's certification for bond levy with		
	3313.482(A)(1).		board of elections for November election —	Sepi	ember 2022
			RC 133.18(D); last day for county auditor	12	OSBA Southeast/Southwest Regions
August 2022			to certify school district bond levy terms		Open HousePortsmouth
1	Last day to submit certification for		for November election — RC 133.18(C);	14	Reasonable Suspicion
	November income tax levy to Ohio		last day to submit continuing replacement,		TrainingColumbus
	Department of Taxation $\stackrel{\circ}{-}$ RC 5748.02(A)		permanent improvement or operating levy	20	Coffee Chat: Using Technology to
	(100 days prior to election); last day to file		for November election to board of elections		Support Board Committees Virtual
	statistical report with Ohio Department of		– RC 5705.192, 5705.21, 5705.25; last	21	Central Region Fall
	Education – RC 3319.33.		day to certify resolution for school district		ConferenceColumbus
2	Special Election Day — RC 3501.01 (first		income tax levy or renewal of conversion		
	Tuesday after the first Monday).		levy for November election to board of		