

BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



OSBA Black Caucus dinner speaker announced for Capital Conference

Lynnette Miller, a veteran educator and co-founder of the Harambee Youth Organization, will address this year's OSBA Black Caucus Dinner at the OSBA Capital Conference on Sunday, Nov. 13. Miller has worked in the **Youngstown City School District** as a teacher and guidance counselor for 35 years. Outside the classroom, her leadership has made a difference for hundreds of area youth. Since 1980, the Harambee Youth Organization has promoted social peace, racial harmony and positive self-image through the sharing of African and African American music, dance and culture. Get details at <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org>.

President extends some child nutrition waivers with Keep Kids Fed Act

Certain funding provisions for school nutrition programs established during the COVID-19 pandemic will be extended through the upcoming school year. President **Joe Biden** signed the Keep Kids Fed Act, which offers schools funding reimbursement for meal delivery, grab-and-go meals, noncongregate meal service and other options that help students stay well during COVID-19 outbreaks without disrupting food access. While the program will not provide for free meals for all students this school year, students eligible for reduced-price meals can still eat for free at school.

Safety checklist resource for school board meetings now available

OSBA, in cooperation with the Ohio School Resource Officers Association and the Governor's School Safety Task Force, has created a best practices checklist for safe board meetings. In addition to providing general guidelines for school safety, it is designed to help members plan meetings that promote healthy dialogue among staff, students and visitors and to allow for thorough emergency preparedness. The checklist is available at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/90422>.

OSBA Capital Conference registration opens

The 2022 Capital Conference is just a few short months away. Starting July 25, you can register to attend through your district treasurer or superintendent or online at www.ohioschoolboards.org/conference/registration. Individual cost is \$320 per person, but member school districts sending more than six people pay a flat group registration rate of \$2,100. OSBA sustaining members, government employees and retired administrators can attend for only \$60. You'll want to register early so you can plan ahead and ensure a spot at any special events you want to attend.

Ohio School Safety Center releases 2022 safety summit agenda

This year's Ohio School Safety Summit will feature expert-led sessions on emergency

July 25, 2022

Volume 54 Issue 14

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Route workshop information to:

- Administrators
- Principals
- HR directors
- EMIS coordinators
- Student services professionals

management, mental health, physical and cyber security, and more. This free event, held Aug. 2-4 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, includes three keynote sessions, a trade show and nearly fifty workshops. The safety summit is an opportunity for education professionals to update their knowledge base for important safety topics so they can better serve their students. Register today at <https://ohioschoolsafetycenter.ohio.gov/school-safety-summit>.

Special education enrollment on the rise, new report says

The number of students in special education programs grew from 6.5 million to 7.2 million during the 2020-21 academic year, according to a new report by the National Center for Education Statistics, a division of the U.S. Department of Education. The increase can likely be attributed to improved

Cleveland students, Guardians clash in chess duel

Cleveland Guardians baseball players put their chess skills up against some of the best high school players in the nation, battling members of **Cleveland Municipal's** John Marshall High School chess team on the warning track at Progressive Field.

The team earned a top 20 finish at the U.S. Chess Federation National High School Championship in April. Players who competed in the under 1200 division came in 12th and those in the under 800 division finished 13th. Team members represent seven countries.

"It's an honor to be here," team member **Nouh Shaikh** told a local TV station. "How could you ever expect to play chess on a baseball field?"

Source: news5cleveland.com

diagnostic processes for learning disabilities, autism and other conditions that affect children's needs at school. The most common reason for enrollment in special education nationwide is specific learning disability, accounting for about a third of students enrolled, followed by

speech and language impairments. You can view the report here: <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/63097>.

OSBA online

● www.ohioschoolboards.org
OSBA's online bookstore is an ideal first stop for education leaders seeking information and supplies to prepare for the new school year. With materials covering a range of topics from student achievement and community relations, law and finance, you can equip yourself with the resources you need to govern effectively and in accordance with the latest requirements and research. Recently updated publications now available in the store include "Sunshine Law for Schools" and "The Ohio School Ethics Guide." Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/catalog to browse dozens of titles — you're sure to find what you need and a whole lot more.



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.



BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, senior administrative assistant of communication services

OSBA executive searches

Treasurer

District

① Elyria City

② Maple Heights City

Deadline

July 28

TBD

Contact

OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000

OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



Other searches

Position

Treasurer

Location

Crestwood Local (Portage)

Deadline

July 29

Contact

Daniel L. Wilson, director of business development, ESC of the Western Reserve, (440) 350-2563, ext. 767

Board changes

Eastwood Local (Wood) appointed **Darlene Krukemyer** to the board effective June 27. She replaced **Sherri Sheffler**, who resigned. ●●● **Olentangy Local (Delaware)** appointed **Libby Wallick** to the board effective immediately. She replaced **Mindy Patrick**, who resigned in May. ●●● **Sandusky City Board of Education** member **Brigitte Green-Churchwell** announced her resignation effective July 1.

Administrative changes

Superintendents

Amherst EV hired Assistant Superintendent **Michael Molnar** as superintendent effective Jan. 1. He will replace **Steven A. Sayers**, who is retiring in December. ●●● **Bethel Local (Miami)** hired **Matthew Chrispin** as interim superintendent effective July 31. He will replace **Justin M. Firks**, who resigned in May. Chrispin currently is superintendent at **Bucyrus City**. ●●● **Canal Winchester Local (Franklin)** Superintendent **James Sotlar** announced his resignation effective Aug. 1. He has taken the position of chief executive officer at META Solutions. ●●● **Licking Heights Local (Licking)** hired **Kevin Miller** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace Dr. **Philip Wagner**, who took the superintendent position at **Johnstown-Monroe Local (Licking)**. Miller currently is director of governmental relations at the Buckeye Association of School Administrators. ●●● **Marion City** hired **Olympia Della Flora** as assistant superintendent effective Aug. 1. She

Editor's note

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


will replace **Jennifer L. Lawson**, who resigned. Della Flora previously was an associate superintendent with Stamford Public Schools in Connecticut. ●●● **Penta Career Center** hired **Mark Pogliano** as assistant superintendent effective July 11. He replaced Dr. **Robert Falkenstein**, who resigned June 30. Pogliano previously was a principal for Jackson Area Career Center in Michigan. ●●● **Springboro Community City** hired Director of Human Resources **Carrie Hester** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Larry Hook**, who took the superintendent position at **Forest Hills Local (Hamilton)**. Hook will replace **Scot T. Prebles**, who took the superintendent position at **Bay Village City**. ●●● **Upper Arlington City** Superintendent Dr. **Paul W. Imhoff** announced his resignation effective January 2023. He has taken the director of governmental relations position at the Buckeye Association of School Administrators. ●●● **Valley View Local (Montgomery)** hired **Joe Scholler Sr.** as interim superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Benjamin A. Richards**, who took the superintendent position at **Tiffin City**. ●●● **Wayne Trace Local (Paulding)** hired elementary school principal **Paul Jones** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Ben Winans**, who took a position at **Vantage Career Center**. ●●● **Wilmington City** hired **James Brady** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He will replace **Mindy McCarty-Stewart**, who took the superintendent position at **Kettering City**.

Treasurers

Akron City Treasurer **Ryan Pendleton** announced his resignation effective July 31. He has taken the executive director position at North Coast Shared Service Alliance. ●●● **Big Walnut Local (Delaware)** Treasurer **Jeremy J. Buskirk** announced his resignation effective Sept. 24. ●●● **Cardington-Lincoln Local (Morrow)** hired **Brenda Miller** as treasurer effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Jon Mason**, who will continue as treasurer with **Highland Local (Morrow)**. Miller previously was fiscal specialist at **New Albany-Plain Local (Franklin)**. ●●● **Howland Local (Trumbull)** hired **Julie Sloan** as treasurer effective Aug. 1. She will replace **Samantha L. Pochedly**, who is resigning effective July 31. Sloan currently is treasurer at **Brookfield Local (Trumbull)**. ●●● **Southington Local (Trumbull)** hired **Joel Snider** as treasurer effective Aug. 1.

Sympathies

Former **Cuyahoga Heights Local (Cuyahoga)** Board of Education member **Ronald Joseph Kryznovek** died June 29. He was 83. ●●● Former **Minster Local (Auglaize)** Board of Education member **Jon H. Woehrmyer** died June 25. He was 74.



Back by popular demand!

OSBA Town Halls

Tuesday, Aug. 25 • 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. • Virtual • Cost: Free

The OSBA Town Halls review relevant and timely topics pertinent to public school leaders. Join us for an overview of what has been going on in public education. To register, visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops.



Board 101 Workshop: Summer Edition

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 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, and Gamy Narvaez, 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

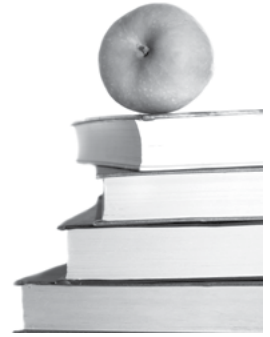
2:45 p.m. Break

2:55 p.m. Let's get legal, continued

4 p.m. Closing remarks and questions

To register, visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops

Attendance, Tuition and Custody Law Workshop



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

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 has been approved by the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education (CLE) for 5.0 CLE credit. The CLE credits are only offered if you attend in-person.

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 Collinworth, 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; Janie Gildersleeve, truant officer/home school coordinator, Ashtabula County ESC; and Tania Burnett, executive director, Ashtabula County Children Services Board

3:30 p.m. Adjourn

To register, visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops

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

Central Region Fall Conference

Wednesday, Sept. 21

5 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Villa Milano

1630 Schrock Road, Columbus

(614) 882-2058

5 p.m. Networking

5:50 p.m. Welcome and introductions

*Dr. Tina D. Pierce, Central Region president;
board member, Columbus City*

**Presentation of 2022 Central Region Executive
Committee slate of nominations**

6 p.m. Legislative update

*Jennifer Hogue, OSBA director of legislative
services*

6:15 p.m. Dinner

Student entertainment

7 p.m. Program

OSBA update

*Robert M. Heard Sr., OSBA president; board
member, Cleveland Municipal*

OSBA comments

*Rick Lewis, OSBA chief executive officer; Dr.
Kathy McFarland, OSBA deputy chief executive;
and Mark E. Bobo, OSBA senior membership
engagement consultant*

Keynote speaker

*Dr. Lisa Hinkelman, founder and chief executive
officer, Ruling Our eXperience (ROX)*

Recognitions

- Outstanding Teachers of the Central Region
- Friends of Public Education
- Exemplary School Employee Award
- Champion of Public Education
- Recognition of board members celebrating
service milestones of 30 years or more
- STAR Awards recognition

8:30 p.m. Adjourn

Reservation information

Make your reservations at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/crfall2022>.

Online reservations allow districts to pay with a credit card, check or be invoiced after the conference if a purchase order number is provided.

The cost to attend is \$40. The reservation deadline is Monday, Sept. 12. Cancellations received at least three workdays before the day of the event may request a full refund. All others will be charged the full event fee.

If paying by check, please make payable to Ohio School Boards Association Central Region and mail to **Melanie Price**, senior administrative assistant of communication services, Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 N. High St., Ste. 100, Columbus, OH 43235.

If you require special accommodations, including food allergies or special dietary needs such as a gluten-free meal, please include the information in the notes of the online reservation form.

Authority for reimbursement

Ohio Revised Code Section 3315.15 authorizes the establishment of a service fund for board members. This fund can be used for expenses incurred at a meeting such as this.

Northeast Region Fall Conference

*Celebrating the region's
70th anniversary*

Wednesday, Oct. 5 • 5 p.m.-8 p.m.
Galaxy Restaurant, 201 Park Centre Drive, Wadsworth

Agenda

- 5 p.m. Networking**
- 5:45 p.m. Welcome**
Sally S. Green, Northeast Region president; board member, Tuscarawas Valley Local (Tuscarawas)
- 5:50 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance and invocation**
Albert Haberstroh, Northeast Region immediate past president; board member, Trumbull County ESC and Trumbull Career & Technical Center
- 6 p.m. Dinner**
- 6:45 p.m. Program**
- Introductions**
Sally S. Green
- Region update**
Reno Contipelli, OSBA Northeast regional manager
- 2023 election and business
- OSBA greetings and update**
Robert M. Heard Sr., OSBA president; board member, Cleveland Municipal
Rick Lewis, OSBA chief executive officer
Dr. Kathy McFarland, OSBA deputy chief executive
- Legislative update**
Nicole Piscitani, OSBA lobbyist
- Membership update**
Mark E. Bobo, OSBA senior membership engagement consultant
- Sponsor presentation — legal update**
Kevin J. Locke, Esq., Pepple & Waggoner Ltd.
- Presentation of awards**
- Friend of Public Education Award
 - Roger Samuelson Award for Board Excellence
 - OSBA STAR Awards
 - Purple Star Schools recognition
 - Northeast Region Blue Ribbon Schools
 - 2023 Ohio Teacher of the Year nominees
 - Outstanding Northeast Region Superintendent
 - Outstanding Northeast Region Treasurer
 - Outstanding Northeast Region Administrator
 - Outstanding Northeast Region Classified Employee
 - Outstanding Northeast Region JVS program
 - Northeast Region Volunteers of the year
- 8 p.m. Adjourn**

Authority for reimbursement

Ohio Revised Code Section 3315.15 authorizes the establishment of a service fund for board members. This fund can be used for expenses incurred at meetings such as this.

Reservation information

Make your reservations at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/nefall2022>. Online reservations allow districts to pay with a credit card, check or be invoiced after the conference if a purchase order number is provided.

The cost to attend is \$40. The reservation deadline is Friday, Sept. 30. Cancellations received at least three workdays before the day of the event may request a full refund. All others will be charged the full event fee.

If paying by check, please make payable to Ohio School Boards Association Northeast Region and mail to **Melanie Price**, senior administrative assistant of communication services, Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 N. High St., Ste. 100, Columbus, OH 43235.



Northwest Region Fall Conference

Thursday, Oct. 6 • 5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
Sentinel Vocational Center, 793 Old Attica Road, Tiffin

Agenda

5:30 p.m. **Networking**

5:55 p.m. **Welcome**

Christopher Widman, Northwest Region president; board member, Vanguard Sentinel Career & Technology Center

Pledge of Allegiance

Gregory A. Edinger, superintendent, Vanguard-Sentinel Career & Technology Center

Invocation

6 p.m.

Dinner

Student entertainment

Seneca East Local (Seneca) Music Department

6:50 p.m.

OSBA remarks

Robert M. Heard Sr., OSBA president; board member, Cleveland Municipal

Greetings and OSBA Update

Rick Lewis, OSBA chief executive officer

Dr. Kathy McFarland, OSBA deputy chief executive

Mark E. Bobo, OSBA senior membership engagement consultant

OSBA legislative update

Jennifer Hogue, OSBA director of legislative services

Awards and presentations

Veteran board members

Master Board Members

OSBA STAR Awards

Northwest Region Excellence in Community Service Award

8:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Authority for reimbursement

Ohio Revised Code Section 3315.15 authorizes the establishment of a service fund for board members. This fund can be used for expenses incurred at meetings such as this.

Reservation information

Make your reservations at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/nwfall2022>. Online reservations allow districts to pay with a credit card, check or be invoiced after the conference if a purchase order number is provided.

The cost to attend is \$40. The reservation deadline is Thursday, Sept. 29. Cancellations received at least three workdays before the day of the event may request a full refund. All others will be charged the full event fee.

If paying by check, please make payable to Ohio School Boards Association Northwest Region and mail to **Melanie Price**, senior administrative assistant of communication services, Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 N. High St., Ste. 100, Columbus, OH 43235.



Southeast Region Fall Conference

Thursday, Sept. 29 • 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Tri-County Career Center, 15676 SR 691,
Nelsonville
(800) 637-6508

Agenda

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| 5:30 p.m. | Registration and networking | 7:35 p.m. | Annual business meeting |
| 6:15 p.m. | Welcome
<i>Ed Penrod, Southeast Region president;
board member, Muskingum Valley ESC
and Tri-County Career Center</i> | 7:45 p.m. | Election of 2023 officers |
| | Dinner | | Award and presentations |
| 6:55 p.m. | Greetings and update from OSBA
<i>Robert M. Heard Sr., OSBA president;
board member, Cleveland Municipal
Rick Lewis, OSBA chief executive
officer</i> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southeast Region President's Award• Ohio Department of Education Purple Star Award• Advocate of Education Hall of Fame Award• Southeast Region Recognition Program Awards |
| | <i>Dr. Kathy McFarland, OSBA deputy
chief executive</i> | 8:30 p.m. | Adjourn |
| | <i>Mark E. Bobo, OSBA senior
membership engagement consultant</i> | | |
| | <i>Will Schwartz, OSBA deputy director of
legislative services</i> | | |

Reservation information

Make your reservations at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/sefall2022>. Online reservations allow districts to pay with a credit card, check or be invoiced after the conference if a purchase order number is provided.

The cost to attend is \$40. The reservation deadline is Friday, Sept. 23. Cancellations received at least three workdays before the day of the event may request a full refund. All others will be charged the full event fee.

If paying by check, please make payable to Ohio School Boards Association Southeast Region and mail to **Melanie Price**, senior administrative assistant of communication services, Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 N. High St., Ste. 100, Columbus, OH 43235.

Authority for reimbursement

Ohio Revised Code Section 3315.15 authorizes the establishment of a service fund for board members. This fund can be used for expenses incurred at meetings such as this.



Southwest Region Fall Conference

Thursday, Oct. 13 • 5 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Greene County Career Center, 532 Innovation Drive, Xenia • (937) 372-6941

Agenda

5 p.m. Registration and networking

6 p.m. Welcome and student entertainment
Lynda O'Connor, Southwest Region president; board member, Lakota Local (Butler)

6:20 p.m. Opening remarks and Pledge of Allegiance

6:30 p.m. Buffet dinner

7:15 p.m. Southwest Region meeting

Introduction of guests

OSBA president comments

Robert M. Heard Sr., OSBA president; board member, Cleveland Municipal

OSBA comments

*Rick Lewis, OSBA chief executive officer
Dr. Kathy McFarland, OSBA deputy chief executive*

OSBA membership update

Mark E. Bobo, OSBA senior membership engagement consultant

OSBA legislative update

Will Schwartz, OSBA deputy director of legislative services

Awards

8:30 p.m. Adjourn

Reservation information

Make your reservations at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/swfall2022>.

Online reservations allow districts to pay with a credit card, check or be invoiced after the conference if a purchase order number is provided.

The cost to attend is \$40. The reservation deadline is Monday, Oct. 11. Cancellations received at least three workdays before the day of the event may request a full refund. All others will be charged the full event fee.

If paying by check, please make payable to Ohio School Boards Association Southwest Region and mail to **Melanie Price**, senior administrative assistant of communication services, Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 N. High St., Ste. 100, Columbus, OH 43235.

Authority for reimbursement

Ohio Revised Code Section 3315.15 authorizes the establishment of a service fund for board members. This fund can be used for expenses incurred at meetings such as this.



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.



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



COMMUNICATIONS

by Marcia Latta, communications consultant

Make your school's information accessible and understandable

Information about schools can be hard to understand. Consider the “alphabet soup” of acronyms that are part of educational vernacular, the new trends in pedagogy and changes to standards — all of which can leave people who attended school years ago completely lost in this seemingly foreign environment.

To build support for your district, you must communicate complex information clearly and you also must listen. You are not simply announcing decisions and sharing information; ideally, you are facilitating conversations.

Simplifying school information

People consume an overwhelming amount of information each day. Many will dismiss or overlook material that looks complicated or time-consuming to read. If we want to compete for attention in this crowded media environment, we need to create content that is easy to read and easy to understand.

To ensure understanding, we must use clear language and interesting imagery and provide context to show why issues matter.

Speak and write in plain language

Avoid jargon, acronyms and

unnecessarily big words; they all create barriers to comprehension. When you are writing for a broader audience, jargon and insider phrases slow readers down and alienate them. They make readers work harder to understand your message and can come across as arrogant or deceptive.


One way to break through the jargon is to practice telling your story to someone who has no connection with education. Choose someone who is representative of the audience you hope to reach.

Ask them to give you feedback about your message. What is the most important message to them? Which parts are clear and easy to understand? What is confusing, overly technical or dull? Revise your message based on this feedback.

Use readability tools to make your writing more reader-friendly

Readability describes how easy or difficult it is to understand a

Continued on page 6



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

Communications, continued from page 5

body of text. Readability scores are typically based on U.S. grade levels, so something written to a fourth-grade reading level will be easier to read than something

written to a 10th-grade level.

One of the biggest myths about improving readability is that it is about “dumbing down” content. The truth is that readable,

accessible writing helps all levels of readers. Why make your audience work harder to get your message? Improving readability is about having respect for both your reader and your content. If you think the content is important enough to write about, it is in your interest to make sure your writing is appealing and easy to read.

A good target when you are writing for the general adult population is to aim for a high school reading level, around 10th grade. This is not to suggest that the average adult can only read at that level, but rather is an acknowledgement that most adults are busy and want to be able to read and understand your writing quickly.

The Flesch-Kincaid tool has become one of the most popular readability tools available and it is embedded in Microsoft Word. Search “readability” in your software’s help section for instructions on how to enable this feature so that readability statistics pop up after a review with the spelling and grammar checker.

You also can test your readability levels with online tools such as www.webfx.com/tools/read-able. Simply paste your text to calculate readability.

Quick tips to improve readability

If your first readability check shows your writing is at a higher grade level than you want, here



Human Resources Law in Schools

Friday, Sept. 16 • 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

OSBA office, Columbus or virtual • Cost: \$175

Join experts in education and employment law as they discuss First Amendment issues, employment contracts and discrimination protections for employees.

Key takeaways

- Learn about the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on employees’ free speech and religious expression rights and how it affects school district operations.
- Discover the ins and outs of superintendent, treasurer and teacher contracts.
- Experienced school law attorneys review how to manage harassment and discrimination complaints and achieve a harassment-free workplace.

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

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

Dublin program pairs high school students with senior citizens

Viraj Bajoria, a recent graduate of **Dublin City's** Jerome High School, could sense the isolation his grandmother in India felt at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bajoria told a local newspaper he could "feel how disconnected" his grandmother was from other family members in India.

"I thought that other people her age felt the same way here," he said.

That's why Bajoria collaborated with the city of Dublin to create

the Teen Buddy program, which concluded its second year in June with an in-person gathering of Dublin City students and the senior citizens with whom they were paired during the last school year.

All the students attend Coffman, Jerome or Scioto high schools, but the senior citizens are from Dublin and other area cities, such as Upper Arlington and Hilliard.

The pairs included 17-year-old Dublin Coffman senior **Olivia**

Wirth and 80-year-old **Ginger Cermelj** of Dublin.

The two exchanged telephone calls as well as text messages and letters. "It's not about the history they can tell, I can read that in books, but it's the personal stories of what they have done in their lives that mean so much to me (and) inspire me," said Wirth, who wants to be a teacher.

A grant helps facilitate the program.

Source: ThisWeek News

Communications, continued from page 6

are a few easy ways you can bring it down to a more appropriate level.

- Read your document aloud. Revise unnecessarily complicated words and unnatural or convoluted phrasing.
- Reduce your average sentence length. This is one of the most important factors in readability scores. Your average number of words per sentence should be 15 or less. This doesn't mean that every sentence should be short; variety is the goal for more interesting text. Start by breaking up sentences with semicolons and conjunctions (such as "and," "but" and "so").

- Break up long paragraphs. Include text breaks to make content easier to read. Breaks also make a page look easier to read, a critical consideration when busy people are deciding whether to read your material. Make sure each paragraph has only one main idea.
- Write in the first person. This encourages you to write in an active voice and makes your writing more interesting. The spelling and grammar checker in Microsoft Word can be set to show the passive sentences in your writing. Passive sentences should be kept to a minimum.
- Finally, write less! Remember, most of your readers are busy and

your organization is competing for their attention. Make your writing look quick and easy to read by keeping it brief, especially if it will be read on a digital screen. The guideline is to use 50% fewer words when you are writing for a digital platform. This tip bears repeating: Content written for an electronic screen should be half as long as the same content written for print publication. Nobody has time to wade through pages of text on a small screen.

Remember who your readers are and where they are reading your words and make it easier for them.

Source: Washington State School Directors' Association

July 2022

- 29 *Semiannual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates (by 4 p.m.) detailing contributions and expenditures made through June 30, 2022 — RC 3517.10(A)(4).*
- 30 Board 101 Summer Workshop..... Columbus
- 31 *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).*

August 2022

- 1 *Last day to submit certification for November income tax levy to Ohio Department of Taxation — RC 5748.02(A) (100 days prior to election); last day to file statistical report with Ohio Department of Education — RC 3319.33.*
- 2 *Special Election Day — RC 3501.01 (first Tuesday after the first Monday).*
- 3 OSBA Central Region Executive Committee meeting..... Columbus
- 3 OSBA Northeast Region Executive Committee meeting.....Wadsworth and Virtual
- 5 Attendance, Tuition and Custody Law Workshop.....Westerville & Virtual

- 5 *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).*
- 7 OSBA Northwest/Southwest Regions Open House..... Celina
- 9 OSBA Southwest Region Executive Committee meeting.....Yellow Springs
- 10 Accelerating student success through board policy webinar..... Virtual
- 10 *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); last day to submit continuing replacement, permanent improvement or operating levy for November election to board of elections — RC 5705.192, 5705.21, 5705.25; last day to certify resolution for school district income tax levy or renewal of conversion levy for November election to board of elections — RC 5748.02(C), 5705.219(G); last day to submit emergency levy for November election to board of elections — RC 5705.195; last day to submit phased-in levy or current operating expenses levy for*

- November election to board of elections — RC 5705.251(A) (90 days prior to election).*
- 16 Coffee Chat: Solving the Mystery of Bonds and Insurance Virtual
- 21 OSBA Southeast Region Executive Committee meeting..... Logan
- 25 Town Hall Virtual
- 23 OSBA Central Region Legislative Open House Plain City
- 28 OSBA Northwest Region Executive Committee meeting..... Virtual
- 29 OSBA Northeast/Southeast Regions Open House..... Mineral City

September 2022

- 12 OSBA Southeast/Southwest Regions Open House.....Portsmouth
- 14 Reasonable Suspicion Training..... Columbus
- 20 Coffee Chat: Using Technology to Support Board Committees Virtual
- 21 Central Region Fall Conference..... Columbus
- 28 OSBA Master of Transportation Administration: Payment in lieu of transportation/school choice transportation..... Columbus and virtual
- 29 Southeast Region Fall Conference Nelsonville