

# BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



## Submit your nominations today for OSBA's 2022 Media Honor Roll

School districts can shine a spotlight on high-quality coverage of education issues by nominating local journalists for this year's Media Honor Roll. Created to foster respect and constructive dialogue between educators and the media, a nomination to the Media Honor Roll is a great way to show appreciation for those who keep the public informed about your school district. Details on the nomination process have been emailed to superintendents and communications directors, and they are available at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/osba-media-honor-roll](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/osba-media-honor-roll). The deadline is Sept. 6.

## National teacher of the year to speak at Capital Conference luncheon

Kurt Russell, the 2022 National Teacher of the Year, will address the Monday Capital Conference luncheon on Nov. 14. In his 25 years of teaching at Oberlin City's Oberlin High School, Russell has been recognized by organizations such as the Oberlin Heritage Foundation and the Oberlin chapter of the NAACP for his commitment to an inclusive classroom that reflects students' experiences — a goal which led him to create the curriculum for Oberlin's African American history class. He also serves as faculty adviser to the African American Student Union and coaches the basketball team. Register early for the luncheon to hear Russell speak about his experiences supporting and empowering a diverse student body. Learn more at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/ohioschoolboards/special-events>.

## Despite 'difficult' times, school superintendents report high job satisfaction

In a recent poll conducted by the RAND Corp., 85% of responding superintendents said they agree or strongly agree that they are satisfied with their jobs. Though an even greater number — 95% — agreed that their jobs had become "more difficult," career morale among the 222 superintendents surveyed was strong even compared to pre-pandemic figures. In another strong indicator of job satisfaction, 87% reported that they felt their jobs were valued. School leaders in urban districts and those who primarily served students from marginalized backgrounds were the most likely to say they felt their work was valued and least likely to name any reason that would cause them to consider quitting. View the data at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/rand-survey>.

## National Suicide Prevention Lifeline updates phone number

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which offers phone, texting and live chat support for people experiencing suicidal urges or any other mental health crisis, has instituted a new, easier-to-remember phone number: 988. The new number became effective July 16. A toolkit for publicizing the change is available from the Substance

**Aug. 8, 2022**

Volume 54 Issue 15

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### Route workshop information to:

- ☐ Administrators
- ☐ Principals
- ☐ HR directors
- ☐ Transportation supervisors

Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration at [www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/partner-toolkit](http://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/partner-toolkit).

### ODE launches page for families of students with disabilities

A new webpage created by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) offers timely information for parents of students with disabilities. It includes a “road map” for determining whether a child needs an individualized education program, a directory of helpful agencies and other resources for helping kids with special needs succeed. The page will be updated regularly and is available at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/special-ed-families>.

### Heat illness tip sheet available from OHSAA

As the dog days of summer wear on and students return to school campuses for pre-season

### Vermilion Local wins esports state title

Vermilion Local’s (Erie) esports team closed out its inaugural season with an impressive finish: a state title.

The Vermilion High School team finished ahead of more than 70 other teams to win the state contest.

“We purchased our computers a week before competition started for the spring season,” teacher and esports adviser **Adam Beckwith** told a local newspaper. “Our ‘Fortnite’ team has seven students, and we currently work with 35 students across the four games we play.”

To qualify for state, the team had to be one of the top two teams during the regular season and compete in the regional tournament. Members of the “Fortnite” team were underclassmen this year.

Source: Sandusky Register

activities such as sports and band practices, educators and staff should be aware of the health and safety risks associated with extreme heat. The Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) offers a handy chart to help identify, differentiate between and treat common heat-related

concerns, such as heat cramps, heatstroke and heat exhaustion. You can view the chart here: <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/heat-safety>.

### OSBA online

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

Learning sessions for the 2022 Capital Conference have been announced! The list of hundreds of options can be displayed by date or focus area. It also includes session descriptions and presenter details. Register for the conference and start choosing your must-see sessions today at <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org>.

### Correction

A report on page 1 of the July 25 Briefcase incorrectly stated that the Keep Kids Fed Act included provisions to allow students eligible for reduced-price meals to still eat for free at school. This provision was removed before the bill was finalized.



## 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 Maple Heights City

② Youngstown City

#### Deadline

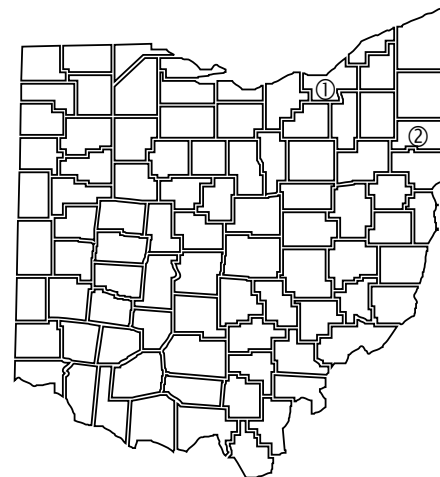
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TBD

#### Contact

OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000

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## Board changes

Ashtabula Area City Board of Education member **Christine Seuffert** announced her resignation effective July 12. ●●● Avon Lake City Board of Education member **Pam Ohradzansky** announced her resignation effective July 12. ●●● Fremont City Board of Education member **Violetta Rhea** announced her resignation effective July 25. ●●● Hudson City Board of Education member **David Zuro** announced his resignation effective July 18. ●●● Jefferson Local (Madison) appointed **Loriena Roberts** to the board effective immediately. She replaced **David Harper**, who resigned in July. ●●● Van Wert City Board of Education member Dr. **Rachel White** announced her resignation effective July 19. She moved out of the district. ●●● Western Reserve Local (Huron) appointed **Frank Edwards** to the board effective immediately. He replaced **Ken Fraelich**, who resigned July 27.

## Administrative changes

### Superintendents

Ashland City Superintendent Dr. **Douglas J. Marrah** announced his retirement effective Dec. 31. He has taken the executive director position at Tri-County Computer Services Association. ●●● Canal Winchester Local (Franklin) hired Assistant Superintendent **Kiya Hunt** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. She replaced **James Sotlar**, who resigned last month. ●●● Crestview Local (Columbiana) hired Interim Superintendent **Dan Hill** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. ●●● Delaware City hired Dr. **Misty M. Swanger** as assistant superintendent effective Aug. 1. She replaced **Craig Heath**, who took the superintendent position at Mentor EV. Swanger currently is assistant superintendent at Jonathan Alder Local (Madison). ●●● Graham Local (Champaign) hired Director of Learning **Chad Lensman** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He replaced **Bradley K. Silvus**, who took the superintendent position at Marietta City effective Aug. 1. Silvus replaced **Will Hampton**, who took the superintendent position at Alexander Local (Athens). ●●● Hancock

### Editor's note

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


County ESC hired **Jeff Young** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He replaced acting superintendent **Richard Van Mooy**. Young previously was superintendent at **Riverdale Local (Hardin)**. ●●● **Kenston Local (Geauga)** hired **Steven A. Sayers** as interim superintendent effective Aug. 1. He replaced **Nancy R. Santilli**, who resigned in July. Sayers currently is superintendent at **Amherst EV**. ●●● **Maumee City** Superintendent Dr. **Todd M. Cramer** announced his resignation effective July 29. ●●● **Oakwood City** Superintendent Dr. **Kyle Ramey** announced his retirement effective Dec. 31. ●●● **Reynoldsburg City** hired Dr. **J. Daniel Good** as interim superintendent effective Aug. 1. He replaced **Garilee S. Ogden**, who resigned. Good currently is associate superintendent at the **ESC of Central Ohio**. ●●● **Wayne Local (Warren)** hired Dr. **Samuel Ison** as assistant superintendent effective Aug. 1. Effective Sept. 6, Ison will be named interim superintendent. Ison is replacing Superintendent **Patrick Dubbs**, who has taken the director of college and career readiness position at **Goshen Local (Clermont)**. Ison previously was a high school principal at the district.

### **Treasurers**

**New Riegel Local (Seneca)** hired **Brad Radison** as treasurer effective Dec. 1. He will replace **Jane Schalk**, who is retiring effective Nov. 30. Radison previously was a senior accountant for Sutton Bank and fiscal officer for Seneca Township.

### **Sympathies**

Former **Cory-Rawson Local (Hancock)** Board of Education member **Richard J. Bucher** died July 20. He was 86. ●●● **Lake Local (Stark)** Board of Education member **David Vanderkaay** died July 16. He was 75. ●●● Former **Talawanda City** and **Butler Tech** Board of Education member **William R. Vollmer** died July 17. He was 81.

A graphic for OSBA's Town Hall. It features a central map of Ohio with a computer monitor icon on it, displaying the text "OSBA's Town Hall". Surrounding the map are ten circular icons, each containing a stylized person's head. These icons are connected by lines, forming a network. Various icons are also scattered around the network, including a padlock, a globe, a magnifying glass, a speech bubble, a megaphone, a smartphone, and an envelope.

**Back by popular demand!**

# **OSBA Town Halls**

**Thursday, Aug. 25 • 5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m. • Virtual • Cost: Free**

**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](http://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](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops)



## COFFEE CHAT

### 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](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops)



# Reasonable Suspicion Training



**Wednesday, Sept. 14 • 10 a.m.–noon • OSBA office, Columbus • Cost: \$60**

Reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol training is the responsibility of all employers who manage drivers with commercial driver's licenses to ensure their staff is trained. OSBA's training is tailored specifically to school district needs. Completion of this course meets the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration U.S. Department of Transportation requirements. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion. Best practice is that each district have at least two individuals on staff trained.

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

## Start employees on the path to success with an employee handbook



Many districts have employee handbooks, but they may be outdated or incomplete. OSBA can help your district create a concise and accurate handbook that is useful for employers and employees.

A handbook:

- provides clear notice of expectations to employees;
- is a handy reference for answering employees' questions and covering basic conditions of employment;
- supports growth and development;
- supports disciplinary actions when guidelines are not followed;
- is a reference tool for nonunion employees.

For more information, contact OSBA at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA.





# Human Resources Law in Schools

**Friday, Sept. 16 • 9 a.m.–3 p.m. • Virtual • Cost: \$105**

Navigating human resources issues is one of the most challenging aspects of managing school districts. The statutes, regulations and case law are always changing. Join OSBA and a slate of experienced practitioners in education and employment law to learn about some of the most complicated and important areas of human resources in schools.

## **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](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops).



# WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

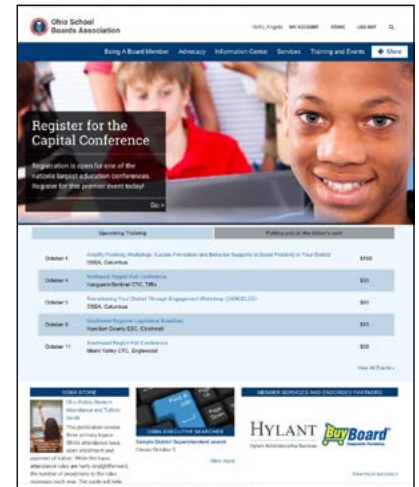
Register at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops)

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.



## 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!







Ohio School  
Boards Association



# Is a superintendent or treasurer search in your future?

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

— Pamela Freshour,  
Pleasant Local (Marion)

## OSBA's searches are:

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

## Need more information?

OSBA Search Services  
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[www.ohioschoolboards.org/osba-search-services](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/osba-search-services)



## INFORMATION

by Robert Sprague, Ohio treasurer of state

### STABLE accounts encourage empowerment, independence and stability

August is ABLE to Save Month, a national campaign aimed at increasing awareness of ABLE accounts and encouraging the use of these valuable investment options. As students across the Buckeye State head back to the classroom, there is no better time

to talk about the life-changing impact ABLE accounts can make for people living with disabilities.

With costs rising on nearly everything we buy and ongoing economic challenges nationwide, many Ohio families are feeling the squeeze when it comes to back-to-

school shopping and the expenses that come with a new school year. And, as educators know all too well, disability-related expenses can create additional financial strain on the families of students with disabilities.

However, in the Ohio Treasurer's office, we have a powerful tool to help alleviate some of those financial pressures, unlock each person's potential and make our communities and economy stronger. Through the STABLE Account program — Ohio's ABLE program — the Ohio Treasurer's office plays a key role in the effort to enhance financial independence and stability for people living with disabilities and their families.

The STABLE Account program was launched in 2016 following the passage of the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act. STABLE accounts are 529-like specialized savings and investment accounts for people with disabilities. Before STABLE accounts, people living with disabilities could only save \$2,000 before losing means-tested benefits such as Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). These old

*Continued on page 6*



## 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

## Brecksville students' butterfly project wins EPA youth award

Five students at **Brecksville-Broadview Heights City's** elementary school have won the President's Environmental Youth Award for their Monarch Butterfly Project, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 announced.

**Eliza Chen, Eloise Chen, Emmeline Chen, Mary Rose Geiser and Michael Geiser** developed and delivered eight presentations to more than 50 of their fellow students, as well as

their friends and families, about the importance of taking action to save the monarchs. The team also provided seeds, materials and instruction for audiences to build their own monarch habitats.

"The kids worked on this project when school was remote and the world felt bleak," **Bridget Geiser**, Monarch Butterfly Project co-sponsor, told a local newspaper. "This project inspired them to learn more about the environment and how they could make a

difference."

The President's Environmental Youth Award was established by the Environmental Education Act of 1970 and recognizes outstanding community-level environmental projects by kindergarten through 12th-grade youth that promote awareness of natural resources and encourage positive community involvement. This year, 47 students worked as a team or individually on 10 projects.

Source: [cleveland.com](http://cleveland.com)

*Information, continued from page 5*

rules discouraged saving and investing, and asset limits often kept individuals living in the financial margins.

Now, STABLE account holders can save up to \$16,000 each year without jeopardizing federal assistance. If the account holder is employed, he or she can save an additional \$12,880 each year. Earnings on STABLE accounts grow tax-free as long as funds are spent on qualified expenses, such as education, transportation, health care, assistive technology, personal support services and many others.

For parents, a STABLE account can be life-changing as it provides a secure and sound way to manage

funds and navigate various disability-related expenses. Additionally, for students preparing for graduation and entering the workforce, opening an account can help build the foundation for independence throughout adulthood. We've heard many stories of account holders buying cars, paying rent and even putting down payments on their first homes. This financial stability is powerful and can give students and their families the peace of mind that comes with planning for the future.

As the nation's first and premier ALE program, STABLE accounts now serve nearly 30,000 account

holders. In Ohio, we've seen how STABLE accounts improve financial stability, promote independence and improve quality of life. There's always more work to be done, but during ALE to Save Month, we have plenty to celebrate.

We encourage you to share this information with families in your districts that could benefit from a STABLE account. Signing up for an account is easy — it only takes about 20 minutes and can be done from the safety and comfort of home. For more information about STABLE accounts and to sign up, visit [www.stableaccount.com](http://www.stableaccount.com).

## August 2022

- 9 OSBA Southwest Region Executive Committee meeting..... Yellow Springs
- 10 Accelerating student success through board policy webinar..... Virtual
- 10 Student Achievement Liaison Meeting ..... 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
- 23 OSBA Central Region Legislative Open House ..... Plain City
- 25 Town Hall ..... Virtual
- 28 OSBA Northwest Region Executive Committee meeting..... Virtual
- 29 OSBA Northeast/Southeast Regions Open House..... Mineral City

## September 2022

- 9 Capital Conference housing webinar ..... Virtual
- 12 OSBA Southeast/Southwest Regions Open House..... Portsmouth
- 14 Reasonable Suspicion Training ..... Columbus
- 16 Human Resources Law in Schools..... Virtual
- 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
- 30 *Last day to file business advisory council plan with the Ohio Department of*

*Education — RC 3313.821.*

## October 2022

- 1 *Last day for board to adopt annual appropriation measure — RC 5705.38(B).*
- 5 Northeast Region Fall Conference ..... Wadsworth
- 6 Northwest Region Fall Conference ..... Tiffin
- 11 *Last day for voter registration for November election — RC 3503.01, 3503.19(A) (30 days prior to election).*
- 13 Southwest Region Fall Conference ..... Xenia
- 14 Administrative Professionals Workshop..... Columbus
- 15 *Last day for certification of licensed employees to State Board of Education — RC 3317.061.*
- 18 Coffee Chat: A public schools social media primer: Risks, rewards and recognizing fake news ..... Virtual
- 31 *End of first ADM reporting period — RC 3317.03(A).*