

BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



ODE unveils cybersecurity resources website for school districts

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Cyber Security Steering Committee has launched a webpage dedicated to supporting school districts and all members of the Ohio Education Computer Network (OECN) with cybersecurity resources. The site was developed by a number of statewide agencies and Ohio school districts. It is designed to improve the information security posture of all school districts in Ohio by providing information and resources to develop security programs addressing five major components: identify, protect, detect, respond and recover. The website also provides information from the Center for Internet Security, which includes real-time news, advisories and security tips to help understand and mitigate current threats. The site's address is <https://ohio-k12.help/cyber-security>.

OSBA offers information to help boards start the new year

School districts must set the date for their organizational meetings by Dec. 31. OSBA has resources to help conduct organizational meetings, run effective meetings and transition new members to the board. Those resources are: School board organizational meeting and oath of office fact sheet, <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/49649>; Five fast facts: Tips on running successful board meetings: <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/20576>; and Five fast facts: Helping new board members transition to your leadership team: <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/79391>.

Districts reminded to appoint legislative, student achievement liaisons

At the beginning of the year, school districts should appoint an OSBA legislative liaison and a student achievement liaison and inform OSBA of those appointments. Legislative liaisons' role is to share information from OSBA about state and federal education legislation with fellow board members; urge them to contact legislators on key legislative issues; and build relationships with legislators. Student achievement liaisons are a vital part of OSBA's Student Achievement Initiative. Their role is to lead discussions with district leaders on items published in Success, a monthly student achievement newsletter, which is distributed to all OSBA members. For questions about legislative liaisons, contact **Nicole Piscitani** at npiscitani@ohioschoolboards.org. Contact **Kim Miller-Smith** at kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org for details on student achievement liaisons. They also can be reached at (614) 540-4000.

Remember to celebrate your school board members in January

It's time to make plans to honor your district's hard-working school board members during School Board Recognition Month in January and let the public know about the important role that board members play in your community and schools. OSBA offers

Dec. 27, 2021

Volume 53 Issue 23

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Route workshop information to:

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

a School Board Recognition Month toolkit to help districts recognize their board members at www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm. A large poster and personalized certificates are being mailed to superintendents to use in recognition celebrations. You can further honor board members by submitting articles and high-resolution photos for OSBA to feature in the Journal magazine and on the association's website. Make submissions online at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/84140>. You also can send them to **Angela Penquite** at apenquite@ohioschoolboards.org or 8050 N. High St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235. The deadline is Feb. 9.

Children's hospital providing free mental health resources

The On Our Sleeves campaign, conducted by Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, is providing awareness and

resources for children's mental health. The goal of the project is to provide free mental health resources, developed by behavioral health experts, to 1 million classrooms across the country and every classroom in Ohio. The campaign allows educators to download a mental health guide

that includes mental wellness activities and tips for students from preschool through high school. It is posted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/47861>.

OSBA online

● www.ohioschoolboards.org
The OSBA Capital Conference App continues to be a valuable tool for conference attendees, with nearly 3,000 users this year. Although conference attendance was lower in 2021 compared to the last in-person event in 2019, the engagement with the app was higher in most areas. There was a 40% increase in users creating an account in the app; a 13% increase in attendees creating personalized schedules; a 35% increase in the number of attendees who used the app to check in to sessions to record their credits for certificates of attendance; and a 33% increase of those completing some of their certificate of attendance information through the app.

Students 'duct-tape' principal for playground fundraiser

The principal at **Licking Heights Local's (Licking)** Central Intermediate School found herself in a sticky situation.

Students had the rare opportunity to duct-tape **Angel King** to a gymnasium wall as part of a school fundraiser.

More than 90 students took part in the APEX Leadership Co. effort to pay for new playground equipment.

Each student got the opportunity to place a piece of tape across King's arms and legs.

King told a local newspaper that as fundraisers go, the duct-tape experience was better than a dunking machine, ice buckets or some of the other alternatives. While students enjoyed the event, some were heard apologizing before applying another strip of tape.

Source: The Newark Advocate



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: **Gary Motz**, senior editorial manager

Managing editor, layout and design: **Katy Farson**, communication design manager

Assistant editor: **Scott Gerfen**, communication manager

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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

Superintendent

District

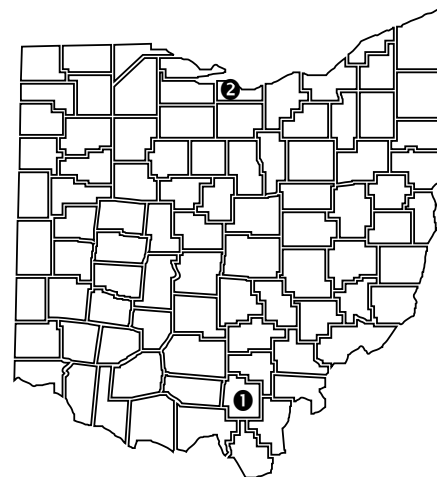
- ❶ Wellston City
- ❷ Sandusky City

Deadline

- Jan. 28
- Feb. 2

Contact

- OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000
- OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



National searches

Position

Superintendent

Location

Oswego, Kan.

Deadline

Jan. 4

Contact

Sue Givens, leadership field specialist,
Kansas Association of School Boards,
(800) 432-2471

Superintendent

Lindsborg, Kan.

Jan. 6

Gary Sechrist, leadership field specialist,
Kansas Association of School Boards,
(620) 680-0871

Superintendent

Carson City, Nev.

Jan. 7

Dr. Debb Oliver, executive director,
Nevada Association of School Boards,
doliver@nvasb.org

Board changes

Claymont City Board of Education member **Kenny Trimmer** announced his resignation effective Dec. 3. ●●● **Marysville** EV appointed **Jermaine Ferguson** to the board effective Dec. 6. He replaced **Amy Powers**, who resigned in November. ●●● **Toledo City** Board of Education member **Stephanie Eichenberg** announced her resignation effective Dec. 15. She is moving outside the district. ●●● **Yellow Springs** EV appointed **Luisa Bieri Rios** to the board effective immediately. She replaced **Sylvia Ellison**, who resigned in November.

Administrative changes

Superintendents

Fredericktown Local (Knox) Superintendent **Dr. Susan M. Hayward** announced her resignation effective Jan. 2. ●●●

Editor's note

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

Hudson City Superintendent **Phillip Herman** announced his resignation effective Feb. 18. ●●● Springfield Local (Summit) Superintendent **Chuck Sincere** announced his resignation effective Dec. 31.

Treasurers

Bristol Local (Trumbull) hired **Carla Click** as treasurer effective Jan. 1. She replaces **Mario Nero**, who took the treasurer position at South Range Local (Mahoning). Click currently is treasurer at Newton Falls EV. ●●● Fredericktown Local (Knox) Assistant Treasurer **Dawn Campbell** announced her resignation effective Dec. 21. ●●● Kettering City hired **Cary Furniss** as treasurer effective Jan. 1. He currently is treasurer at Kings Local (Warren). ●●● Yellow Springs EV hired **Jacob R. McGrath** as treasurer effective Jan. 1. He will replace **Tammy S. Emrick**, who is retiring effective Dec. 31. McGrath currently is treasurer at Greeneview Local (Greene).

Sympathies

Former College Corner Local (Preble) Board of Education member **Marilyn L. Johnston** died Nov. 27. She was 86. ●●● Former Columbus Grove Local (Putnam), Edison Local (Jefferson) and Mount Healthy City Superintendent and former College Corner Local (Preble) Treasurer **R. Dean Horton** died Nov. 24. He was 87. ●●● **Harold Lewis Hall**, a former Marlinton Local (Stark) superintendent and former assistant superintendent for Stark County schools, died Dec. 4. He was 95. ●●● Former Newark City Board of Education member **Eddie Mae Scott** died Nov. 16. She was 87. ●●● Former Strongsville City Board of Education member **George Grozan** died Nov. 18. He was 47. ●●● Former Vanlue Local (Hancock) Treasurer **Marcella Dawn Nye** died Dec. 6. She was 92. ●●● **Omar Thomas "Tom" Dickson**, a former superintendent at Westerville City and former OSBA director of board development and policy services, died Nov. 30. He was 89.

Looking for customized solutions for your transportation challenges?



OSBA Transportation Consulting Services can guide you to success

From concept to delivery, OSBA has the expertise, resources, experience and creativity to analyze and determine best practices to enhance transportation safety and efficiency in your district.

Call OSBA Transportation Services today at (800) 589-OSBA.



Ohio School Boards
Association

www.ohioschoolboards.org



Board Member 101: A comprehensive professional development experience for the first year of office

Newly elected to your district's school board? Attend Board Member 101, a weekend academy for new board members to network with others and learn some of the critical basics to get your first term off to the best possible start.

As you've taken the first steps to becoming one of your school district's key leaders as a member of its board of education, you understand the responsibility and possibility that awaits. Successful school board leadership — now more than ever — demands members be willing and able to work collaboratively, support district policy, govern ethically and professionally, and set the standard for other school and civic groups within the community.

Experienced OSBA staff have designed a weekend program full of the key information necessary to give new board members the confidence and tools to flatten the learning curve. Board Member 101 is designed to allow new board members to ask questions, network with others and discover the many resources OSBA offers to district members.

Details

These academies are offered over two weekends in four locations: **Jan. 8-9** at the AC Hotel Cincinnati Liberty Center in Liberty Township, or the Hilton Garden Inn Toledo Perrysburg in Perrysburg; and **Jan. 22-23** at the Renaissance Columbus Westerville/Polaris in Westerville, or the Holiday Inn Cleveland South in Independence.

Cost

\$285, which includes breakfast and lunch each day as well as workshop materials.

Agenda

Saturday

- 8:15 a.m. Registration, breakfast and networking
- 9 a.m. Welcome, overview and housekeeping
- 9:15 a.m. Getting to know your region
- 9:45 a.m. So now I'm a board member: What's my role?
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. Building your governance and leadership skills
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch and networking break
- 12:30 p.m. Legal resources, issues and other hot topics
- 2 p.m. Break
- 2:15 p.m. Legal resources, issues and other hot topics, continued
- 4 p.m. Adjourn

Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast and networking
- 9 a.m. Governing through policy: A framework for success
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. Member engagement: What it is and why it matters
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch and networking break
- 12:15 p.m. Oops! He did it again
- 12:45 p.m. Why legislation and advocacy are so important
- 1:30 p.m. Break
- 1:45 p.m. School finance
- 2:45 p.m. The road from here: Goal achievement for the board of education
- 3:15 p.m. Questions and adjournment

To register

Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops



SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING COFFEE CHATS

Online payment systems that drive parent adoptions

Tuesday, Jan. 25 • 8:30 a.m.–9 a.m. • Virtual • Free

PaySchools Central is a K-12 payment system that consolidates the collection and management of all district payments within one platform. This combines student fees; meal accounts, including free and reduced meal applications; and staff payments into a single, easy-to-use system. One system simplifies the payment process, increases parent adoption and reduces cash and check payments at schools.

Join us to learn more.

Key takeaways:

- Learn how to mitigate financial loss by reducing cash and check payments.
- Discuss how using one system for all payments reduces stress and increases adoption for the district.
- Hear how you can reduce exposure with online payments.

Speakers: **Bob Reolfi**, senior account executive, PaySchools

District finances, sustainability & ROI

Tuesday, Feb. 15 • 8:30 a.m.–9 a.m. • Virtual • Free

The new year is here, so as a board member, what key financial information should you consider? Join the Forecast5 Analytics team as it discusses key indicators of district financial stability and if your community is getting a return on its investment.

Key takeaways:

- Cover what indicators should be considered regarding fiscal solvency.
- Discuss how and where district money is being spent.
- Learn how to track and see how students are performing.

Speakers: **Ryan Ghizzoni**, director, Ohio analytics; and **Ernie Strawser**, senior advisor, analytics, Forecast5 Analytics

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

OSBA Master of Transportation Administration (MTA) Program

Don't miss the 2021-22 MTA program. This series of workshops will help those involved in student transportation better understand and perform day-to-day operations.

These half-day workshops — offered from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — include a working lunch and time for questions. Each class is \$100, or you can purchase an MTA subscription for the workshop series. Contact **Doug Palmer**, OSBA transportation consultant, for subscription information. All workshops will be offered virtually and in-person at the OSBA office, 8050 N. High St., Columbus, 43235. Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/transportation-training-programs to learn about the MTA certification program.



Workshop dates and descriptions

Feb. 2 — Federal regulations, guidance and agencies

School transportation is not only governed by local rules but also is subject to a significant number of federal rules and regulations. We will look at the external impacts on transportation and consider the federal alphabet soup: including FMCSA, NHTSA, NTSB, TSB and ODI. Part of this session will look at various federal studies that continue to be landmarks in the student transportation industry.

March 2 — Laws, rules and policy — what, how and why

What is the difference between revised code, administrative code and department policy? Are they all mandates that must be followed, or are they just best practice that should be followed? What happens when they conflict? We will look at the technical aspects of various regulatory controls and the process that is invoked in moving an idea for change into policy, rule or revised code. Is this “government 101”? Perhaps, but it is also important for you to understand in the event you want to help influence the future.

April 6 — Hot topics — safety, trends and statistics

This final session of the year will look at hot topics in the school transportation industry. As part of that review, we will look at the never-ending discussion on passenger restraints, review crash studies completed by the National Transportation Safety Board, look at Ohio school bus accident statistics and leave the door open for attendees to bring up topics that are important in their districts. While we explore these hot topics, an underlying focus is also on how to identify the learning points in each of these areas and to share them with the staff that delivers our front-line transportation services.

Register by contacting **Doug Palmer** at (614) 635-0820, (800) 589-OSBA or mta@ohioschoolboards.org. You also can purchase a subscription plan for all the workshops in this series; contact Palmer for more information.



WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

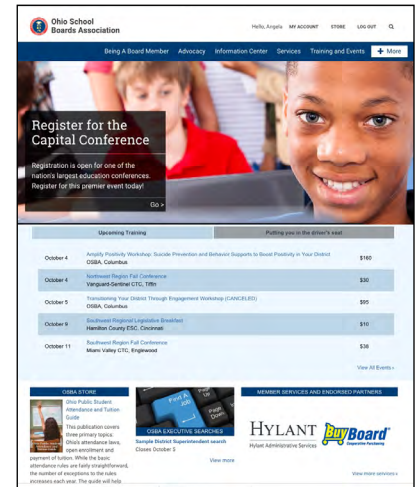
Register at www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops

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.



UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Valuing Evaluations

Thursday, Feb. 24 • 6 p.m.–8 p.m. • OSBA office, Columbus • Cost: \$60

This workshop, appropriate for board members and administrators, will discuss the legal requirements associated with superintendent and treasurer evaluations as well as strategies and best practices to align and prioritize performance objectives to district goals. You'll also learn the value and benefits of board self-evaluation, which is aligned with stated goals and objectives.

Agenda

6 p.m. Welcome

6:05 p.m. Legal and policy issues

Ralph H. Lusher III, staff attorney, OSBA

6:30 p.m. Benefits of conducting evaluations; the output's only as good as the input; and evaluating the evaluation

*Teri Morgan, senior deputy director of board and management services; and
Cheryl W. Ryan, director of board and management services, OSBA*

To register, visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops



Board Member 201

Mastering your board leadership skills

A deeper dive for veteran board members and board officers

Based on your board experience to date, especially over the past few years, you understand that there's never a time in which every challenge has been vanquished and every problem solved. There is too much to know and too much at stake to not have access to the latest information, laws and policies. Attend Board Member 201 and engage with other board members and experts on some of the deeper learning you need as you continue leading your district.

Content for this workshop will cover current challenges for board members, new developments in legislation and policy, and strategies to build or maintain strong partnerships with fellow board members and administrators. Legal, legislative and policy experts will answer your questions and provide the tools and knowledge you need to advance achievement in your district.

Details

This workshop is offered over two weekends at four locations:

Feb. 12 at the Renaissance Toledo Downtown in Toledo or the Hilton Garden Inn Dayton South in Miamisburg

March 5 at the Cleveland Marriott East in Warrensville Heights or the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center in Lewis Center

Cost

\$195, which includes breakfast and lunch, workshop materials and the "Board Officers' Guidebook."

To register

Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Will Schwartz, deputy director of legislative services

Bill would ban districts from initiating valuation challenges

As of this writing, House Bill (HB) 126, sponsored by Rep. **Derek Merrin** (R-Monclova), was one vote away from reaching the desk of Gov. **Mike DeWine**. After two failed efforts, Merrin, who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, may soon be able to claim victory in curtailing school districts' and other local governments' ability to ensure accurate property values in their communities. This time, however, the credit appears to be due Senate President **Matt Huffman** (R-Lima), who led the charge to further restrict the process, more than any proposal ever offered by Merrin.

Under HB 126, school districts and other local governments would be prohibited from filing initial complaints to challenge a property's valuation. Initial complaints could only be filed by a property owner on property they own. The bill also prohibits

complaints from being filed to challenge:

- the tax classification for property as residential/agricultural or commercial/industrial for House Bill 920 tax reduction purposes;
- the tax classification for property as agricultural property eligible for current agricultural use valuation (CAUV);
- the tax classification for property as nonbusiness property eligible for the state's 10% property tax rollback.

Complaints by property owners and local governments are heard before a county board of revision, which is chaired by the county auditor, county treasurer and a county commissioner.

According to the nonpartisan Legislative Service Commission (LSC), the effect of HB 126 "will tend to shift tax payment obligations to taxpayers other than those whose taxes could go up as a

result of initial complaints by school districts and other nonowners under current law." LSC adds that HB 126 will "tend to result in lower taxable values and tax revenues" for school districts and local governments.

School districts' ability to file counter-complaints will be curtailed under the bill as well. Districts will only be allowed to file counter-complaints that were initially filed by a property owner if all of the following conditions are met:

- the board of education must first adopt a resolution approving the action;
- the resolution must include evidence supporting a higher valuation if the counter-complaint alleges that the property's value should be higher than the county auditor's valuation;
- the board of education must adopt a single resolution for each

Continued on page 7



Customized workshops
Ohio School Boards Association

Could your board benefit from the insight and direction of a governance expert?

OSBA provides one-on-one consulting workshops that can help your team work through common governance issues, such as:

- Setting vision-focused goals and priorities
- Strengthening board and superintendent relations during periods of leadership transition
- Developing effective deliberation, meetings and communication
- Superintendent evaluation and board self-evaluation

Call OSBA at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA to get started.



PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

Pioneer CTC students refurbish jungle gym for local park

Students at **Pioneer Career & Technology Center (CTC)** in Shelby have helped save a piece of nostalgia at a local park.

A jungle gym shaped like a steam locomotive had entertained children for years in Crestline's Kelly Park, but time had produced rust and ruin, including the rotted wooden seat of the train.

Welding students spent hours giving the train new life and making it a focal point of the park.

"It was a good project,"

instructor **Kip Stevens** told a local newspaper. "We like to have community service projects."

The students sanded the train down, then welded the troubled areas. They quickly learned the smokestack was too rusted to salvage, so they put in an order to have a new one fabricated.

Finally, students primed the train and painted it. The final step was to get a set of decals to add to the train before it is taken back to Crestline.

Pioneer students work on freelance welding projects every school year. Without them, they would have no way of getting real-world experience in their future trade, according to Stevens.

Recently, they refabricated a football sled, cutting it apart and then welding it back together. Students will present the completed jungle gym to Crestline officials in May with a ceremony and ribbon-cutting.

Source: Mansfield News Journal

Legislative Report, continued from page 6

counter-complaint, with a separate vote occurring on each such resolution;

- the board of education must certify each resolution to the county board of revision.

LSC estimates that this provision will "tend to increase costs of school boards for such filings."

The bill also prohibits boards of education from appealing a decision of a county board of revision if it decides against the school board's counter-complaint. Ordinarily, such an appeal would be filed with the Ohio Board of Tax Appeals.

The bill also prohibits districts from entering into a private

payment agreement with an individual who has filed a property tax complaint. Such an agreement is one in which the property owner agrees to make one or more payments to the district in exchange for the district dismissing a counter-complaint, refraining from filing a counter-complaint or settling a claim. Finally, the bill would apply to any complaint or counter-complaint filed for tax year 2022 or thereafter.

HB 126 received five hearings in the Senate Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Sen. **Louis W. Blessing III** (R-Colerain Township). Instead of producing a previously approved compromise

proposal by the Senate from the last legislative session — House Bill 75 of the 133rd General Assembly — the committee proposed revising the bill to outright prohibit all complaints and counter-complaints. After consideration, the committee maintained its desire to prohibit initial complaints by local governments and allow counter-complaints with new guardrails.

HB 126 awaits a concurrence vote in the Ohio House of Representatives. Should that occur, the bill will advance to DeWine for his signature.

Editor's note: Information in this article was current as of Dec. 16, 2021.

December 2021

- 31 Last day for treasurer to canvass the board to establish a date for the organizational meeting — RC 3313.14.

2022

January 2022

- 8-9 Board Member
101 Liberty Township and Perrysburg
- 11 OSBA Central Region Executive Committee meeting..... Virtual
- 15 Deadline for boards of education of city, exempted village and local school districts to meet and organize — RC 3313.14; last day for boards of education of city, exempted village, vocational and local school districts to adopt tax budgets for the coming school fiscal year — RC 5705.28(A)(1).
- 20 Last day for boards of education to submit fiscal tax-year budget to county auditor — RC 5705.30.
- 22-23 Board Member
101Westerville and Independence
- 24 Last day to submit certification for income tax levy to Ohio Department of Taxation for May primary election — RC 5748.02(A) (100 days prior to election).
- 25 Coffee Chat: Online payment systems that drive parent adoptions..... Virtual
- 28 Last day to submit May emergency, current operating expenses or conversion levy to

county auditor for May election — RC 5705.194, 5705.195, 5705.213, 5705.219(C) (95 days prior to election).

- 31 Deadline for educational service center (ESC) governing boards and joint vocational school districts (JVSD) boards of education to meet and organize — RC 3313.14; deadline for secondary schools to provide information about College Credit Plus to all students enrolled in grades six through 11 — RC 3365.04(A); annual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates (by 4 p.m.) detailing contributions and expenditures from the last day reflected in the previous report through Dec. 31, 2021 — RC 3517.10(A)(3).

February 2022

- 2 OSBA Master of Transportation Administration: Federal regulations, guidance and agencies.....Columbus or Virtual
- 2 OSBA Northeast Region Executive Committee meeting..... Virtual
- 2 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 May election — RC 133.18(D); last day for county auditor to certify school district bond levy terms for May election — RC 133.18(C); last day to

submit continuing replacement, permanent improvement or operating levy for May 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 May election to board of elections — RC 5748.02(C), 5705.219(G); last day to submit emergency levy for May election to board of elections — RC 5705.195; last day to submit phased-in levy or current operating expenses levy for May election to board of elections — RC 5705.251(A) (90 days prior to election).

- 5 OSBA Northwest Region Executive Committee meeting..... Virtual
- 12 Board Member 201: A deeper dive Toledo and Miamisburg
- 13 OSBA Southeast Region Executive Committee meeting..... Logan
- 24 Valuing Evaluations..... Columbus
- 25 School Finance
101Columbus and Virtual

March 2022

- 1 Last day to take action and deliver written notice of nonrenewal of superintendent's contract — RC 3319.01; last day to take action on and deliver written notice of nonrenewal of treasurer's contract — RC 3313.22;