

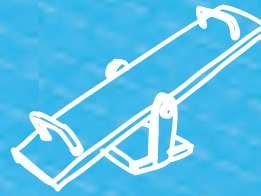
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— photo by Scott Gerfen

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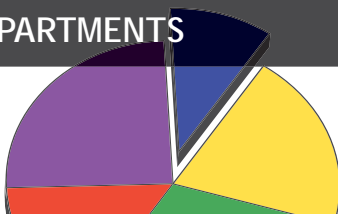
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OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.

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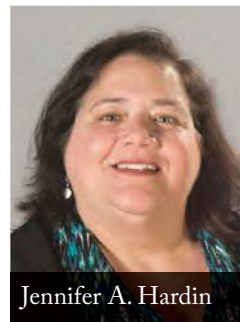
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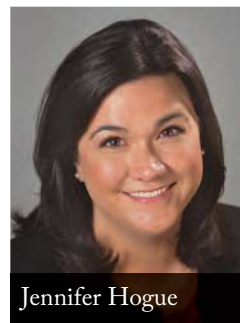
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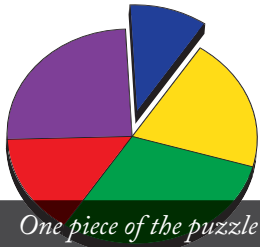


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Report cards tell only part of schools' stories

Richard Lewis, CAE, executive director

I recently read a thought-provoking story that I feel has relevance in the wake of the recent release of the state report cards. It goes like this:

One day, a professor entered his classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. He handed out the exams with the text facing down, as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked the students to turn over the papers.

To everyone's surprise, there were no questions — just a blue dot in the center of the paper. Seeing the looks on everyone's faces, the professor said, "I want you to write about what you see there." The students, confused, got started on the inexplicable task.

At the end of the class, he took all the exams and started reading them aloud in front of the students. All of them, without exception, defined the blue dot, trying to explain its position in the center of the sheet.

After all had been read, the classroom silent, the professor started to explain: "I'm not going to grade you on this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the blue dot — and the same thing happens in our lives."

We too often focus only on the blue dot. The dots are very small when compared to everything else, but they are the ones that pollute our minds. To many Ohioans, last month unveiled a new dot — the Ohio School Report Cards.

When the state released the 2015-16 report cards, scores were lower than in past years, even though Ohio schools are improving every day. This caused school districts great concern. However, this

was not unexpected since the state had moved to new, higher learning standards.

The OSBA Legislative Platform, adopted by members, supports accountability. And OSBA members welcome the opportunity to learn how students are progressing and where improvement is needed. At the same time, there are valid concerns about the past school year being the third in a row with varying standards and different tests. School boards, their management teams, teachers and support staff need adequate time to properly prepare for such an evolution.

The Ohio Standard Coalition, a team of education, business and community leaders who support Ohio's Learning Standards, agrees. "These scores are not a surprise. We have raised expectations and it will take some time for students and educators to adjust," the coalition said in a statement.

Unfortunately, the report cards are like the dot. They are just one of several ways communities can gauge the success of their schools and districts. OSBA President **Eric K. Germann**, **Lincolnview Local (Van Wert)** and **Vantage Career Center**, frames it well.

"To truly gauge progress, it's important to take a holistic look at student and district achievement," Germann said. "The report card is just one component. Many other factors, including job, college and military placement; scholarships awarded; the arts; and community service must be part of the overall picture of student success."

State Superintendent of Public

Instruction **Paolo DeMaria** echoed those thoughts in his message following the report cards' release. Among DeMaria's points were:

- There are many changes on this year's report card, changes that reflect the increased expectations Ohio has for its students and schools. So we must keep this year's results in perspective.
- It is important to note that the Achievement measures reflect, for the first time, the alignment of our achievement expectations for schools with college and career-ready expectations. This is a significant rise in expectations.
- Keep in mind that the Prepared for Success measure is based on students who graduated in previous years. A lot has changed in the last few years as schools and districts have moved to new, more rigorous graduation requirements and students have taken advantage of new opportunities such as College Credit Plus.
- This year's results demonstrate that good things are happening in many of our schools and districts.
- We also should keep in mind that the report card is just one measure of a school or district's performance. We should not lose sight of other measures that have value, including student participation in extracurricular activities, art courses and music programs.

Therein lies the key for policymakers, education teams and communities across the state. While the dot is front and center, there is so much more surrounding it. It's important to recognize and build upon that. ■



Understanding fair use

Blended learning carries copyright challenges

Jennifer A. Hardin, deputy director of legal services

In an Ohio classroom, Madison, an eighth-grader, was studying the Civil War. She decided to produce a video on the factors that led to Southern secession. An interactive lesson plan created by her teacher piqued her interest. The lesson plan included articles and YouTube videos on the topic and linked to other materials.

Madison started by searching the internet for photos. She and her parents visited the Ohio History Connection Archives/Library looking for original source documents. She searched music files from the Library of Congress to find performances of period music. She even found an old PBS documentary, “The Civil War,” in the school’s library.

Using the classroom’s computer and editing software, Madison created a 10-minute video over the course of several weeks. Her presentation incorporated bits of her teacher’s lesson plan; photos; quotes from articles, books and letters; music; YouTube video clips; “The Civil War”; and other programs.

Madison’s teacher gave her a well-deserved A on the project and nominated her for a statewide history scholarship award. The award sponsor sent copies of Madison’s video to committee members, who selected her as the winner. At the awards banquet, Madison’s video was shown to everyone in attendance.

Question: How many copyright issues does this scenario present? Answer: I don’t know. A lot. It’s a lot, isn’t it?

Blended learning defined

Madison’s video project is an excellent example of blended learning, which uses

a combination of traditional classroom learning and innovative technology and methods. A good definition of blended learning from the nonprofit educational association The Learning Accelerator is “the strategic integration of in-person learning with technology to enable real-time data use, personalized instruction and mastery-based progression.”

Blended learning allows each student to set his or her learning pace through the use of online learning, while retaining teacher/student interaction. Districts that use blended learning must be aware of copyright issues that can arise in blended classrooms.

Copyright is a creator’s right to control the copying of his or her work. There are myriad copyright issues that can occur with media use in a blended classroom, but three main areas of concern are:

- copyrights on materials created by others that a teacher would like to use for instructional purposes in the classroom;
- copyrights on materials created by a teacher for the classroom;
- copyrights on materials created by a student as part of the learning process.

All three of these copyright concerns are wound together and overlap. This article will not attempt to answer all of the questions raised but merely offer a taste of the issues.

Materials used in the classroom

In the traditional classroom, students use textbooks, which are copyrighted materials purchased by the school district or students. Because the materials have been purchased, student use is

permissible under the first sale doctrine. This doctrine allows any person who purchases a copyrighted book to lend, sell or transfer ownership of the work.

But what about using other forms of media? The copyright law applies to published articles, whether in tangible publications, such as magazines or journals, or online. It also applies to audiovisual works, which would include documentaries and YouTube videos.

Does a teacher create issues under the copyright law by distributing copies of articles and videos to students? Generally, the copyright law would limit one person’s use of another person’s creations. However, there are two permissible ways teachers can use copyrighted materials for educational purposes.

First, copyright law contains a defense to charges of copyright infringement: fair use. The law provides that fair use of copyrighted work for teaching, including multiple copies for classroom use, is not copyright infringement. The law lays out four factors that must be considered to determine fair use:

- the purpose and character of the use, including whether for commercial or nonprofit educational purposes;
- the nature of the copyrighted work;
- the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the whole;
- the effect of the use on the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

Fair use requires a balancing of all four factors. None of the four, exclusive of the others, controls the application of the exception. This is the exception

teachers have relied upon for years to provide photocopies of articles, short stories and poems for classroom use. A teacher also may be able to make an argument for fair use in using video clips in online instruction because they are for a nonprofit educational purpose; the teacher did not use the whole of any video; and the limited use does not affect the original copyright holders' ability to sell the works.



Copyright issues can come into play when students and teachers use information from varied sources.

Fair use would not apply if a teacher made multiple copies of a documentary and provided copies to students, even if the students' use of the documentary is educational. However, the teacher could show the documentary to students in the classroom under the copyright law, which also allows for displays and performances of copyrighted materials

in face-to-face teaching.

Blended learning uses online education, rather than face-to-face teaching, as its cornerstone. This is where a newer provision, the Technology, Education and Copyright Harmonization (TEACH) Act, applies. In 2002, Congress enacted the TEACH Act in response to concerns that arose from the use of copyrighted works in distance learning. To use copyrighted materials under the TEACH Act, teachers must comply with a long list of requirements.

The TEACH Act only applies to uses of copyrighted materials by a "government body or accredited nonprofit educational institution." Ohio school districts would qualify under this requirement. A school must:

- have a policy regarding copyright;
- provide informational materials about copyright compliance to faculty, students and relevant staff members;
- provide notice to students that the materials they are using are subject to copyright protection.

The TEACH Act requires that any use of copyrighted materials for distance learning include technological controls on the materials. The institution must be sure that all materials have controls that:

- limit access to the materials to students actually enrolled in the class (Madison's teacher could comply with this requirement by password protecting her materials and giving the password only to students in her class.);
- control retention and further dissemination of the works by students.

To use this exception, teachers should work with information technology specialists at their schools to make certain uses of copyrighted materials in classrooms meet these requirements. When a teacher uses copyrighted materials in the classroom, the use must be a fair use, comply with the TEACH Act or fall within some other exception to the copyright law. For example, before using copyrighted materials, a teacher can contact the current copyright holder and ask for permission.

Materials created by the teacher

In addition to materials a teacher uses in learning plans he or she created, the copyright law applies to the learning plans themselves. Materials created for classroom use are eligible for copyright protection if they are original and fixed in a tangible medium. In our example, the lesson plan that Madison's teacher created is protected by copyright. The



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copyright holder has a right to control its use.

But does Madison's teacher own the copyright? A work that is prepared by an employee within the scope of his or her employment falls within the definition of a "work made for hire." Madison's teacher is employed by a school district. Among her job duties is creating lesson plans. Then the lesson plan may be considered a work made for hire. If so, the district that employs the teacher owns the copyright rather than the teacher.

Before the copyright law was amended in 1976, there was a common law theory of a "teacher exception" to the law regarding a work made for hire. Under the teacher exception, work produced by teachers as part of their employment would not be considered a work made for hire. However, after the enactment of the Copyright Act of 1976, some courts have concluded that the teacher exception, if it ever existed, no longer does.

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In the case of Madison's teacher, it is possible that the district owns the copyright to her lesson plan. This means if Madison's teacher wants to copy the lesson plan and give it to other teachers, she must have permission from the district. And if she were to make money from selling the lesson plan, the district would have a right to the earnings and a claim against the teacher for violating the copyright law.

Materials created by a student

Finally, there is Madison's video, which raises two issues: Madison's use of copyrighted materials in the video and ownership of the video's copyright.

Regarding the first issue, the same restrictions and exceptions already discussed in this article apply. For example, Madison might be able to claim that her uses fall within fair use. In 1994, the U.S. Supreme Court concluded that when a person uses another's copyrighted work in a transformative way, it may be considered fair use. In *Campbell v. Acuff-Rose Music Inc.*, 510 U.S. 569, 570 (1994), the court wrote, "The enquiry focuses on ... whether and to what extent (the new work) is 'transformative,' altering the original with new expression, meaning or message."

In response to the second question, Madison's video is fixed in a tangible medium. If it is considered an original work, there is a copyright on the video. It is likely Madison owns the copyright even though she used the district's equipment and software to create the video. Unlike her teacher, Madison is not an employee of the district. For this reason, the video would not be considered a work made for hire, and the district would likely have no claim to the copyright.

Madison doesn't need to register her copyright for it to exist. According to the U.S. Copyright Office, a person's copyright "exists from the moment the work is created." However, if Madison wants to bring a lawsuit for infringement of her work, the work

must be registered.

Speaking of infringement, Madison may have an infringement claim against the awards organization because it copied her video and sent it to all of the competition judges, and the organization showed her video to everyone attending the awards banquet. As the copyright holder, Madison retains the exclusive right to copy and show the video.

There is good news, though, for anyone worried Madison might be inclined to sue the organization. She signed a form granting permission for these uses when her video was submitted for the award. According to the U.S. Copyright Office, "securing permission is the most certain way to ensure an intended use is not an infringement of the copyright owner's rights."

What seems simple is anything but

The final note in this article is a cautionary one. Copyright seems like a straightforward concept — if you create something original, you have the right to control its use. The application of the law and its exceptions, however, are extremely complicated.

Fair use has a four-part test whose application varies depending on the situation. The TEACH Act requires technological safeguards for any institution claiming its protection. Even what seems to be the simplest part of the analysis, determining who owns the copyright, may not be simple at all.

School districts and teachers are advised to consult with legal counsel knowledgeable about copyright law to make sure their uses of copyrighted materials are permissible and materials produced by school employees are protected. ■

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Challenges and solutions

The many perspectives of school transportation

Pete Japikse, deputy director of management services

We have just survived another start to the school year, and any transportation professional will tell you it's definitely *not* his or her favorite time of the year. There are routing changes, last-minute student enrollments, address changes, driver staffing shortages, safety training requirements and phone calls with special requests that result in long days with little relief.

With the hope of having a smooth start to the school year, many transportation administrators spend much of the summer planning routes and logistics. Then it all collapses when data issues or other changes are not communicated soon enough to be correctly managed.

Transportation staff members are not the only ones with frustrations to start the school year. Other school administrators have challenges that sometimes involve transportation. Parents also have needs and wants as they realize their child's transportation schedule is not to their liking.

Both groups have very different perspectives about how a transportation department should operate.

School administrators' concerns include:

- Building principals focus on bus arrival times at *their* buildings and want minimal disruption due to late or early buses.
- Principals also are concerned with discipline issues, especially when they hear complaints from parents.
- Central office administrators want to focus on issues that do not involve transportation and prefer that bus concerns and calls be managed successfully before

reaching their office.

- Occasionally, school bell times need to be adjusted. This may conflict with start times at other schools, including nonpublic and community schools that the district's vehicles also serve.
- School administrators are focused on keeping parents satisfied with services and want to avoid having complaints aired at public school board meetings.

Transportation staff and parents have very different perspectives about how a transportation department should operate.

As for parents, they:

- want the bus route to accommodate their child's needs as well as the needs of their family, including working hours and day care;
- consider transportation to be a service they have paid for and are entitled to;
- value school transportation because it is convenient and want to maximize that convenience through bus stop location and pickup and drop-off times;
- have concerns about safety on the bus after they see news reports about fights, bullying, crashes and driver issues.

Even with all of the different

perspectives and demands on school transportation, the service provided is a success story. Over 800,000 Ohio children ride to and from school every day. This requires more than 15,000 buses travelling over 1 million miles per day to pick up children at designated bus stops and deliver them safely to school.

In his book, "Unreported Miracles: What You Probably Do Not Know About Your Child's School Bus," Dr. **Cal LeMon** catalogues the many behind-the-scenes activities and challenges school transportation departments successfully deal with. They are remarkable and, indeed, represent a significant number of unreported miracles.

They include:

- The school bus is the safest form of student transportation. Students on a school bus are 12 to 25 times safer than when riding in a passenger car.
- School transportation is cost-effective. Even with today's lower fuel prices, transporting a child on a school bus costs a fraction of the cost of transporting a student by car.
- Ohio's school transportation operation is highly regulated. It is overseen by local administrators and the state departments of education and public safety and covered by an exhaustive set of state rules and regulations.
- Ohio school bus drivers are thoroughly vetted by their employers. They must meet strict standards related to driving records; criminal background checks; drug and alcohol testing; physicals; driving and student management skills; and ongoing in-service training.

- Ohio school transportation meets the needs of students attending traditional public schools, nonpublic schools, charter schools, vocational schools and many special education programs.

When we evaluate successes in light of the stressors identified earlier, clearly there is a lack of common perspective. Parents do not know about the many different locations and times for each bus schedule or the myriad rules and regulations that govern the operation. Parent safety concerns are based on isolated events reported in the media or conjecture by individuals who post on social media.

School building administrators focus on getting buses to *their* buildings five minutes earlier or later without considering those same buses also have routes serving other schools. A change at one building always has a ripple effect that impacts others.

With different viewpoints, problems and concerns will arise. Using the rules of fair fighting to resolve conflict when handling those issues will lead to a common understanding. Those rules advise:

- When confronted with a difficult request or problem, identify the problem. The problem is *not* the person making the request.
- Focus on the problem and options to resolve it, if possible.
- Listen to the other person with an open mind, and remember they may not have all the same information you do.
- Respect the other person, and remember that what you say to them should not be something you would not want to hear yourself.
- Identify what you can do and take ownership for following through on that action.

Not all requests can be met, but there likely is a way to address concerns.

The successful school transportation administrator always is resourceful and willing to adjust, when possible, without compromising safety.

Increasing the visibility of unreported miracles in student transportation is another solution. If we take every opportunity to build a common understanding of what transportation accomplishes each day, we can hope those outside of the bus garage will learn more about the limitations.

National School Bus Safety Week, Oct. 17-21, provides such an opportunity to raise awareness of transportation successes and invite parents, administrators, students and the public to partner in an effective transportation operation. The Ohio Association for Pupil Transportation offers resources and activity guides to help schools increase awareness of the importance of school transportation and bus safety. See <http://oapt.org/nsbsw> for details. ■

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Continuing your education

Learning paramount to school board success

Teri Morgan, deputy director of school board services

Professional development is key for school board members, whether they are newbies or seasoned veterans. However, just “getting the business done” or taking care of the latest perceived challenge usually takes priority. Board members then tend to put their own personal and professional development on the back burner.

In his book, “Five Habits of High-Impact School Boards,” **Doug Eadie** writes, “Board organizational development has traditionally not been a high priority in any sector. The price of failing to develop your board as a governing organization can be quite high, in terms of both inadequate board leadership and of board member dissatisfaction and frustration.”

OSBA knows it’s a proven fact that good governance teams never fail to improve student learning and achievement. The

association is dedicated to helping your board develop to its full potential. That dedication is reflected in our mission: “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.”

Being a board member isn’t easy, and being a great board member is even less so. Each board member’s voice is important as the full board works to develop a solid team to make decisions by consensus.

OSBA’s Division of School Board Services offers workshops and consulting services that truly focus on a board’s well-being and growth, both as a unit and individually. OSBA also offers information on the legal issues facing boards today and legislative advocacy.

And, it provides training and assistance on policy, transportation, negotiations and social media. Many of these services are included with your district’s membership and just a phone call away.

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Over the years, board members have asked for professional development programs closer to home. One of OSBA’s initiatives in this area, with



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endorsement from the Ohio Educational Service Center Association (OESCA), is the OSBA ESC Leadership Academy.

The academy has been engaging many ESCs and their member district leadership teams in dynamic and ongoing networking and learning experiences that dive deeper into some of education's most important topics. Presenters are expert OSBA consultants as well as speakers from partner organizations and school districts.

ESC Leadership Academy participants — board members and administrators — have indicated in surveys that they appreciate the chance to develop new skills in their own neighborhoods. Ask your ESC superintendent if there's an academy in your area. If not, encourage your ESC to participate.

Another important and unique OSBA service is the Achiever, a measurement tool used to define a person's true nature

or core behavior in a variety of leadership and work performance situations.

Each board member's voice is important as the full board works to develop a solid team to make decisions by consensus.

Since 2013, OSBA has used the Achiever as part of its executive search service to provide boards an additional perspective on potential candidates. Of the 37 superintendent and treasurer candidates evaluated by the Achiever, all of them remain on the job. Additionally, the Achiever has produced wonderful results as an administrator performance development tool.

Why does it work? According to developer **Fred Crum**, this program is all about "successful performance correlated to appropriate behaviors linked to job fit." It is the baseline for what success looks like and helps identify the right person for the right job.

A group of board members recently agreed to serve as a focus group for the development of Achiever benchmarks specifically for board members. The school board services division is developing a team-building and self-evaluation workshop for boards that want to use the Achiever as a group to understand the best ways to work together.

Please take time to make sure you're encouraging professional development among your board colleagues and administrators as well as yourself. It will lead your school district to higher-level relationships and achievement that certainly will make a difference for your students. ■

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A time when anything goes

Be alert: The lame-duck session is upon us

Jennifer Hogue, lobbyist

As we near the end of the 131st Ohio General Assembly, it is time to prepare for a whirlwind lame-duck session in which anything goes. Legislative activity is expected to ramp up following the November election and continue into mid-December. Legislators are scrambling to finish bills, and those who will not be returning are looking to make their mark and leave a legacy.

At OSBA, we are preparing to seize the opportunity to seek favorable changes to existing programs and thwart, or at least minimize, damage from new laws that might be coming our way. Following is what we are expecting as we prepare for the chaos that will ensue.

House Bill (HB) 474 — College Credit Plus

Prior to the summer recess, the House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education was considering HB 474, which would make changes to the College Credit Plus (CCP) program.

Subcommittee Chair Rep. **Mike Duffey** (R-Worthington) asked OSBA, the Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) and the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) to develop a set of recommendations for changes to Ohio's new CCP program based on testimony presented to the subcommittee by public school district representatives.

During testimony, subcommittee members heard concerns about CCP based on the experiences of district officials and their students. Following are recommendations that emerged

as prevailing themes during witness testimony:

- revert to previous law/practice where school districts used local dual enrollment agreements and collect data on those agreements;
- allow school districts and institutions of higher learning to negotiate local agreements on their terms, as they had successfully done before CCP;

Legislators are scrambling to finish bills, and those who will not be returning are looking to make their mark and leave a legacy.

- allow school districts to use discretion as to whether parents should contribute to tuition and textbook costs;
- provide school districts some discretion in determining if a student is prepared for college-level courses and/or the college experience.

OSBA, OASBO and BASA lobbyists will continue to work with Duffey and other legislators to push for the inclusion of these changes in HB 474.

HB 410 — truancy/attendance

This bill passed the House and is now being considered in the Senate Education Committee. HB 410

attempts to address truancy and school absences by requiring absence intervention plans for habitually truant students. This legislation had a great deal of support from House members, and the Senate seems to be in agreement with many, if not all, of the provisions in the bill.

Senate Education Committee Chair **Peggy Lehner** (R-Kettering) has expressed interest in expanding the bill's scope to also address issues related to student discipline. One of the bill's primary sponsors, Rep. **Bill Hayes** (R-Harrison Township), would like to keep the bill's focus on its current purpose. Amendments under consideration by the Senate are:

- eliminate the authority to suspend students in grades prekindergarten through third (except the use of suspension for bringing a firearm or knife to school, committing a criminal offense that results in serious physical harm to persons or property, or making a bomb threat);
- call on districts to update zero-tolerance policies for violent behaviors that provide tiered responses for violent, disruptive or inappropriate behavior based on the nature and severity of the behavior;
- allow students who have been suspended the opportunity to make up missed work and require districts to notify these students of this opportunity at the time of their suspension;
- eliminate the authority to carry over the remainder of a student's suspension from the end of the school year to the beginning of the following school year and allow districts to convert hours not yet

served into hours of an alternative consequence;

- create a multidisciplinary truancy team to operate as a pilot program in four diverse counties to intervene with children who are not attending school.

HB 410 is expected to see movement in one form or another. Lehner has said if she does not get agreement to add these amendments, she will introduce them as a separate piece of legislation in the next General Assembly.

Senate Bill (SB) 3 — mandate relief

This bill would provide flexibility from mandates for high-performing school districts. SB 3, sponsored by Senate President **Keith Faber** (R-Celina) and Sen. **Cliff Hite** (R-Findlay), has been sitting in the House Education Committee since April 2015. We anticipate the House will have amendments to the bill, but at this time, it is not clear what those amendments might be. This bill is ripe to become a “Christmas tree” loaded with lots of amendments legislators are seeking to pass. We will keep a close eye on SB 3, as it is the most likely candidate for those last-minute amendments.

Other bills to watch

Several other bills have already made it through one chamber and could be passed by the other before the end of the year.

Sponsored by Reps. **Dan Ramos** (D-Lorain) and **Christina Hagan** (R-Alliance), HB 85 would require each district to include annual age-appropriate instruction in child sexual abuse prevention in grades kindergarten through six and age-appropriate instruction in sexual violence prevention in grades nine through 12.

HB 383, sponsored by Hagan and **Robert McColley** (R-Napoleon), would require one-half unit of instruction in economics and financial literacy.

HB 425, sponsored by Hayes, deals with student religious expression in schools.

What to expect

During the coming weeks, we will be at the Statehouse closely following any new developments and communicating them to you as quickly as possible. Please be

on the lookout for updates and calls to action. It is important that legislators hear from you about how any last-minute proposals will affect your district and students. ■



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- education session listings, including topics, descriptions and presenters;
- learning session and Spotlight Session handouts available for download;
- districts presenting in the OSBA Student Achievement Fair on Tuesday, Nov. 15;
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New for 2016: You can use the app on multiple devices. To do this, you will need to create an account. Click the Login or Register button in the menu, then create an account using your email address and a password you create. After your account is created, use the Login feature to view your personalized schedule and notes on any device.



The app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. To use the app to view the conference schedule on your browser, go to <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/app>.

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2016 Capital Conference
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OSBA service can help guide your bus fleet

Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

School transportation plays a vital role in educating Ohio's 1.76 million students. Think about it. Students must be able to get to school safely if they are to learn and succeed.

To do this, more than 15,000 district buses must transport 800,000 children every day over a combined distance of nearly 1 million miles. It is an expensive undertaking for districts, which are spending an average of \$80,000 to \$95,000 to purchase a new school bus and an additional \$50,000 per bus in annual operating costs.

That's why OSBA began offering a new subscription service for its members at the beginning of the year.

The OSBA Virtual Transportation Supervisor (VTS) program ensures districts have all the resources needed to successfully run their transportation operations.

"Our goal with this program is to help transportation administrators stay current with all of the rules and regulations they need to know as well as providing technical support as needed," said **Pete Japikse**, deputy director of management services.

"Each district has unique support needs, and we have tried to include most of those in this package. If a district were to purchase all of these services a la carte, it would have to spend more than \$1,500. Compare that to the \$250 annual cost of VTS."

More than 130 districts already use the unique services that expand access to transportation expertise, guidance and

training. The program includes:

- Regional in-service meetings around the state. Each of the five OSBA regions hosts one midday transportation meeting annually to discuss issues that transportation teams bring to the table. Participation meets the Ohio Administrative Code requirement for ongoing transportation administrator training.

More than 130 districts already use the unique services that expand access to transportation expertise, guidance and training.

- Quick reviews of district T-1 and T-2 reports. These in-depth reviews are completed before the reports are submitted to the state.
- Monthly quarterback calls. These conference call/webinar forums begin with a review of tasks transportation departments should be accomplishing in the next 30 days. There also is a question-and-answer session followed by discussion of transportation issues.
- Access to the OSBA Transportation Services advanced library. This online resource includes volumes of information needed to run a transportation operation — all in one place.

- Cost analysis calculators, efficiency studies and funding forecast tools. This web-based resource can help calculate operating costs, rates for services and forecasts based on the state budget bill.

VTS ensures that *all* members of the district management team have access to OSBA transportation eAlerts, which include information on upcoming events, important reminders and news about current transportation issues. Subscribers also have access to the OSBA Transportation Forum, a moderated website where they can ask questions, share ideas and help each other.

Barberton City Transportation Supervisor **Pauletta Gemind** said the program has been a great asset.

"The webinars are valuable to me because we always talk about things that are coming up, such as reports districts must do and changes that we as supervisors must know," she said.

"With Pete's expertise, supervisors, treasurers and most school employees, now have a place to turn — someone we can count on. I really like how during the webinars, anyone can ask a question on the spot and the question is answered by Pete right then and there."

For more information on this subscription, contact Japikse at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or pjapikse@ohioschoolboards.org. Subscription information will be mailed to districts in November. ■

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Smith is president-elect nominee; Baba will lead OSBA in 2017

Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

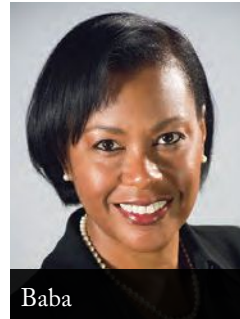
OSBA delegates will vote on the association's 2017 president-elect nominee at the Capital Conference and Trade Show in Columbus. The election is Nov. 14 during the Annual Business Meeting of the OSBA Delegate Assembly.

Current president-elect, **Denise Baba, Streetsboro City**, will become the association's 62nd president on Jan. 1, 2017.

The OSBA Nominating Committee selected **Forest**



Smith



Baba

Hills Local (Hamilton) Board of Education President **Randy Smith** as the association's 2017 president-elect nominee in July.

If elected by delegates, Smith will become OSBA president in 2018, following his term as president-elect. His assignments as president-elect include serving on OSBA's Board of Trustees and Executive Committee and chairing

the Legislative Platform Committee and Federal Relations Network.

Elected four times to the Forest Hills board, Smith has served as board president four times (2016, 2015, 2011 and 2006).

He currently serves on the Legislative Platform Committee and Federal Relations Network and previously was on the OSBA Board of Trustees and Executive Committee. He has been a member of OSBA's Southwest Region Executive Committee for nine years and was region president in 2012.

Smith earned the OSBA Master Board Member Award in 2007, a lifetime distinction, and has received multiple OSBA Awards of Achievement. The awards recognize board members' commitment to learning and leadership.

The Cincinnati resident and graduate of Forest Hills Local's Anderson High School helped establish several board of education committees at Forest Hills related to policy, technology and business. He also founded the Forest Hills Foundation for Education, a private organization that supports public education in the district. In addition, he serves as his district's legislative liaison to OSBA.

Before retiring in 2015, Smith spent 36 years at the Procter & Gamble Co. where he was a marketing and policy



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manager. He currently is president and general manager of Noble Properties Inc.

At the University of Cincinnati, he earned a Bachelor of Science in industrial engineering and a Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing and management. His graduate studies included broadcasting and communication.

Smith remains very active with his alma mater, where he serves on several boards and committees, including the University of Cincinnati Foundation Board of Trustees. He also is a district chair for the Boy Scouts of America.

He and his wife, **Susan**, who also is retired from Procter & Gamble Co., are the parents of a son, **Steven**, and a daughter, **Sarah**.

Baba is in her 11th year on the Streetsboro board and serves as the district's legislative liaison to OSBA.

A Board of Trustees member for four years, she also is a member of the association's Executive Committee and chairs the Federal Relations Network and Legislative Platform Committee. Other statewide duties include the OSBA Board Member Cabinet, OSBA Investment

Committee, Capital Conference Planning Task Force and Student Achievement Leadership Team.

A former Northeast Region president, Baba has served on the region's executive committee for nine years and is a member of the region's Arrangements and Hospitality Team.

Baba earned the Master Board Member award in 2010 and is a four-time recipient of the Award of Achievement.

While serving on the Streetsboro board, Baba has been involved in the Core Team for Streetsboro's \$68 million building project, Streetsboro Levy Committee and several other district committees.

Baba is currently the executive director of Leadership Portage County, a nonprofit leadership development organization.


She earned a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University and a master's degree in education from Cleveland State University.


She and her husband, **Frank**, a retired chief master sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, are the parents of **Rachel**, an eighth-grader who attends Streetsboro Middle School. ■

WHAT ENROLLMENT CHALLENGES DOES YOUR DISTRICT FACE?


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CURRENTLY SERVING DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT OHIO

Where they stand

A look at the major party presidential candidates' positions on crucial public education issues

Editor's note: The Journal repeatedly contacted both major party candidates' campaign offices asking for their views on public education. Neither candidate had responded by the magazine's deadline.

Presidential candidates are once again targeting Ohio as a key battleground in the race for the White House. With two very different major party candidates, the 2016 presidential campaign certainly has been very interesting.

Most of us have heard from Democrat **Hillary Clinton** and Republican **Donald J. Trump** about their plans for bolstering the economy, conducting foreign policy, addressing illegal immigration, dealing with gun control issues and combating terrorism. But do you know their stance on public education?



Hillary Clinton

The following information, obtained from Ballotpedia, Education Week and the National School Boards Action Center, highlights the candidates' positions on K-12 and pre-K education, Common Core, school choice, merit pay for teachers, school safety and climate, the Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the U.S. Department of Education.

K-12 education

Clinton's campaign website showcases her belief that every child should be guaranteed a high-quality education, regardless of his or her ZIP code. She believes ESSA will give states and teachers flexibility to serve the needs of their students and hold schools accountable for student achievement.

As a U.S. senator serving on the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions in 2001, Clinton voted for the No Child Left Behind Act, ESSA's predecessor. However, she called for changes to the law in her 2008 presidential campaign.

According to Trump's campaign website, education has to be at the local level and "Washington bureaucrats cannot tell parents how to manage their children's education." He also has been critical of U.S. students' performance when compared to students in other countries.

Pre-K education

Clinton advocates for universal pre-K education and would expand preschool to every 4-year-old over a 10-year period. She would cap the share of a family's income spent on child care at 10% by expanding access to such programs.

She also proposes doubling spending on the federal Early Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership programs.

Trump has not shared any specific views on pre-K education.

Common Core

Clinton supports the Common Core academic standards.

Trump repeatedly has said Common Core is "a disaster" and

on education

*compiled by Jeff Chambers,
director of communication
services, and Jay Smith, deputy
director of legislative services*

vows to end it if elected.

School choice

Clinton opposes spending public funds on private schools through vouchers and tuition tax credits. She voted against such legislation while in the Senate. Clinton supports charter schools but has expressed concern that most charter schools “don’t take the hardest-to-teach kids.”

In Trump’s 2000 book, “The America We Deserve,” he supported private school vouchers and charter schools. “Education reformers call this school choice, charter schools, vouchers, even opportunity scholarships,” he wrote. “I call it competition — the American way.”

In a Sept. 8 speech from a Cleveland charter school he said, “As your president I will be the nation’s biggest cheerleader for school choice. I understand many stale old politicians will resist, but it’s time for our country to start thinking big and correct once again.”

He went on to pledge that he would allocate \$20 billion toward school choice policies.

Merit pay for teachers

On numerous occasions, Clinton has voiced her opposition to connecting teacher evaluation and pay to test outcomes.

Trump supports merit pay for teachers. He has said he believes “in rewarding our best teachers instead of the failed tenure system that rewards bad teachers and punishes the good ones.”

School safety and climate

Clinton said she wants to help districts expand proven programs aimed at bettering student behavior and would direct the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights to investigate schools with discipline disparities. She also supports schools looking for alternatives to school resource officers and would stop the transfer of federal military equipment to any police departments that serve only K-12 schools.

Trump opposes federal gun-free school zones and has said he would get rid of them as president. He has also said that arming teachers would help improve school safety.



Donald J. Trump

Every Student Succeeds Act

Clinton supports ESSA and said the federal government must provide the funding necessary to fulfill the law’s promises. She believes the federal government should oversee states’ development and implementation of ESSA accountability systems.

Trump has taken no explicit position on ESSA.

U.S. Department of Education

Clinton has made it clear she would not eliminate the department and has not released a plan to revamp or reduce it.

Trump has pledged to drastically cut or eliminate the department, which he calls a “massive behemoth.”

For more information on the candidates, visit their campaign websites at www.hillaryclinton.com and www.donaldjtrump.com. ■



Where Ohio U.S. Senate hopefuls stand on education

compiled by Jay Smith, deputy director of legislative services

While there is an intense focus on this year's presidential race, the U.S. Senate campaigns, including Ohio's, also are drawing much attention. With education legislation pending on Capitol Hill, school leadership teams have a large stake in the outcomes.

That legislation includes continued congressional oversight and implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education and Child Nutrition acts; and federal funding to maximize investments in programs serving disadvantaged children.

The Journal asked Ohio's major party U.S. Senate candidates

— Republican incumbent **Rob Portman** and Democrat **Ted Strickland**, the former Ohio governor — four questions about key education issues. Following are their responses.

Do you think public education should be a priority for the state of Ohio? Why or why not?

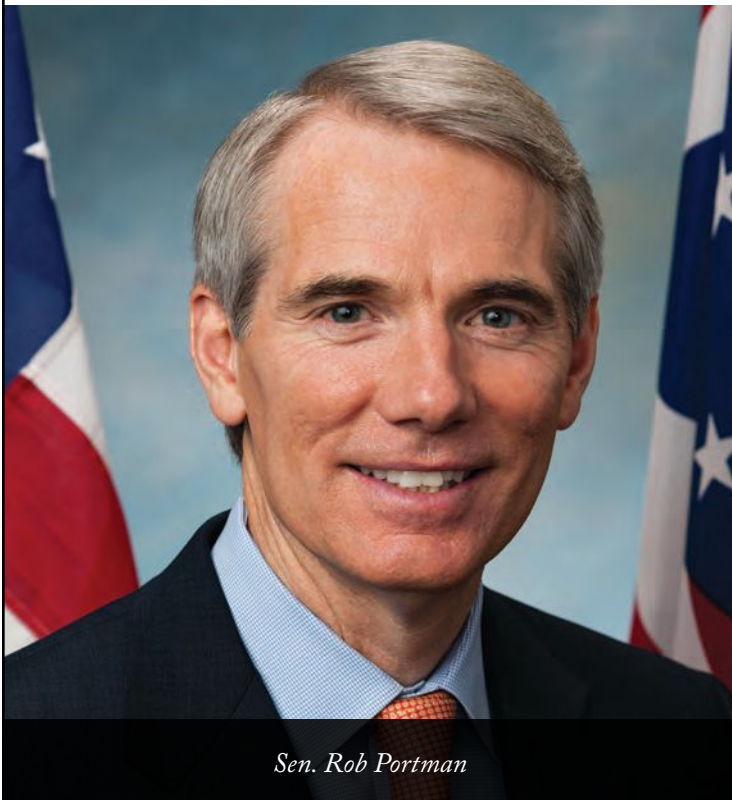
Portman: Yes. In the 21st century economy, a high-quality education is critical, from an early age, to the social and economic well-being of our nation. Over the past six years, I have consistently supported legislation that makes K-12 education a priority and returns control of education to parents and local communities. My opponent, on the other hand, cut funding for education by \$170 million when he was governor.

Strickland: I have always deeply believed in the importance of public education, and in the Senate I will be an unabashed champion to ensure our public schools have the resources they need to be successful and prepare Ohio students for lifelong success.

When I entered the governor's office, Ohio faced a school-funding crisis, but even in the midst of a global recession, we protected resources for public schools and introduced a groundbreaking system of school funding to provide adequate resources for students, no matter the ZIP code. On my watch, Ohio's school system went from 27th to fifth-best in the nation because we made public education a priority.

School choice options in Ohio have been greatly expanded over the past 12-plus years. What is your position on vouchers and charter schools? Do you think community schools need to be held to higher academic and/or financial standards?

Portman: There should be high standards, but the most important role in educating tomorrow's workforce is played by parents, school board members, teachers, mentors and community leaders at the state and local level. The federal government plays a role, but oversight of schools is



Sen. Rob Portman

primarily the responsibility of state and local communities.

The state of Ohio and our leaders should set the core standards that govern our schools, and I do not believe that the federal government should take further control over setting standards. All schools should be held to a high standard. I do believe in appropriate choice for parents and have visited some public charter schools in Ohio that are producing excellent results.

Strickland: The solution to improving our education system isn't to rob traditional public schools of the resources they need. That's why, in the Senate, I will strongly fight efforts to privatize public education with vouchers and oppose sending our tax dollars to charter schools at the expense of our public schools.

It troubles me deeply that Ohio is known as the "wild, wild West" of charter schools, and I am appalled that the U.S. Department of Education gave Ohio's charters \$71 million, in spite of a well-documented charter data-rigging scandal at the Ohio Department of Education. That never should have happened, which is why I joined with other champions of public education to speak out against this move, and the U.S. Department of Education ultimately halted its decision.*

Charter schools absolutely need to be held to higher academic and financial standards. In fact, as governor, I proposed a moratorium on any new charter school in Ohio until we got a handle on accountability. My record on school choice is clear, and I look forward to working with you in the U.S. Senate to support public education in the face of efforts to privatize and undermine our traditional public schools.



**Editor's note:* The U.S. Department of Education released the \$71 million charter school grant, with oversight, on Sept. 14. OSBA received Strickland's response prior to the grant's release.

What is your view on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members? Do you support the authority of local boards of education and their governance structure? Would you support any legislation

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People stopping by my booth at OSBA in November offered these types of comments about having future ballot issues: "Oh gosh, I hope not!" "Thankfully, no." "Whew!" (how they feel when they finally pass a vote). "Thank heavens" (there's no need). "Painless would be good!"

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that would take away the governance structure or authority of local school boards to make local decisions in the best interest of students and teachers? Why or why not?

Portman: As I have consistently said, I believe that education is primarily the responsibility of local communities and school boards. That's why I voted for ESSA, which passed the U.S. Senate on Dec. 9 and was signed into law by President **Barack Obama** on Dec. 10.

This bipartisan law takes important steps toward returning education standards to those who know the students best — parents, teachers and their local school boards. This law ensures the federal government will no longer be able to impose Common Core or any other academic standards on states.

Further, this law will look to end overreliance on standardized tests, which have led to overtesting and forced teachers to “teach to the test.” These reforms are supported by teachers, parents, school boards and education experts. I believe these reforms will ultimately help to improve Ohio students’ performance in school and put them on a path toward success.

Strickland: I am so appreciative for those who choose to serve their communities as school board members. It is a challenging, yet important, job. The replacement for the No Child Left Behind Act, ESSA, specifically empowers local and state decision-makers to develop their own standards and accountability measures, rather than relying on a top-down, cookie-cutter approach from Washington, D.C.

In the U.S. Senate, I will work with local educators, like school board members, to make sure the implementation

of ESSA lives up to these principles, and that education leaders at the local level are making the decisions about their own local schools and curriculums.

Please explain any other federal public education initiative you would like to see implemented if elected in November.

Portman: Over the past six years, I have pushed for reforms that encourage more career-technical educational programs and greater college access for low-income students by allowing them to earn college credits in high school. I founded the Senate’s Career and Technical Education Caucus with Sen. **Tim Kaine** (D-Virginia), and I have passed measures encouraging states to create work-based learning opportunities in career and technical education.

I’ve also passed measures that provide drug and violence prevention grants to provide recovery support services to students in schools and communities working to overcome addiction. These are the types of measures that I will continue to fight for over the next six years in the U.S. Senate if I am given the opportunity.

Strickland: I will be a vocal champion of robustly funding our traditional public schools and will work to make sure we stop the overreliance on high-stakes testing. I would support a nationwide moratorium on for-profit charter schools.

Additionally, as senator, I will change the conversation from the demeaning and negative attacks on our education leaders to a proper appreciation to those of you who have devoted yourselves to seeing our children succeed. ■

Editor’s note: For more information on each candidate, visit www.robportman.com and www.tedstrickland.com.

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State Board of Education candidates share their views

compiled by Jay Smith, deputy director of legislative services

There is a lot at stake for the State Board of Education on Nov. 8. Of the 19 board seats, seven of the 11 elected seats are up for grabs. In addition, Gov. **John R. Kasich** will have the opportunity to appoint several individuals to serve as at-large members whose terms will begin Jan. 1.

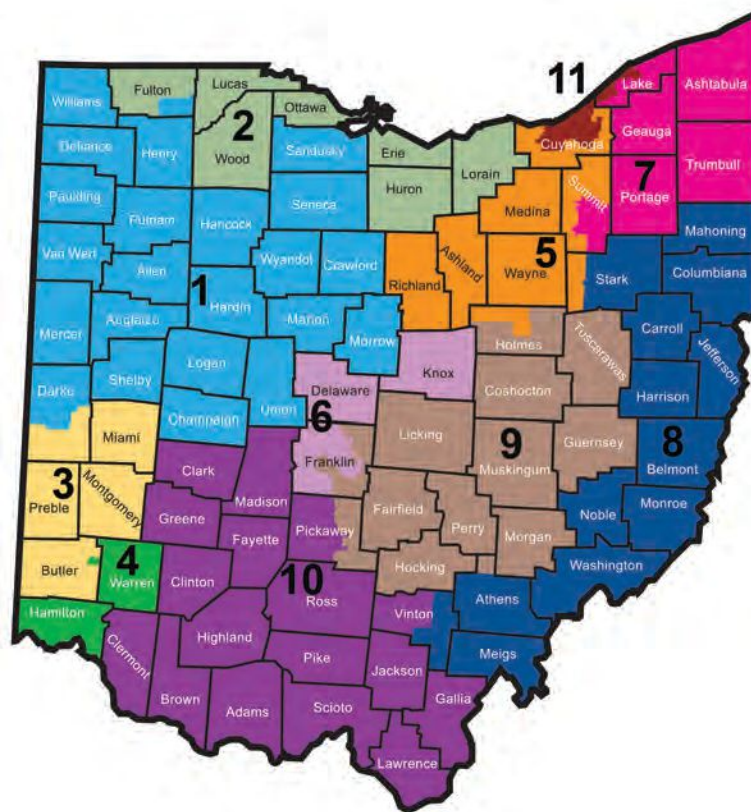
The vision and main objective of the State Board of Education is to ensure that all students graduate from Ohio's pre-K-12 education system well prepared for success. With that in mind, it's important for local school board members, as well as the public, to do their homework and find out where the candidates stand on education policy before heading to the voting booth.

So, where do they stand? OSBA mailed a questionnaire to all candidates running for the State Board of Education in November. Below are the responses OSBA received. Candidates were asked to answer each question in 50 words or fewer. Answers exceeding that limit are denoted. Minor editing was done on some responses for clarity.

District 1

Tanyce J. Addison, La Rue

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education.
My entire career has been teaching children for 30-plus



years. Our communities, our schools, our children are more than a test score. A child's education grows with creativity and innovation preparing them for lifelong learning. We need to fill children's minds, not profiteer's pockets. We are capable of better.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? I seek to strengthen our public school system, for which the State Board serves. I would advocate for greater autonomy within school districts with regard to instructional

time and accountability. I believe that principals and seasoned faculty members should play a role in teacher evaluation, rather than standardized assessment.

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? Local school boards should act as a voice for the community in which their school exists. They should recruit great staff and provide oversight to the function of their school district. Local school boards are accountable to the people in their community, which is democratically American.

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support

vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? I support the public school system. We should focus only on filling our children's minds with a quality public education and not filling private profiteers' pockets. Expanding curriculums of vocational, technology, the arts and learning communities are great investments in our accountable public districts where choices do exist.

Linda Haycock, Lima, Shawnee Local (Allen) school board member

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education. A position on the State Board of Education would be an extension of my motherhood from my four children to all Ohio children. Our children need skills to be engaged citizens, legislators, physicians, educators, entrepreneurs and innovators, as well as to sustain a healthy, forward-looking, robust society and economy.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? The most important issue facing public education is maintaining an efficient and equitable education system for all Ohio children. I will work to ensure all educational institutions are fully accountable for performance, use of public funds, providing qualified teachers and setting high academic standards, but — most important — educating our children.

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? Local boards of education adopt policies that reflect the educational philosophies and priorities of

the local community they serve. The authority to direct education creates an atmosphere of collaboration between the local school district and other governing bodies, which is necessary for a civically, socially and economically healthy community.

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? The state can offer vouchers or scholarship funds; however, other factors impact a parent's "ability" to use such funds, including work schedules, transportation and knowledge of programs. A voucher system seldom creates the sort of equitable educational system I support. All publicly funded schools should meet similar standards.

Martha A. Manchester, Lakeview

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education. I am passionate about education. I began my career in education at Ohio State University where I earned my bachelor's degree. I've taught in Ohio public schools. I founded Rainbow Nursery School. This as an opportunity to have a positive impact on education in the state of Ohio.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? My experiences have shown that educational policy should focus on the students and the teachers first, and that parental involvement in school policy is critical to student success. Teachers, students and parents should be empowered by these policies.

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally



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Julia A. Bauer
Elizabeth Braverman
Derek L. Haggerty
Julie C. Martin
Jessica K. Philemond

Patrick J. Schmitz
Greg B. Scott
Donald C. Scriven
James K. Stucko, Jr.
Jennifer I. Stiff Tomlin
Derek L. Towster

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elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? I believe that local control of the schools must be maintained. Policies that are developed by the State Board should support local control. We must have high standards; I feel the local board should have input and a say in how these are met.

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? I believe in charter schools that provide a true alternative for parents and students and are accountable to the taxpayer. Charter schools must also be held to a high standard. We must consider the students attending these schools and expect the best from these schools. Yes, I support vouchers.

Lilli Vitale, Urbana, did not respond.

District 5

Roslyn Painter-Goffi, Strongsville

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education. I am running for re-election to a full term on the board to continue to work to ensure that all children have an opportunity for a high-quality public education. As a former educator, I want to provide an educator's voice in the discussion at the education policy level.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? If elected, I will continue to represent the educator's voice on the board. I continue to believe the most important issue facing public education today is that of providing a high-quality education for all children in the state, regardless of where they live.

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? I support local control. The local school board understands best the needs and wishes of the local community and how best to implement policies at the local level. I believe that local school boards can provide valuable guidance to policymakers at the state level and their voices should be heard.

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? There are parents who want choice. I believe that community schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as public schools for the sake of the parents and the students. I do not support EdChoice vouchers, but I do believe that the Jon Peterson and Autism Scholarships ... (exceeded word limit)

Lisa Woods, Medina, did not respond.

District 6

Jeffrey Furr, Utica

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education. I am running for State Board to make a difference and help ensure the quality of education in Ohio. I have a unique background, with a bachelor's degree in computer science from the Ohio State University College of Engineering, an MBA, a law degree and an advanced law degree.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? I hope to give Ohio school boards more local control. I believe local boards know what is best for their school districts. I will work against any unfunded mandates that tap out local school resources and finances. I will work to let teachers teach.

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? I am a strong believer in local school boards and board members. The role of local school board members should be to set the educational goals and direction of their district. I believe local school board members do not have enough authority. They should be given more authority.

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? I believe in giving parents as many choices as possible, but this should not be done to the detriment of public schools. Public schools are the key to our future as a state and a country. There should be set standards for all educational tracks and options.

Antoinette Miranda, Columbus

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education. I have been in public education for well over 35 years, working as a school psychologist and am currently professor of school psychology. My passion to make a difference has led me to run for the board so that I can be at the table where decisions are made.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? I hope to address issues of inequity, transparency and the well-being of the whole child. The most important issue is accountability of schools to provide all children a quality education and monies being diverted from public schools to charters and vouchers, despite evidence they are not working for Ohio's children.

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? The major role is to make decisions that benefit all children in Ohio. They should be advocates

Facts about Ohio's State Board of Education



The State Board's vision is for all students to graduate from Ohio's pre-K-12 education system with the knowledge, skills and character to continue their education and/or enter the workforce equipped to join the global economy as productive citizens.



The State Board creates policy and makes recommendations for K-12 education in Ohio.

19

Number of State Board of Education members. Eleven are elected and eight are appointed by the governor.



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for children and ensure transparency at all levels within the system. Collaboration with other board members is essential to accomplish goals.

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? The problem with school choice is that choices parents have often are really no better than their public school. Public school continues to be a better choice and monies have been wasted on an "idea." They should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools.

Jamie Davies O'Leary, Columbus

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education. I'm running for State Board of Education because, as a parent and former public school teacher and lifelong education advocate, I think these voices need to be elevated. I envision a world-class education system for all

Ohio students, regardless of a child's background, resources or experiences.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? If elected, I hope to elevate the voices of parents, teachers and students. Neither of my parents graduated from college, but they believed in me and held high expectations. Children believe what we tell them they are capable of — and I am walking proof of that. We must hold high ... *(exceeded word limit)*

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? I think locally elected school board members are uniquely positioned to serve as a voice for their community and bring their expertise to bear on their districts' issues. I would like to see greater turnout in all school board elections and part of my campaign encourages voters to "vote local" ... *(exceeded word limit)*



What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? I am a supporter of high-quality school choice, “quality” being the imperative word. I do not support choice for choice’s sake. Alternatives must be sound ones and families must be equipped with that information so they are not misled. Yes, charter schools should be held to the same academic standards. (exceeded word limit)

Adam C. Slane, Columbus

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education. I’m running for the State Board because I care deeply about the quality of education in Ohio. I went to college to be a teacher. I am involved in education activities in my personal time to make a difference. Education is the state’s most important responsibility and is my passion.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? I hope to accomplish making education the state’s No. 1 priority. Without a strong education system, the state cannot function or address any other issue that it faces. I believe stability,

or lack thereof, is the single largest issue facing public education. Constant change hinders the development of students.

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? I believe the responsibility of local school board members to be extremely great. Their role in managing and developing a district is paramount to student success. I fully support local control and believe local board members need to be part of discussions shaping state policy that they will then implement.

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? As a public school graduate, I fully support parents’ right to choose where they send their children to be educated. I do believe all schools should be held to the same standards. An Ohio diploma at the end of the day needs to have the same meaning anywhere.

Katy Barricklow, Columbus; Nicholas Baumeyer, Westerville; and Rachel Reeves, Columbus, did not respond.

District 8

Vickie D. Briercheck, Canton

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education. Unlike some, I do not believe our education system is broken. That being said, I do believe in accountability and continuous improvement. I also believe that public schools are the backbone of our democracy. I want to make sure that decisions made at the state level will support public education.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? Reducing partisan politics that create confusion at the district level and makes the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) inefficient. Keeping quality educators in the field. Making accountability manageable. Reducing the flow of money going to unproven charter schools.

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? A local school board must ensure that students in their community have access to an education that will allow their children to be competitive in the world. While they should be allowed some power to make their schools reflect community expectations and values, these decisions should not limit students’ futures.

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional

State Board of Education objectives

To graduate all students well-prepared for success, the State Board will focus on the following objectives:



public schools? There are times where a charter school might be appropriate. However, the lack of oversight has been criminal. As a principal, nearly all students who came to us from a charter school were behind. If the charter school takes public funding, it should have to meet the same accountability standards.

Craig Brown, Salem

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education. I am concerned about the future of Ohio. I want my children to receive the strongest education foundation possible. Many groups continually tell us what is best for our children. The result is more complexity and less favorable results. They don't have to grapple with the results of their decisions. *(exceeded word limit)*

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? The biggest challenge facing public education is privatization. A political gamble is being made with our children's future. We cannot allow politicians to abandon our public schools. Their utmost responsibility is to fund, fix and support public education. I will continue to advocate for public schools and remind politicians of ... *(exceeded word limit)*

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? Neither the state nor federal government should have the overwhelming say in operating public schools. That responsibility rests with individual school boards. It is shameful that politicians have been usurping the responsibilities of locally elected representatives. We need to make a vocal and continual push to restore local decision-making.

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? All schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards. Any entity accepting public funds should have to abide by the strictest regulations pertaining to disclosure and public information. Parents have a right to choose the best educational option for their family. Ohio's voucher system is not working. *(exceeded word limit)*

Nancy P. Hollister, Marietta

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education. I have spent over 30 years in public service. Whether as a city council member, mayor, director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia, state representative or lieutenant governor, I have always worked to serve the public interest. I want to continue my service as a school board member.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? The most immediate issue facing public education that the State Board can impact is implementing House Bill 2. We must evaluate all schools by the same standards. I will fight for stringent standards. Every school receiving public funding must be held accountable for the quality of education it provides.

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? The local school board is the voice of the local community. Their authority is limited, however. I know this because my husband served on the **Marietta City Board of Education** for 13 years. Where we can, the State Board needs to support local school boards.

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What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? My husband and I and our five children are all products of the Marietta City school system. We are all proud of that, and it has served us well. I do believe that community schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools.

Debbie Phillips, Albany

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education.

I am running for the State Board of Education because I am a longtime advocate for public education. I want to stay involved in working for high-quality educational opportunities for all of Ohio's children and continue to fight for real accountability over charter schools' use of public funds.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? If elected, I look forward to staying involved in education policy, particularly charter school accountability, and true local involvement in changes in assessment under the Every Student Succeeds Act. In general, I want to support robust, high-quality public education.

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? The Ohio Constitution established the state's responsibility to create a thorough and efficient system of public education and created elected local school boards as the structure to accomplish that. Local boards should set policy and govern their schools and have a responsibility to carry out that constitutional mandate.

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? I am opposed to vouchers for private education. I think they are undemocratic, nontransparent and undermine public education. Charter schools should be held to the same academic and financial reporting standards, and their boards should be subject to the same ethics standards as local schools.

Kathleen Purdy, Alliance

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education.

I have community service experiences and successes as a parent and retired teacher with a passion for creating student success stories. I understand the importance of having the right board member addressing critical issues within District 8. This board needs to stop our schools from being shortchanged by career politicians.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? I plan to put a system in place to close the achievement gap among urban, rural and suburban schools. The most important issue facing public education today is the disparities in the zero-tolerance policy that removes the most vulnerable child from the learning environment without any mental health support.

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? The role and responsibility must be about accountability for students' success, retention of high-quality staff and the superintendent. This authority is given through confidence from voters. Board members must be visible at school functions and activities while listening and

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observing the teaching and learning process and committed to their community.

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? I am in support of school choice because it provides an option for parents. I am not in support of vouchers because it creates a financial burden on the public schools. I support community schools being held to the same standards as traditional schools because they receive tax dollars.

District 9

Stephanie Dodd, Hebron

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education. I am running for re-election to Ohio's State Board of Education to help improve the focus on educational opportunities in our state, to restore ODE as a resource for our districts and schools and to ensure proper accountability of all schools.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? If re-elected, I would like to see the State Board create a strategic plan and begin to focus on how ODE can better serve our districts, schools and students. I think the most important issue facing public education is the overreliance of high-stakes testing to define the successes and failures ... (exceeded word limit)

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? I strongly believe every board member should be elected, not appointed. The responsibility of locally elected school boards is to guarantee their districts and schools provide the needed resources to develop students who are on a path to success and capable of moving into a career or college upon graduation. (exceeded word limit)

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? I recognize school choice is an option that will remain for families. I feel we must remember the idea of school choice was to allow families to choose alternatives from a traditional school when something could not be provided by a traditional school. If schools are not offering something unique ... (exceeded word limit)

District 10

Braydon Bevins, Waverly

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education. I became a candidate for the State Board because I want to see equal access and quality public education available for all students, regardless of social or economic status. I am

tired of seeing public money mismanaged to benefit too few students and individuals. I am a product of public ... (exceeded word limit)

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? First, we need to figure out a funding formula that adequately funds all children in Ohio public schools. We need to hold the state accountable for the money going to for-profit schools that are not performing. Second, we must provide teachers the resources to be successful in the classroom. Finally, ... (exceeded word limit)

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? The responsibility of local school boards is to establish policy, budgets, curriculum and education standards and oversee the hiring and effectiveness of district administrators. They are the connection to the education system and public. Their authority is very necessary as it allows them to educate the public on the system ... (exceeded word limit)

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? Options for a child's education are fantastic; however, for-profit charters aren't working in Ohio. Many are providing below-average education and receiving too many taxpayer dollars to provide an inadequate education. I don't support vouchers. Tax credits and vouchers for parents who send their children to nonpublic schools strip our schools ... (exceeded word limit)

Nick Owens, Georgetown

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education. I ran because I want every child to succeed in public school. I believe education is a great equalizer in society and necessary to a productive life. Regardless of whether students lack early childhood education, come from struggling families or have special needs, they still deserve the opportunity to thrive.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? Most importantly, there must be more fairness in funding the educational system. Students should not receive fewer opportunities because of where they reside. Further, I believe we must raise our high school graduation rates and increase drug awareness training in our schools at all levels.

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? Local school boards must retain the ability to



control their schools. Locally elected members will always better understand the needs of their districts more so than the state or federal governments. Decisions made by the State Board should always reflect a bottom up approach, not top down.

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? Children must receive a quality education and the opportunity to succeed — not all students are alike, so not every educational path should be the same. For this reason, I support school choice and vouchers. I support charter schools only if they meet high standards of student achievement and financial accountability.

**District 11
Meryl Johnson, Cleveland**

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education I taught for 40 years in Cleveland’s public schools because I believe in public education. The lack of equity in Ohio’s schools, due to an unconstitutional school-funding formula (see *DeRolph*, 1991), makes it impossible for *all* of Ohio’s children to get the quality public schools they deserve. It’s time.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? There are no African-Americans on the State Board. I hope to raise the level of knowledge of board members regarding the need to help children improve instead of labeling/punishing them for failing biased tests based on arbitrarily set cut scores by people who may care but just can’t understand.

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? Locally elected school board members are

responsible to the people who elect them, so the people must have opportunities for input. Members should be familiar with their schools because they interact with staff and students on a regular basis. They should put the children first, not politics, in their decisions.

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? I do not support anything that drains money from under-funded public schools. Vouchers never should have gotten past the Supreme Court, because of the separation of church and state. Charter schools should be held to the same standards as public schools, academically and financially. For-profit charter schools should be abolished!

Bill Lavezzi, Bedford

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education In the most personal sense, I am running so that my grandchildren, currently in grades one through seven, can graduate from high-quality public schools. Ohio’s unconstitutional quarter-century turn away from common schools is unsustainable and reversible, and I believe I can provide leadership in that struggle.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important issue facing public education today? The single most important issue is Ohio’s systematic turning away from its constitutionally mandated system of common schools. I hope to begin dealing with the symptoms of that disease: the misuse of high-stakes testing, the continuation of unconstitutional funding for public education and the past lack of charter school oversight.

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority

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given to local school boards? One thing that makes common schools “common” is elected local governance. Since local governing boards know their students and communities best, the state should respect their role. State Board of Education members can reinforce this by maintaining communication with local boards and encouraging high standards of local governance.

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? School vouchers and other privatization schemes are bad public policy because they reduce support for the common schools. Charter schools should be held to the same standards as traditional public schools, not only in academics and finances, but also in governance and policy.

Dr. Richard T. Montgomery II, Euclid

Describe why you are running for the State Board of Education. In times of crisis, it’s our constitutional responsibility to participate in the process of ensuring freedom and prosperity for every citizen in Cuyahoga County and northwest Lake County. I have the requisite education, experience and proven leadership to transform our schools and create the future our teachers and families deserve.

Describe what you hope to accomplish if elected to the State Board of Education. What do you feel is the most important

issue facing public education today? The school-to-prison pipeline is the No. 1 issue facing our schools. Cuyahoga County is the No. 1 producer of felons in the state. The etiology of this issue includes testing, school discipline and, most importantly, school-funding policies. I will reform policy in each of these areas.

What are your thoughts on the role and responsibility of locally elected school board members and the authority given to local school boards? The board has the legislative responsibility, outlined in Ohio Revised Code 3301.01, State Board of Education, to propose, monitor and evaluate policies that promote fiscal responsibility and student success. I will engage with superintendents, teachers, union leaders, elected officials, business leaders, families and students to understand districts’ needs.

What are your thoughts on school choice? Do you support vouchers? Do you think community (charter) schools should be held to the same academic and financial standards as traditional public schools? The economy of schooling is the result of parents’ loss of faith in public education. I believe in our public schools. Parents should have the option to select a school that can serve their child’s needs. I unequivocally believe that charter schools must be held to the same standards.

Amy M. Zuren, Eastlake, Willoughby-Eastlake City board member, did not respond. ■



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— Rebekah Wright Kulis, board member, Kent City

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Advocate for public schools: get behind *Kids* PAC

Jay Smith, deputy director of legislative services

An important way for you to participate in the political process and express your support for public education is to join OSBA's *Kids* PAC, Ohio's public education political action committee.

The association, through your contributions to *Kids* PAC, supports members and candidates for the Ohio General Assembly who support public education and our positions in the legislative and public policy arena. Your contributions help to keep our public education advocates in office.

Giving to *Kids* PAC helps increase the impact of your political contributions. The committee pools smaller, individual donations into a more sizeable *Kids* PAC contribution that often draws more attention to important public education issues. When *Kids* PAC makes a contribution to campaigns, legislators take notice. This raises the profile of our association.

Please consider contributing to *Kids* PAC as part of your advocacy for public education. Your contributions help support those who support your students and schools. Your

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contributions are vital to protecting public education from harmful legislation as well as encouraging legislation that protects and enhances public schools. An active and involved membership is a key part of our state association's success.

For more information, contact **Marcella Gonzalez**, OSBA senior administrative assistant of legislative services, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or mgonzalez@ohioschoolboards.org. Information also is available at www.kidspac.org.

Following are those who have pledged to make the voice of public education heard. The donation levels for each category are: Patron, less than \$30; Graduate, at least \$30; Cum Laude, at least \$50; Magnum Cum Laude, at least \$100; Summa Cum Laude, at least \$250; Valedictorian, at least \$500.

OSBA says a big "thanks" to these *Kids* PAC members for their donations for the 2016 membership year.

Valedictorian

- Roger A. Boltz

Summa Cum Laude

- Damon Asbury
- Albert Haberstroh
- Richard Lewis
- Dr. Paul R. Lockwood II
- Warren Stevens
- Mark Trinoskey

Magna Cum Laude

- Denise Baba
- Thomas F. Brophey
- Reno Contipelli
- Karen Dendorfer

- Michael Fador
- Rick Foster
- Eric K. Germann
- Terry Groden
- Everett Harris
- Kevin A. Johnston
- Linda A. Jordan
- Margie Lairson
- Susie Lawson
- Robert Luby
- Gail Martindale
- Carol-Ann Molnar
- Ann Marie Reames
- Beverly D. Rhoads
- Jim Sommer
- Fred Szabo

Graduate

- Steve Berry
- David Carter
- Sara C. Clark
- Micah Covert
- Marie D. Dockry
- Mark Ewing
- Terry Gibson
- Bobbie Grice
- Terry Halley
- Al Hess
- Anton M. Hocevar
- Penny Kill
- Dale E. Lewellen
- Sharon E. Manson
- Robert McPherson

- Kathi McNabb-Welsh
- David E. Yockey

Patron

- Jimmy Allen
- Kevin Archer
- Jackie Arendt
- Walter S. Armes
- Dr. Marguerite Bennett
- Edward Bischoff
- Edward Bosse Jr.
- Thomas H. Donley
- Bill Ferguson Jr.
- Trisha Good
- Stu Harris
- Dr. Patricia Hoyson
- Donald J. Marn
- Lynn B. May
- Jane McGinty
- Timothy McKinney
- Richard McLarnan
- Katie McNeil
- Daryl Michael Jr.
- Donna J. Myers
- Lynda O'Connor
- Vincent B. Popo
- Dennis L. Recker
- Lee Schreiner
- Patrick Schymanski ■

Editor's note: This list is current as of Sept. 13.

Your contributions help to keep our public education advocates in office.

Cum Laude

- Brian L. Baker
- George H. Bayless
- Larry L. Besecker
- Marilee Broscheid
- Dr. Theodore Clark
- Rob Delane
- James D. Field
- Tina M. Fiore
- Tiffany Fisher
- Ray Freeman
- Robert Gold
- Sue Groszek
- John W. Halkias
- Jennifer Hogue
- Scott Huddle
- Fred Hunt
- Dr. Judy Jackson May
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- Ruth M. Nau
- Bruce D. Nottke
- Barbara Parry
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- Sue Williams
- Johnna G. Zalmanek

- Teri Morgan
- Dr. A. Burton Payne
- John Pennycuff
- Jim Perdue
- Dr. Mary Jane Roberts
- Anita E. Ruffin
- Cheryl W. Ryan
- Terri Shaw
- Clint A. Vance

Visit the *Kids* PAC booth at the OSBA Capital Conference

Find out more about *Kids* PAC, OSBA's political action committee, at the 2016 OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show, Nov. 13-16 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Visit *Kids* PAC, in Trade Show booths 122 and 124, to meet with OSBA legislative staff and learn more about how you can assist in OSBA's legislative advocacy to support public education. In addition, *Kids* PAC will be offering a newly designed lapel pin this year for those who contribute for the 2017 membership year, which kicks off at the conference.

The *Kids* PAC display also is one of the Trade Show passport stops. You received a passport with your registration materials. Don't lose it – it's your ticket to win valuable prizes for your district.

For details on the passport program, see page 8 of the Conference Guide General Information section.

A solar-powered



Bill Resch, a retired teacher and former environmental consultant to New Albany-Plain Local (Franklin), shows off the district's new solar house. Donated by Ohio State University, the outdoor STEM classroom will serve central Ohio K-16 students.

New Albany-Plain Local's solar house provides real-world learning

On the sprawling **New Albany-Plain Local (Franklin)** campus about 20 miles northeast of Columbus, a house sits in three pieces on flatbed trailers.

Its wooden exterior isn't eye-catching, but for those who helped bring the structure to the central Ohio district of more than 4,500 students, it represents an exciting time in education.

"This has been a 25-year vision to connect our learning community," said **Bill Resch**, a retired teacher and former environmental consultant to the district who led efforts to bring the home to New Albany. "We're going beyond the

boundaries of our school campus."

Following years of discussion, planning, grant-writing and fundraising, New Albany-Plain Local's solar house could be functioning as an outdoor STEM classroom this winter in a unique partnership with **Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools**, Ohio State University (OSU) and Columbus State Community College.

Eventually, the district wants to open the facility/laboratory to all central Ohio school districts, particularly those on the east side of Columbus.

partnership

*Scott Gerfen,
assistant editor*

Donated by OSU, the Easton-OSU STEM and Nature Center will sit on the edge of the district's 80-acre nature preserve, which serves as a natural lab. The research building will be used for renewable energy education, environmental science, project and design learning, nature studies and physics.

"The biggest thing is to get kids into a learning environment that just doesn't exist anywhere else," said **Greg Morris**, who teaches Advanced Placement physics and chemistry at New Albany High School.

From the National Mall to New Albany

The story behind the solar house's journey to New Albany is as intriguing as the collaboration itself.

In 2009, a group of 60 OSU undergraduate and graduate students, representing 19 majors, were among 20 college teams to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon — a showdown of architectural and engineering talent.

The group's solar house, which has been appraised at about \$300,000, was loaded onto three flatbed trailers for the trip to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. There, it placed among the top 10 in the world.

"A political science student was behind all of this, not an engineer or architect," said **Kate Bartter**, director of OSU's Office of Energy and Environment. "It was a student who was passionate about sustainability and worried about climate change. ... It was an amazing project for our students."

From the siding to the vegetation to the appliances, OSU's decathlon entry was entirely homegrown. The façade was made of reclaimed wood from a barn in southern Ohio. Plants set around the house on the National Mall were native to the Buckeye State. The household appliances were made by the Whirlpool Corp., which has plants in the Ohio cities of Clyde, Findlay, Greenville and Marion.

With its 28 Sanyo solar panels, the house can produce 5.84 kilowatts. In terms of energy, it provides as much power as it consumes and more. There are 60 evacuated tubes to provide hot water from solar thermal. Louver window shades on the southern façade help control the interior temperature.

"Part of the mission of this house is to teach people that solar energy and energy efficiency is not just something for California or Nevada," Bartter said. "It really can be done anywhere."

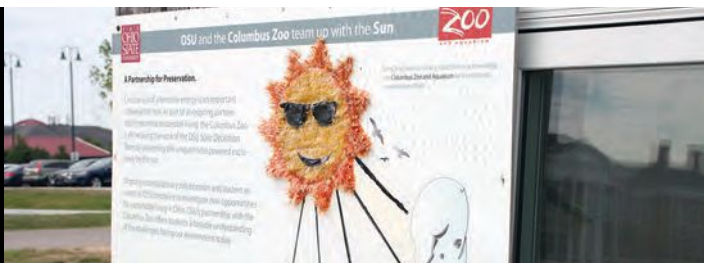
From the decathlon, that mission continued at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, where the home was reassembled at the Polar Frontier exhibit to teach visitors about sustainable construction. But as the polar exhibit grew in popularity and expanded, there was no room for the solar house. That's when OSU officials, knowing Resch's dedication to the environment and education, reached out to him about finding another community use for the house.

Resch didn't hesitate in embracing the surprising opportunity. "They said, 'Bill, can you do it?' I said, 'Are you serious?'"

From there, "a busload of grad students" disassembled the solar house, and a company was hired to move it, Resch said.



Freshman Evan Bernard, left, and senior Nate Skowron prepare a balloon for a hands-on lesson in an engineering design class, which will use the solar house once it's completed this winter.



Signs on the solar house explain its journey to New Albany. The home once taught visitors to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's Polar Frontier exhibit about sustainable construction.

However, the home would need to make one more stop before reaching the New Albany-Plain Local campus.

With ongoing construction on campus, there was nowhere to set up the house. So, Resch asked the nearby Church of the Resurrection if the home could be stored on its property. The church agreed, and there it stayed for three years.

"I really give New Albany a lot of credit for persevering through this," Barter said.

Even though the district had inherited a house, the next steps would take even more persistence in finding the funds for construction and operations.

'You're not just investing in a building'

Dr. **Michael Triplett** has two daughters who attend New Albany-Plain Local Schools and are very passionate about science and engineering.

As a member of the Project Lead the Way Ohio Executive

Council, he is committed to the nonprofit group's mission of increasing the quality and quantity of science and technology graduates in the U.S. He wasn't about to let a lack of funding derail the goal of bringing an integrated curriculum — energy, environment and engineering — to his community.

Triplett, who is president of Carmen Partners, which provides life sciences innovation, commercialization and new ventures consulting to organizations and early-stage companies, went to work trying to convince donors. He succeeded.

Funding was needed to not only reassemble the building but also for ongoing operations and curricula development.

"The difficult part was convincing people that they weren't just investing in a building," he said. "Once they understand the scope of this being a K-16, plus (collaboration) ... then it becomes much easier to make a sales pitch."

In three years, the project received \$153,000 in financial support from organizations that included Battelle Memorial Institute, Easton Community Foundation, New Albany Community Foundation, American Electric Power, OSU and Columbus State Community College. More recently, the fundraising efforts added a nearly \$262,000 Straight A Fund grant from the Ohio Department of Education. The grants help schools launch creative new ideas and practices.

New Albany held an open house fundraiser last fall to show off the home's capabilities for education.

"What really gets me excited is not only the horizontal integrations, but also the vertical integration with OSU and



Seventh-grade social studies students walk the district's 80-acre nature preserve for a class assignment. The solar house will help monitor the preserve's wetlands.

K-12,” Triplett said. “It gives a really unique perspective that I think will drive more critical thinking and, hopefully, more students pursuing STEM and more people pursuing innovation.”

Learning and teaching moments

Ali Laughbaum, an Advanced Placement environmental science and biology and marine biology teacher with the district, has already taken her students to see the unfinished house.

“There is quite a bit of science on the outside of the building,” she said. “They can see and feel the sustainable design. They can see the passive solar water tubes.”

Students will be involved in all phases of construction, from the installation of solar panels to the building permit process. The house also will be used to monitor the conditions and quality of the nearby wetlands section of the nature preserve. In addition, students will be in charge of building a 500-square-foot observatory deck that will overlook the wetlands.

To start, the house will serve students and teachers from New Albany-Plain Local, Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools, Columbus Jewish Day School, Columbus State Community College’s Construction Management and Environmental Technology programs and OSU’s Engineering, Architecture and Environmental Science programs.

“We’ve got a number of students who really want to work with the construction companies and engineers,” Morris said. “A contractor is going to mentor students to make sure it meets the building code.”

The technology will be available at both the New Albany site and OSU’s main campus, where the school’s 2011 solar

decathlon entry is located.

Beyond the classroom, education efforts will extend to homeowners and building professionals through workshops and demonstrations for a growing industry. Ohio solar energy systems grew by 23% in just the past year, according to an analysis done by Green Energy Ohio (GEO). Most of them are very large and commercial-size solar electric systems, GEO Executive Director **Bill Spratley** told The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer.



Ohio State University students designed and built the solar house in 2009 to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy’s Solar Decathlon on the National Mall in Washington D.C. Photo courtesy of U.S. Department of Energy.

Resch’s commitment to solar power and energy efficiency is reflected in his home, the first known Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED)-certified house built in New Albany.

“Facilities cost money, but they are nothing unless there are inspired teachers, students and private citizens,” he said. ■

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Capital Conference provides high value at a low cost



The Greater Columbus Convention Center Main Concourse is filled with attendees heading to learning sessions during the 2015 OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show.

Crystal Davis, assistant editor

Let's take a trip back in time to when the first McDonald's was built in Illinois, Disneyland opened in California, "The Mickey Mouse Club" debuted on ABC and the first Guinness Book of World Records was published. The year was 1955 — the same year OSBA was founded. The following year, OSBA hosted its first statewide conference, now known as the Capital Conference and Trade Show.

In its 61st year, the annual conference continues to build on its record as one of the most popular, affordable and information-packed education-related professional development events in the country.

Attendance has grown from more than 2,000 in its inaugural year to over 9,000 school board members, administrators, staff,

students, guests and exhibitors. The 2016 Capital Conference runs from Nov. 13-16 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center (GCCC).

Each year, attendees listen to respected keynote speakers, participate in learning sessions (see "Capital Conference expands learning opportunities," page 48) and visit the nation's largest education trade exhibition (see "A guide to smart shopping at the OSBA Trade Show," page 54).

During the four-day conference, attendees can choose from more than 150 learning sessions, workshops, seminars and networking events and have the opportunity to visit over 500 Trade Show booths. The Student Achievement Fair, with 100 booths showcasing district programs that boost student



Nischwitz



Coates



Hudson



Quezada



Griffin

achievement and five student performing groups, is a must-attend event.

Author, lawyer and **Northmont City** graduate **Jeff Nischwitz** will lead off the conference at the Early Bird Workshop on Sunday, Nov. 13, from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. His dynamic presentation, “Unleashing your authentic leader,” describes how everyone has a whole other level of leadership, performance and impact inside themselves.

While everyone has it, precious few tap into it and unleash it into their organizations, teams, relationships and life. And your whole other level is what it takes to change things — to have the impact everyone desires, both personally and professionally. Nischwitz shares his unique perspectives and insights on tapping into your whole other level of leadership so you can achieve for yourself and others the type of impact that everyone desires.

Nischwitz teaches that there are three facts of leadership. First, leadership is a choice. Second, everyone leads something or someone. Third, the most essential outcome of leadership is influence. The other leadership reality is that it requires people with high levels of awareness and emotional intelligence who

can empower, engage, inspire and align others. According to Nischwitz, the key foundation for all of these leadership outcomes is one word — trust — and this is the missing ingredient for most leaders.

In a world of business talk and strategic thinking, Nischwitz is a rare voice for a new way of leading and being — awake, aware and conscious — coupled with a foundation built on authenticity, accountability and action. Attendees will connect with a transformational leadership model designed to help anyone improve their leadership skills and enhance their effectiveness and execution. Based upon Nischwitz’s newest leadership book, “Unmask: Let Go of Who You’re ‘Supposed’ to Be & Unleash Your True Leader,” the Early Bird Workshop will tap into *your* whole other level of leadership.

Contact your district treasurer to register for the Early Bird Workshop. The cost is \$100. On-site tickets will be sold on a space-available basis. Attendees can meet Nischwitz during his book signing following his session, which is sponsored by Ennis Britton Co. LPA.

The Monday Conference Luncheon on Nov. 14 will again feature a Collaboration Connection, allowing you to network

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and discuss valuable topics with other district leaders.

This lunch-and-learn will include small-table discussions to help attendees share best practices and solutions to current issues. This is a unique opportunity for those who have already tackled difficult problems and are ready to share those solutions with others. CompManagement and GradyBenefits are sponsoring the Monday Conference Luncheon.



Dr. Judy Jackson May, manager of OSBA's Northwest Region, talks with a board member at the Capital Conference Region Resource Center. Managers and officers from OSBA's five regions staff the center to share information on regional activities.

The speaker for the Tuesday Conference Luncheon on Nov. 15 is former Ohio State University (OSU) running back **Archie Griffin**, the only player in college football history to win the Heisman Trophy twice. Griffin, who will discuss “The 3 Ds of

Success,” was a three-time college All-American who went on to play seven seasons in the NFL with the Cincinnati Bengals.

OSU football Coach **Woody Hayes** once said of Griffin, “He’s a better young man than he is a football player, and he’s the best football player I’ve ever seen.”

Griffin returned to OSU following his NFL career to serve as an associate director of athletics and the president and CEO of the Ohio State University Alumni Association. He now works as a senior advisor in the university’s Office of Advancement.

The Tuesday Conference Luncheon sponsors are CompManagement Health Systems Inc., GradyBenefits, NaviGate Prepared and Ulmer & Berne LLP.

The conference luncheons are held from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., with doors opening at noon. Advance registration for each luncheon is \$55. Attendees should notify their district treasurer or OSBA for registration. On-site tickets will be sold for \$60 at Registration on a space-available basis.

Another dine-and-learn event is the annual OSBA Black Caucus dinner on Sunday, when Dr. **Rodney D. Coates** discusses empowering African-American students through education.

A nationally recognized speaker and director of Miami University’s College of Arts & Science Black World Studies, Coates has created sociological insights to identify, research and pose solutions to real-life problems. As a professor in the Department of Sociology and Gerontology, he specializes in the study of race and ethnic relations, inequality, critical race theory and social justice.

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The event benefits the Leo Lucas Scholarship, which provides graduating African-American seniors a stipend to help them with college expenses.

Music and networking begin at 6 p.m., with dinner at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$70, and the registration deadline is Nov. 4. To register, notify your district treasurer or indicate your request on the conference registration form. A limited number of tickets will be sold at the door for \$75. All conference attendees are invited.

The Capital Conference certainly lives up to its philosophy — Leadership for Learning — with the addition of 21 learning sessions. Most of the conference’s learning sessions have been shortened to one hour to allow for more topics.

Sessions begin at 9 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, and 9 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 16. Sunday will feature several 45-minute learning sessions led by OSBA staff. The sessions will examine school bus safety, student welfare policies, boardmanship and conflicts of interest. Spotlight Sessions, which are longer and deliver more in-depth information, are scheduled throughout Monday and Tuesday.

Come prepared to take advantage of a packed schedule full of opportunities for professional development, countless chances to discover student achievement strategies and many examples of best practices to maximize your district’s resources and operations.

The conference’s social events and receptions allow plenty of time to exchange ideas in more relaxed settings. Sunday’s Welcome Reception will be in the Union Station Ballroom from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The reception is sponsored by CompManagement Health Systems Inc., GradyBenefits and Ohio School Plan. The OSBA President’s Reception is Monday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Main Concourse, and is sponsored by Bricker & Eckler LLP, CompManagement, GradyBenefits and NaviGate Prepared.

This year, the Union Station Ballroom will host the General Sessions. The sessions begin at 10:15 a.m., with doors opening at 10 a.m. Speakers who engage and inspire will highlight each session, including actor and activist **Ernie Hudson**; actor and school board member **Steven Michael Quezada**; and Emmy Award-winning journalist and host **Leeza Gibbons**.

Hudson, the Monday General Session speaker, has a lengthy list of credits and awards on his Hollywood résumé, including the iconic 1980s “Ghostbusters” movies and HBO’s award-winning series “Oz.”

But his road to fame had its share of hardships. The film, TV and stage star was born into poverty in the housing projects of Benton Harbor, Mich., and raised by his grandmother following his mother’s death when he was just two months old.

It was his grandmother who taught him patience and kindness



Medina County Career Center Principal Tresa Goodwin looks at some clothing at the OSBA Bookstore. The store offers a 10% discount on items purchased during the Capital Conference.



Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools students give attendees manicures in one of the Trade Show Relaxation Stations.

and supported him first and foremost in reconciling the loss of his mother and the absence of a father; serving in the Marine Corps; attending Yale University; overcoming racism in the entertainment industry; and raising his sons as a single father.

Nobody in his family had finished high school, but Hudson's persistence through the ups and downs has kept him working in the film industry for four decades. He understands the challenges of overcoming seemingly overwhelming problems and encourages others to always persevere.

Sponsors for the First General Session are Ennis Britton Co. LPA; Pepple & Waggoner Ltd.; Ross, Sinclair & Associates LLC; and Walter Haverfield LLP.

Fans of the popular TV show "Breaking Bad" know Quezada's accomplishments as an actor. He won a Screen Actors Guild Award for his role as Drug Enforcement Administration Agent Steve Gomez. Quezada headlines the Tuesday General Session.

The lifelong resident of New Mexico also is well-known as an education advocate and elected member of the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education, which oversees one of the nation's largest school districts.

The actor, comedian, producer, writer, teacher and humanitarian has used his late-night talk show, "The After

Party with Steven Michael Quezada," to provide on-the-job training for future filmmakers, including students from the Digital Arts & Technology Academy in Albuquerque.

Renowned for his charitable work, he has raised money for Youth Development Inc. (YDI) and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Quezada also has devoted time to Actors Core, Mi Voz, Elev8 and gang intervention programs.

Tuesday's General Session sponsors are Boenning and Scattergood Inc.; CompManagement Health Systems Inc.; Scott Scriven LLP; and Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP.

Gibbons wraps up the conference at the Wednesday General Session. With an impressive background in entertainment and the news media, she is one of the most well-known pop culture icons on the air.

Gibbons has been the on-camera host of numerous entertainment news and talk shows ranging from "Entertainment Tonight" to her award-winning daytime talk show, "Leeza." She currently hosts the syndicated TV news magazine show "America Now" and the weekly TV news show "My Generation," for which she won a Daytime Emmy Award.

Gibbons has become one of the leading voices for issues facing family caregivers. When her mother and grandmother

struggled with Alzheimer's disease, she created the Leeza Gibbons Memory Foundation. The foundation's programs offer free services for caregivers.

Gibbons also is a New York Times best-selling author who published "Take 2: Your Guide to Creating Happy Endings and New Beginnings" in 2013 and "Fierce Optimism: Seven Secrets for Playing Nice and Winning Big" in April. CompManagement is sponsoring the Third General Session.



With so many inspiring and captivating speakers, the Trade Show, Student Achievement Fair and more, it's hard to believe the Capital Conference is offered to you at such an affordable price, just \$295 per person. There's an even better deal for member districts who register more than six people. For a flat rate of \$1,850 those districts can send an unlimited number of attendees to the conference. That means your district can send seven or 70 and still pay the same flat rate.

In addition to sessions and networking events, you'll find a plethora of other resources designed to enhance your conference experience. So plan ahead to be ready to take advantage of some of these additional opportunities.

Avenue for Answers

Meet with representatives from state agencies, including the Ohio Auditor of State Legal and Local Government Services divisions, Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Facilities Construction Commission and Department of Administrative Services

Cooperative Purchasing Program. Representatives from the Academic Decathlon of Excellence Inc., Ohio School Resource Officers Association, School Employees Retirement System of Ohio and State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio also will be on hand to answer questions on numerous topics. Avenue for Answers is located in booths 1428 through 1441 in the Trade Show. It is open Monday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

OSBA Bookstore

Take time to check out all of the excellent publications available for purchase at the OSBA Bookstore. Located in C 110, the bookstore also offers clothing, plaques, recognition awards and other items for sale. A discount of 10% on all items purchased during the conference provides an added incentive to stop by.

Capital Conference App

Sponsored by Bricker & Eckler LLP, the free Capital Conference App includes information on conference sessions, exhibitor listings, the Student Achievement Fair, maps and floor plans, session handouts and up-to-the minute session notifications. It also enables attendees to create a customized conference schedule to personalize their experience. The app is available for iPhone, iPad and Android devices. In addition, a mobile website allows you to view the app from your computer or other mobile devices. Visit <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/app> for more information.

Information Station





The OSBA Information Station in the Main Concourse is open daily to assist attendees during conference hours. Fax and copy services, compliments of MT Business Technologies Inc., will be available as well as handouts from most conference sessions. Attendees can pick up extra handouts from sessions they participated in or workshops they couldn't attend.



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An attendee reads a brochure at University Square in the Capital Conference Trade Show. University Square has representatives of Ohio colleges and universities on hand to help school districts learn more about postsecondary educational opportunities for their students.

Kids PAC

Visit *Kids PAC*, located in booths 122 and 124 in the Trade Show, to learn more about OSBA legislative efforts and how you can help OSBA promote public education. Stop by to enter a silent auction for great prizes, the proceeds of which will benefit *Kids PAC*.

OHSPRA/OSBA Idea Center

Sponsored by the Ohio School Public Relations Association (OHSPRA) and OSBA, this publications exchange offers complimentary copies of school communications materials, including calendars, annual reports, newsletters and levy brochures. OHSPRA experts will be on hand to answer your public relations and other communications questions. The center is in the Main Concourse near D 130, so stop by, browse the collection and take copies back to your district.

OSBA Pavilion

Located at the south end of the Main Concourse, the OSBA Pavillion provides details on the wide range of programs and services OSBA offers. Take time to pick up informational materials and chat with association staff.

Region Resource Center

Find out how to be more involved in your region at the Region Resource Center in the Main Concourse. Regional managers, officers and committee members from the five OSBA regions will be available to answer questions, explain

services and talk about activities and events in their regions.

Relaxation Stations

Sit back and unwind at the conference Relaxation Stations in the Trade Show in aisles 100 and 1500. Enjoy complimentary hand and arm massages, manicures, blood pressure screenings and therapeutic foot massages. Some services are provided by students from **Coshocton County Career Center, Delaware Area Career Center, Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools, Mahoning County Career and Technical Center, South-Western City Career Academy and Trumbull Career & Technical Center.**

Twitter and Facebook

Will you be following OSBA and the conference on Twitter and Facebook? If so, use Twitter and Facebook to share your conference experiences. Include the hashtag #OSBACC in your tweets to share your observations. You also can post and view updates on OSBA's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OHschoolboards.

University Square

Representatives from Ohio colleges and universities will again take part in this higher education information exchange. This popular area offers representatives who are prepared to help school districts advise students and families about postsecondary education opportunities. University Square is in booths 1528-1541 in the Trade Show's Hall D. ■

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Capital Conference expands learning opportunities



Conneaut Area City sixth-graders Nick Osborne, right, and Ben Penniman greet an attendee before the district's 2015 learning session on student mentoring. Both boys served as presenters, along with then-Conneaut Superintendent Michael R. Notar, left.

Crystal Davis, assistant editor

Offering more learning sessions than ever before, the 2016 Capital Conference and Trade Show will have a historic number of opportunities to help improve your leadership skills and expand your knowledge.

The four-day conference, which runs Nov. 13-16 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, features renowned keynote speakers and more than 150 learning sessions, workshops, seminars and networking events. Nowhere else will you find so many opportunities to learn about the latest issues and information in K-12 public education.

Each year, OSBA tweaks conference programming based on your feedback. One change this year is that learning sessions have been shortened to one hour to allow for additional

sessions on Monday, Nov. 14, and Tuesday, Nov. 15. Sessions will begin at 9 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday and 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 16.

The learning session curriculum is organized into specific categories tailored to the roles of your district's management team. These topics are designed to help you make the most of your conference experience and find the programs that best fit your interests and responsibilities.

Those categories are: Administration; Board development; Communications/PR; Community engagement; Critical issues; ESCs; Finance/facilities; Hot topics; Human resources; Instruction; Leadership development; Legal; New board member; Organizational outlook; Rural schools; Safety and

wellness; School Law Workshop; Student achievement; Student issues; Technology; and Urban schools. Please note that learning sessions may be classified under multiple topics.

On Sunday, Nov. 13, OSBA staff will present four 45-minute learning sessions.

- 3 p.m. — Deputy Director of Management Services **Pete Japikse** will discuss “Are our school buses safe?” Hear why school buses are the safest place for a student.
- 3:30 p.m. — Director of School Board Services **Cheryl W. Ryan**, Deputy Director of School Board Services **Teri Morgan** and School Board Services Consultant **Steve Horton** will present “Boardmanship — nobody said it was easy.” The session will examine solutions to real-world problems that Ohio school boards deal with every day. Bring your questions for on-the-spot advice.
- 4 p.m. — “Hot topics in student welfare policies” will explore how board policies impact student welfare and conduct. You won’t want to miss this session led by Policy Consultants **Kenna S. Haycox** and **Kyle E. Lathwell**.
- 4:30 p.m. — Deputy Director of Legal Services **Jennifer A. Hardin** will present “Conflict, conflict, who’s got the conflict?” Hardin will explain conflicts of interest and provide tips on handling conflicts and helpful resources if you think you have a conflict.

Spotlight Sessions are special Capital Conference presentations that offer a detailed look at timely topics.

Japikse will lead the first Spotlight Session, “Keys to a successful bus operation” at 8:30 a.m. Monday. Organized by and for school transportation administrators, this session will cover multiple facets of school transportation, including hot topics and what a school board needs to know. Get answers to your questions about the law, administrative rules, best practices and more.

The Spotlight Session “Public records training” begins at 9 a.m. Monday and will provide school board members or their designees the three hours of approved public records training required by law during members’ terms of office. The state auditor’s office will present up-to-date information to help attendees fulfill the training requirement. This session is open to conference registrants only. *Note: You must stay for the full session to receive the training certificate.*

The “Supporting diverse student learning” Spotlight Session on Monday afternoon is split into two sessions. At 2:30 p.m., “Supporting diverse student learning — student perspective” will look at how those who build personal and academic relationships with culturally diverse students may be the most influential. Learn from a panel of college and recent high school students and those who work closely with them about what helps or hinders learning experiences and achievement.

“Supporting diverse student learning — educators and community leaders” begins at 4 p.m. Speakers will share their

perspectives on working closely with culturally diverse students.

Between the two sessions, at 3:30 p.m., there will be a Networking Break to meet with panelists and other attendees to share best practices for supporting diverse student learning.



Cincinnati City Deputy Superintendent Catherine Laura Mitchell speaks at an Urban Solution Room Spotlight Session at last year’s Capital Conference. Spotlight Sessions are special presentations that take an in-depth look at hot topics in education.

State legislative leaders and OSBA lobbyists will present the Spotlight Session “OSBA legislative update” at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday. Hear the latest information on recent developments in the Ohio General Assembly, learn about what the November election results might mean in the coming year and receive an update on the legislative direction during the lame-duck session signaling the end of the 131st General Assembly.

The 2:30 p.m. Tuesday Spotlight Session, “The Urban Solution Room — district consortiums,” will provide a place where you can join OSBA Urban School District Advisory Network members and share real-world solutions for the challenges facing Ohio’s urban districts. This roundtable session will focus on the opportunities available when urban, suburban and rural districts work collaboratively to lobby, maximize funding, sing the praises of public education and find creative solutions to common issues.

In addition to learning sessions and Spotlight Sessions, you may opt to attend a series of School Law Workshop sessions to earn continuing legal education credits. Six classes will delve into hot topics in school law throughout the day Tuesday. The sessions begin at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:45 p.m.

The sessions are: “Public criticism of district employees,”

“Electronic discussions and the Open Meetings Act,” “Legal issues for today’s hottest tech toys,” “School law year in review,” “Creative revenue sources for public schools” and “Handling employees’ pending criminal actions.” Conference registration is required to attend.

OSBA has designed the conference to serve the professional needs of your entire school district management team. Board members, district and building administrators, treasurer’s staff, technology specialists, guidance counselors and others will find valuable information and networking opportunities.



Crestline EV board member Robyn L. Almanson listens to a presenter during a learning session at the 2015 Capital Conference.

The Conference Guide, which can be downloaded at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/2016CCGuide>, contains everything you need to know about the event and will help familiarize you with learning session topics and how they are organized. Doing so before the start of the conference can help you get the most from the event. If your school district is sending multiple individuals to the conference, planning ahead can help coordinate which sessions all of you plan to attend.

If you are unable to attend a session, stop by the Information Station and pick up handouts from most workshops. The complimentary service, sponsored by MT Business Technologies Inc., enables attendees to benefit from workshops they could not attend and allows them to share the information with others in their district. Handouts received before the Capital Conference will be available through the Conference App and OSBA Capital Conference website at <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/handouts> during the event. More handouts will be available on the conference website by Nov. 21.

The Conference App is a powerful resource that allows you to find information about learning sessions, keynote speakers, the Student Achievement Fair and Trade Show. You can even use the app, sponsored by Bricker & Eckler LLP, to create your

own personalized schedule based on the sessions and events you wish to attend. New this year, you can create an account to use the app on multiple devices. Click the Login or Register button in the menu, then create an account using your email address and a password you create. After your account is created, use the Login feature to view your personalized schedule and notes on any device.

The Conference App is free for iPhone, iPad and Android devices through the Apple Store or Google Play Store. You also can access it at <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/app>.

Following is a list of conference session titles organized by date and time. For further information, including session descriptions and topics, visit the Capital Conference website or download the Conference Guide at the internet addresses previously listed.

Sunday 3 p.m. learning session

- Are our school buses safe?

Sunday 3:30 p.m. learning session

- Boardmanship — nobody said it was easy

Sunday 4 p.m. learning session

- Hot topics in student welfare policies

Sunday 4:30 p.m. learning session

- Conflict, conflict, who’s got the conflict?

Monday 8:30 a.m. Spotlight Session

- Keys to a successful bus operation

Monday 9 a.m. Spotlight Session

- Public records training

Monday 9 a.m. learning sessions

- Building early warning system partnerships
- Change happens — 10 successful strategies
- Community partnership and career readiness
- Diagnostics create postsecondary plans
- Educational visioning in building design
- Hot topics in student and data privacy
- Individualized instruction for algebra
- Issues schools avoid but must address
- LED lighting in educational environments
- Ohio update of Every Student Succeeds Act
- Passing the unpassable bond levy
- Shared leadership approach — do more with more
- Teacher termination and nonrenewal update
- Updating school safety plans
- Who’s right when student rights conflict?

Monday 1 p.m. learning sessions

- Creating a school within a school

- Eight tips for improving board communication
- FERPA 2.0
- How a curriculum audit defined our path
- Impact of levy failures on budgeting and achievement
- Innovative P-12 model — one district's success
- Poverty — the real educational indicator
- Strengthening the ODE-district partnership
- Success in data-driven negotiations

Monday 2:30 p.m. Spotlight Session

- Supporting diverse student learning — student perspective

Monday 2:30 p.m. learning sessions

- Become a social and emotional learning coach
- Blended learning best practices
- Building school-business partnerships
- Dealing with discrimination claims
- ESSA — what to expect going forward
- Illuminate the data!
- Leading and learning — board relationships
- Passing bond issues and financing projects
- School crisis response — school shooting
- Sexting and Title IX
- Student athletes — beyond win/lose records
- Student search and interrogation
- Taking action against drug abuse

- The specter of bullying in schools
- Transgender students in schools

Monday 4 p.m. Spotlight Session

- Supporting diverse student learning — educators and community leaders

Monday 4 p.m. learning sessions

- 2016 case law update
- Community engagement for school districts
- Get the most from the five-year forecast
- Graduation — one student at a time
- Healthy communities, healthy schools
- Inspiring students as minority scholars
- Integrated technology — not just dessert
- Leadership and the importance of social media
- Mental health services and school safety
- Repudiating contracts — the ultimate step
- Revisiting standards-based grades
- The board's role in leading for success
- The C word — change through engagement
- The nuts and bolts of vendor contracts
- What parents want in school communication

Tuesday 8:30 a.m. Spotlight Session

- OSBA legislative update



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Tuesday 9 a.m. OSBA School Law Workshop

- Public criticism of district employees

Tuesday 9 a.m. learning sessions

- A case study of operating tax levies
- A guide to effectively using ESCs
- Compliant emergency plan — now what?
- EDTech — getting IT right for the future
- Environmental Dashboards as teaching tools
- Essential polices for 2017
- Poverty's impact on student achievement
- Quick wins and long-term results
- Random drug testing for school employees
- Recruiting African-American male teachers
- School-based health center from the ground up
- Spotlight behind-the-scenes departments
- This is not your typical career fair
- Why board members should care about EMIS



An attendee asks a question during a session with state legislators at last year's Capital Conference. Looking on is OSBA Deputy Director of Legislative Services Jay Smith.

Tuesday 10:30 a.m. OSBA School Law Workshop

- Electronic discussions and the Open Meetings Act

Tuesday 11:15 a.m. OSBA School Law Workshop

- Legal issues for today's hottest tech toys

Tuesday 1 p.m. learning sessions

- Concussions and overuse injuries in sports
- Improving employee relations
- Magic routing button — fantasy versus reality
- New stadium, private money — wisdom 101
- Paperless board meetings and beyond

- Partnering for future success
- Positive discipline — expelling hope
- Student competition drives energy savings
- Student to student — breaking the bullying cycle
- Transforming school culture — move your bus
- Wanted: SBOs with communications savvy
- Welcoming refugee and immigrant students
- What students really want — lessons learned
- Working together to promote public schools

Tuesday 1:30 p.m. OSBA School Law Workshop

- School law year in review

Tuesday 2:30 p.m. Spotlight Session

- The Urban Solution Room — district consortiums

Tuesday 2:30 p.m. OSBA School Law Workshop

- Creative revenue sources for public schools

Tuesday 2:30 p.m. learning sessions

- Bargaining trends and outlook for 2017
- Charter school monster
- Conflict resolution for school boards
- Creating a culture of thinking
- Hamilton Local's turnaround tale
- How music tech can reach nonmusicians
- Ins and outs of a successful CCP program
- Keeping students safe online
- Linking school leadership and the community
- Preparing globally competent graduates
- Rural school-based health centers
- Saving energy and having fun with students
- Self-harm/suicide prevention protocol
- Student Ambassadors — a bridge to the community

Tuesday 3:45 p.m. OSBA School Law Workshop

- Handling employees' pending criminal actions

Tuesday 4 p.m. learning sessions

- Achieving health care benefit rate stability
- Finish first for students
- Improving behavior with restorative discipline
- State school-funding update
- Using data to sell your story
- Welcome to America — now what?
- Working well with superintendents, treasurers

Wednesday 9 a.m. learning sessions

- Engaging parents in your school and community
- How Bellaire became \$9 million richer
- Road map to student-centered learning
- Striking GOLD and changing lives
- The First Amendment and student publications
- Understanding transgender student issues
- Using rotations to maximize primary literacy
- WATCH D.O.G.S. — positive role models ■



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- *Dr. Joseph Erardi, Superintendent, Newtown
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A guide to smart shopping at the OSBA Trade Show

Gary Motz, editor

It's hard not to be impressed when walking into the Trade Show at the OSBA Capital Conference, even for veteran conference attendees. For first-time visitors, the reaction frequently is "Wow."

The exhibition hall is huge — nearly five acres under one roof — and filled with row upon row of vendors offering all the goods and services schools need to succeed. It has been the nation's largest education trade exhibition since 2005 and last year hosted 559 booths.

Since the show has such a strong national reputation, it

attracts top-quality vendors providing only the best in goods and services. These range from athletic equipment, computer technology, textbooks, furniture, buses and playground fixtures to insurance, facilities design and construction, curriculum packages, security services, financial consulting and much more.

For details on vendors and their products, download the Conference Guide at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/2016CCGuide> and go to page 120. There you'll also find a list of nearly 40 vendors that are exhibiting in the Trade Show for the first time this year.



In addition to gathering information about goods and services for their school districts, Trade Show visitors also can sample some of those products as this attendee is doing at the Chartwells School Dining Services booth.

With so much to choose from and all that ground to cover, it pays to have a plan before entering the exhibition hall. Following are some tips to help you make the most of your Trade Show experience. Exhibits are open Monday, Nov. 14, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday, Nov. 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Do your homework

First, determine what your district needs. Have your top administrators survey department heads and building leaders to find out what might boost student achievement and increase efficiencies. Then, collect information that will help you make wise purchasing decisions.

For example, if new buses are on the shopping list, find out what the district's specific needs are. Planning facilities construction or renovation? Come armed with details to help you narrow down the district's options.

Or, better yet, take advantage of the conference's school district group pricing discount and bring your transportation and facilities directors to the conference to talk with exhibitors. This discount enables districts to send staff and others to Columbus for one day or the entire conference. To learn how to register an unlimited number of attendees from your district for one low fee, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/53472>.

Plan your search

Use the Conference Guide to make a list of exhibitors whose booths you want to visit so you're prepared when the Trade Show doors open. The guide — along with the Capital Conference App — features an alphabetical list of exhibitors with their company descriptions and booth numbers as well as vendors listed by product category. This



A Trade Show vendor shares information with a potential customer. With more than 550 booths each year, the OSBA Trade Show is the largest education-related exhibition in the nation.

will help you organize your search. There is a notes section in the back of the Conference Guide to list what exhibitors you want to visit and the questions you want to ask them.

The Conference App is available from download from the Apple App or Google Play stores. For more information, visit <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/app>.

Don't rush through the show

Be sure to take your time with each exhibitor and remember to ask the questions you compiled earlier. Rushing through the show will limit your opportunities and discourage vendors who've organized their representatives

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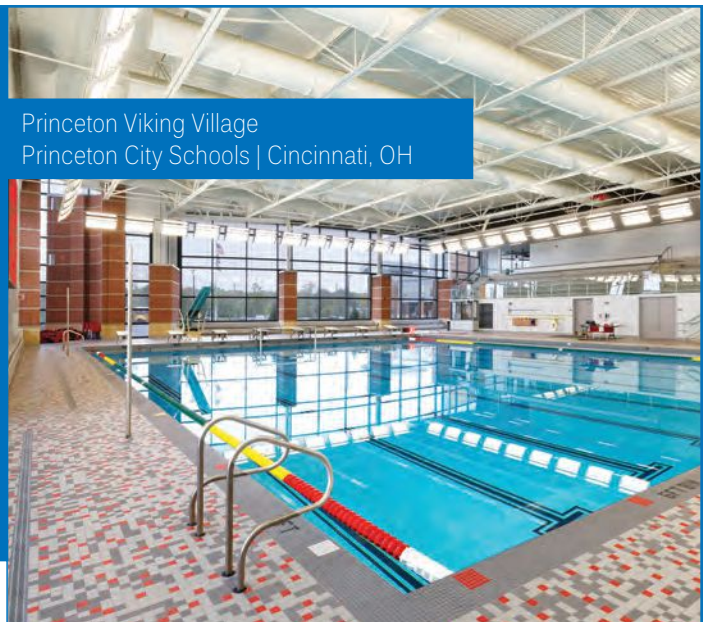
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and impressive displays to speak with you about your district's needs.

Tuesday will be the busiest day at the exhibition, so try to do your comparison shopping on Monday when the aisles are less crowded.

Exchange contact information

Don't forget to bring business cards to swap with exhibitors so they can easily reach you after the show. Also bring business cards for your district's department heads — food service, business, transportation, facilities, curriculum, technology and others — to give vendors the opportunity to follow up with them.

Make notes on any important details exhibitors share with you and gather informational materials to take home to share with others. Before the show closes on Tuesday, review your notes to ensure you've covered everything you've set out to find.

Finally, take time to thank exhibitors you speak with for being part of the Trade Show and sharing their information. Exhibitors always appreciate feedback from their customers.

Passport stations, raffles and more

The Trade Show also features raffles that give you a chance to win valuable prizes for your district. Attendees received a Trade Show passport with their registration materials.

To be eligible to win a raffle, your passport must be stamped at eight locations in the exhibit hall. Fully stamped passports may then be deposited in the bin at the back of Hall C by the Trade Show office.

Drawings will take place throughout Monday and Tuesday. Winners will be listed at the Information Station, and Trade Show Office, next to the raffle bin. Consult your Conference Guide for each day's passport stops.

Other Trade Show highlights:

- New this year, OSBA is providing a networking break in the Trade Show. Explore the newest and greatest technology, products and services exhibitors have to offer, network with your peers and enjoy a refreshing break on Tuesday, Nov. 15, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Two Relaxation Stations will provide complimentary back massages, manicures, blood pressure screenings and therapeutic foot massages. The stations are in aisles 100 and 1500, and some of the services are provided by Ohio career center students.
- The OSBA *Kids* PAC display, located in booths 122 and 124, will feature a silent auction and also is a passport station. While you're there, take time to learn more about OSBA legislative efforts and how you can support those efforts. Auction proceeds will benefit *Kids* Pac — your political action committee.
- Food and beverages can be purchased at the Trade Show Café at the rear of aisle 900.

So, come prepared and make the 2016 Trade Show a key part of your Capital Conference experience. Odds are you'll find at least one service, product or program that will save your district tens of thousands of dollars. Districts that establish long-term relationships with companies stand to save even more.

Spending some well-planned time with vendors could turn out to be the best investment you've ever made for your students, district and community. ■

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Capital Conference sponsors make certain event shines

Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

The OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show wouldn't be one of the nation's premier education conventions without the invaluable support of its outstanding sponsors.

These patrons help sustain the excellence of this event — which runs Nov. 13-16 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center (GCCC) — in many ways, including the sponsorship of General Session keynote speakers, receptions and attendee bags.

OSBA can't thank the sponsors enough for helping to ensure attendees improve their leadership skills, expand their knowledge and network with peers.

Following are the sponsors and the events and activities they are supporting.

The Early Bird Workshop with **Jeff Nischwitz**, from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13, is sponsored by Ennis Britton Co. LPA.

CompManagement Health Systems Inc., GradyBenefits and Ohio School Plan sponsor the Welcome Reception at 5:30 p.m. Sunday in the Union Station Ballroom. The reception honors OSBA governance committee members, Board Leadership Institute graduates and Award of Achievement recipients.

The First General Session, which begins at 10:15 a.m. Monday, Nov. 14, features "Ghostbusters" star and activist **Ernie Hudson**. The session is sponsored by Ennis Britton Co. LPA; Pepple & Waggoner Ltd.; Ross, Sinclair & Associates LLC; and Walter Haverfield LLP. The conference's three General Sessions will be held in the



Former astronaut and engineer Leland Melvin addresses the First General Session at the 2015 Capital Conference. Thanks to the support of many generous sponsors, OSBA is able to bring some of the nation's top speakers to the conference each year.

Union Station Ballroom, where doors open at 10 a.m.

CompManagement and GradyBenefits are sponsoring Monday's Conference Luncheon, which provides an opportunity to collaborate with fellow board members and administrators. The luncheon begins at 12:15 p.m. in the Short North Ballroom.

Bricker & Eckler LLP; CompManagement; GradyBenefits; and NaviGate Prepared are sponsors for the OSBA President's Reception, which runs from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday in the GCCC Main Concourse. The event provides the opportunity to meet OSBA President **Eric K. Germann**, **Lincolnview Local (Van Wert)** and **Vantage Career Center**, and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

Boenning and Scattergood Inc.; CompManagement Health Systems Inc.; Scott Scriven LLP; and Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP are sponsoring the Second General Session speaker, "Breaking Bad" actor and public school board member **Steven Michael Quezada**. The session begins at 10:15 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15.

CompManagement Health Systems Inc.; GradyBenefits; NaviGate Prepared; and Ulmer and Berne LLP are

sponsors for Tuesday's Conference Luncheon, which begins at 12:15 p.m. in the Short North Ballroom and features Ohio State University football legend **Archie Griffin**.

CompManagement is sponsoring the Third General Session on Wednesday, Nov. 16, with Emmy-winning journalist and author **Leeza Gibbons**.

MT Business Technologies Inc. once again is sponsoring copier and fax services at the Information Station, located in the Main Concourse next to the north Trade Show entrance.

Other contributions and sponsors are:

- Conference bags, distributed to all paid attendees in the Main Concourse, are provided by CompManagement Health Systems Inc.
- Conference lanyards, provided by NaviGate Prepared, are distributed to attendees in the Main Concourse.
- The Capital Conference App is sponsored by Bricker & Eckler LLP.
- The Monday Spotlight Session — "Keys to a successful bus operation" — is sponsored by Huffmaster Strike Services and Ohio School Plan. The session runs from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Eisenman room.
- The Spotlight Session Networking Break, on Monday

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from 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in D 233-235, is sponsored by OSBA Insurance Agency LLC.

- The Student Achievement Fair Art Show is sponsored by Pepple & Waggoner Ltd.

The Trade Show passport raffle provides opportunities for conference participants to win prizes for their districts. Attendees must have their Trade Show passport validated at each of the eight indicated locations inside the exhibit hall. Passports are included with conference name badges, which were in registration packets OSBA mailed at the end of September.

Monday's Trade Show passport sponsor stops are Capitol Aluminum & Glass Corp., booth 718; CompManagement Health Systems Inc., booth 815; GradyBenefits, booth 800; Kids PAC, booths 122 and 124; NOVA Southeastern University, booth 1334; Ohio School Plan, booth 500; PaySchools/Esber Cash Register, booth 1001; and Turner Construction Co., booths 639 and 641.

Tuesday's Trade Show passport sponsor stops are Capitol Aluminum & Glass Corp., booth 718; GradyBenefits, booth 800; Jefferson County ESC Virtual Learning Academy, booth 707; Kids PAC, booths 122 and 124; NOVA Southeastern University, booth 1334; Ohio School Plan, booth 500; Richard L. Bowen + Associates Inc., booth 726; and Turner Construction Co., booths 639 and 641.

Fully stamped passports can be dropped in a bin located at the back of Trade Show Hall C, where a list of winners will be posted. A list of winners also will be available in the Information Station in the Main Concourse. Drawings take place throughout the day on Monday and Tuesday.

Contributions from conference sponsors make certain this four-day event delivers the leadership and learning that boosts student achievement in your district. While you're there, be sure to take a moment and thank them. ■

OSBA thanks generous sponsors

Patronage from OSBA's family of Capital Conference and Trade Show sponsors help make it the one of the nation's premier education events.

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Scores of journalists named to OSBA Media Honor Roll

Gary Motz, editor

OSBA is pleased to announce the journalists selected for the 2016 Media Honor Roll. School districts from across Ohio selected more than 120 reporters, editors and news outlets for the honor this year.

Launched in 2002, the OSBA Media Honor Roll recognizes print and broadcast news media representatives for fair, balanced and accurate reporting on public schools. Districts select their honorees and submit their names to OSBA. The association then sends personalized certificates and provides a sample resolution and news release that school boards can customize to recognize their honorees during a board meeting. OSBA also recognizes the journalists in its Journal magazine and on its website.

The program recognizes media representatives in print, radio and television. Winners are chosen because they:

- work to get to know the superintendent, board president and district communication director as well as the district's mission and goals;
- report school news in a fair, accurate and balanced manner;
- give a high profile to positive news about districts and schools;
- visit school buildings;
- maintain a policy of "no surprises," by always giving school officials the opportunity to comment on information to be aired or published.

In addition to being a recognition program, the Media Honor Roll also encourages school districts to develop and maintain good working relationships with their local journalists. Reporters and editors have the power to shape community attitudes about schools, which makes it crucial for public education to build positive relationships with news organizations.

In just about every community, the media put a strong focus on school coverage. Schools can have a positive impact on that coverage by getting to know reporters and respecting what they do.

Building a positive rapport with journalists helps them learn more about the challenges schools face and increases the chances of fair coverage. It also helps schools harness the power of the media to show their communities the many great things that school boards, students, administrators and teachers are accomplishing.

But, as everyone knows, not all news is good news. Districts that work well with their local media usually have a much better chance of having negative issues covered fairly. They also are less likely to be victims of unwarranted criticism and "gotcha" journalism.

"The Media Honor Roll, now in its 15th year, has recognized more than 1,600 journalists since its inception," said OSBA Executive Director **Richard Lewis**. "OSBA is gratified to see so many of its member districts embrace this program.

"Those districts are working hard to cultivate good relationships with their local journalists. That, in turn, generates coverage that helps communities better understand, appreciate and support their public schools.

"OSBA thanks all of the districts across Ohio that participated in the program and congratulates the reporters, editors and news organizations selected for this honor."

The program allows districts to choose as many journalists that they feel are deserving of this statewide honor. Below are the members of the 2016 OSBA Media Honor Roll, followed by their news outlets and the school districts that selected them.

- **Jamie Anton**, The North Royalton Post, North Royalton City
- **Bill Arnett**, WYBZ Radio, Muskingum Valley ESC
- **Chris Balusik**, Chillicothe Gazette, Adena Local (Ross)
- **Brian Barr**, The Oakwood Register, Oakwood City
- **Glenn Battishill**, The Delaware Gazette, Delaware City
- **John Benson**, Gazette Newspaper, Independence Local (Cuyahoga)

- **Nancy Bowman**, Dayton Daily News, Tipp City EV; Troy City
- **Jim Brewer**, Loudonville Times, Loudonville-Perrysville EV
- Broadview Journal/Scriptype Publishing, North Royalton City
- **Kristian Brown**, WTVG-TV, Oregon City
- **Jeff Bryden**, North Coast Business Journal, EHOVE Career Center
- **Phillip Buffington**, The Telegram, Wellston City
- **Virginia Burroughs**, Dayton Daily News, Dayton City
- **Kelly Cantwell**, The Clermont Sun, Williamsburg Local (Clermont)
- **Andrea Chaffin**, The Madison Press, London City
- **Nancy Char**, The Free Press Standard, Carrollton EV
- **Barbara Christian**, Chagrin Valley Times, Chagrin Falls EV
- **Kelsey Clemons**, The Van Wert Independent, Crestview Local (Van Wert)
- **Erin Cox**, Van Wert Times Bulletin, Crestview Local (Van Wert); Lincolnview Local (Van Wert)
- **Ron Craig**, Review Times, Lakota Local (Sandusky)
- **Dave DeLuca**, Star Beacon, Buckeye Local (Ashtabula)
- **Ryan Dentscheff**, Chagrin Valley Times, Orange City
- **Jenny Derringer**, The Crescent-News, Ayersville Local (Defiance); Defiance City
- **Dave Doney**, WNKO Radio, C-TEC of Licking County
- **Ryan Eldredge**, WTOV-TV, Carrollton EV; Indian Creek Local (Jefferson)
- **Jane Ernsberger**, Willard Times-Junction, Willard City
- **Cecilia Fox**, Weekly Record Herald, Tipp City EV
- **Amy Gareis**, Jefferson County ESC, Indian Creek Local (Jefferson)
- **Claire Giesige**, The Daily Standard, Celina City

- **Jeff Gilliland**, The Times-Gazette, Bright Local (Highland)
- **Dave Gossett**, Herald Star, Jefferson County ESC
- **Dale Grimm**, Troy Tribune, Troy City
- **Jess Grimm**, Chillicothe Gazette, Adena Local (Ross)
- **Luke Gronneberg**, Sidney Daily News, Hardin-Houston Local (Shelby)

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- **Jordyn Grzelewski**, The Vindicator, Poland Local (Mahoning)
- **Scott Halasz**, Xenia Daily Gazette, Xenia Community City
- **Linda Hall**, The Daily Record, Tri-County ESC
- **Michael Hammond**, WKLM Radio, Garaway Local (Tuscarawas)
- **Tina Heiberg**, Wadsworth Community Radio, Wadsworth City
- **Kevin Howell**, The Salem News, West Branch Local (Mahoning)
- **Gary Huffenberger**, Wilmington News Journal, Southern Ohio ESC
- **Jackie Humphrey**, The Times Reporter, Conotton Valley Union Local (Carroll)
- **Deb Hutmire**, Perry County Tribune, Muskingum Valley ESC



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- **Steven Jackson**, WTOL-TV, Oregon City
- **Pam James**, Zanesville Times Recorder, Muskingum Valley ESC
- **Joe Jastrzemski**, Wadsworth Community Radio, Wadsworth City
- **Deanne Johnson**, Morning Journal, Columbiana County Career & Technical Center
- **Gloria Kacik**, Royalton Recorder, North Royalton City
- **Krista Kano**, Chagrin Valley Times, Chagrin Falls EV
- **John Karlovec**, Geauga County Maple Leaf, Chagrin Falls EV
- **Kate Keller**, WFMJ-TV, Austintown Local (Mahoning)
- **Jeremy Kelley**, Dayton Daily News, Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Local (Greene)
- **Amy Knapp**, The Independent, Massillon City
- **Barb Limbacher**, Times Reporter, Strasburg-Franklin Local (Tuscarawas)
- **Maria Lindsay**, South Side News Leader, Springfield Local (Summit)
- **Mandy Loehr**, Bellefontaine Examiner, Riverside Local (Logan)
- **Maria Magnelli**, Royalton Recorder, North Royalton City
- **Chuck Martinez-Brandon**, The Crescent-News, Northeastern Local (Defiance)
- **Stacy Mathews**, The Daily Jeffersonian, East Guernsey Local (Guernsey)
- **Steven Matthews**, Dayton Daily News, Fairborn City
- **Sean McClelland**, Dayton Daily News, New Lebanon Local (Montgomery)
- **Joyce McFadden**, Gazette Newspaper, Independence Local (Cuyahoga)
- **Mike McKay**, WCMJ Radio, East Guernsey Local (Guernsey)
- **Marsha McKenna**, Record Publishing Co., Stow-Munroe Falls City
- **Lance Mihm**, The Lima News, Waynesfield-Goshen Local (Auglaize)
- **Mark Miller**, Herald Star, Toronto City
- **Ann Morrison**, The Post, Strongsville City
- **Dave Mosier**, The Van Wert Independent, Crestview Local (Van Wert); Lincolnview Local (Van Wert)
- **Jerry Mossbarger**, Jackson County Broadcasting Inc., Wellston City
- **Carolyn Mostyn**, The Suburbanite, Springfield Local (Summit)
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- **Jim Otte**, WHIO-TV, Fairborn City
- **Amy L. Patterson**, Geauga County Maple Leaf, Chardon Local (Gauga)
- **Rory Ryan**, The Highland County Press, Bright Local (Highland)
- **Phil Sakal**, WHIZ Media Group, Muskingum Valley ESC
- **Kevin Sandler**, WCSM Radio, Celina City
- **Pam Schehl**, Mount Vernon News, Mount Vernon City
- **Forrest Sellers**, Indian Hill Journal-Community Press, Indian Hill EV
- **Josie Sellers**, The Coshocton County Beacon, Muskingum Valley ESC
- **Chelsea Shar**, The Alliance Review, West Branch Local (Mahoning)
- **Jeremiah Shaver**, The Jackson County Times-Journal, Wellston City
- **Steve Shoffner**, WLEC/WCPZ Radio, Huron City
- **Cassie Smith**, The Wapakoneta Daily News, Waynesfield-Goshen Local (Auglaize)
- **Lisa Smith**, WKEF/WRGT-TV, Fairborn City
- **Sarah Sole**, ThisWeek Dublin Villager, Dublin City
- **Martha Sorohan**, Gazette News, Buckeye Local (Ashtabula)
- **John Spahr**, WTTF Radio, Tiffin City
- **Patricia Ann Spielman**, Sidney Daily News, Hardin-Houston Local (Shelby)
- **Melanie Speicher**, Sidney Daily News, Sidney City; Upper Valley Career Center
- **Nancy Spencer**, Delphos Herald, Ottoville Local (Putnam)
- **Rick Stillion**, The Daily Jeffersonian, East Guernsey Local (Guernsey)
- **Rachel Strong**, Geauga News, Independence Local (Cuyahoga)
- **Tom Stugmyer**, Wadsworth Community Radio, Wadsworth City
- **Ty Thaxton**, Kenton Times, Riverdale Local (Hancock)
- **Debra Tobin**, The Logan Daily News, Muskingum Valley ESC
- **Mark Todd**, Star Beacon, Conneaut Area City
- **Amanda Tonoli**, The Vindicator, Austintown Local (Mahoning)
- **Carol Ubelhart**, OrrViews, Wayne County Schools Career Center
- **Mike Ullery**, Piqua Daily Call, Upper Valley Career Center
- **Carla Ungerecht**, Tippecanoe Gazette, Tipp City EV
- **Whitney Vickers**, Fairborn Daily Herald, Fairborn City
- **Sheila Vilvens**, Cincinnati Enquirer, Deer Park Community City
- **Jamie Ward**, Geauga County Maple Leaf, Chardon Local (Gauga)
- **Matt Westerhold**, Sandusky Register, Sandusky City
- **Katie White**, Morning Journal, Columbiana EV; East Palestine City
- **J.T. Whitehouse**, Town Crier, Austintown Local (Mahoning)
- **Pete Wilson**, The Telegram, Wellston City
- WTOV-TV, Toronto City
- **Melanie Yingst**, Troy Daily News, Troy City
- **Kristy Zurbrick**, Madison Messenger, London City ■

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