



# DELEGATE HANDBOOK

**Annual Business Meeting of the  
Ohio School Boards Association  
Delegate Assembly**

Greater Columbus Convention Center  
Union Station Ballroom

Monday, Nov. 14, 2022 • 2:30 p.m.



**OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION**

2022





# AGENDA

**Annual Business Meeting of the  
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## **AGENDA**

1. Call to order  
**Robert M. Heard Sr.**,  
OSBA president, board member, **Cleveland Municipal**
2. Introduction of platform guests
3. Special introductions
4. Ohio Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Dr. **Stephanie K. Siddens**
5. Reports of committees
  - A. Credentials Committee  
**Doug Stuart**, committee chair, board member, **Rittman EV**  
and **Wayne County Schools Career Center**
  - B. Rules Committee  
**Christopher Widman**, committee chair, board member,  
**Vanguard-Sentinel Career & Technology Centers**
  - C. Nominating Committee  
**Lee Schreiner**, OSBA immediate past president,  
board member, **South-Western City**
6. Election of the 2023 president-elect
7. Introduction of the 2023 president-elect
8. Report of the chief executive officer  
**Rick Lewis**, CAE, chief executive officer, OSBA
9. Report of the Legislative Platform Committee  
**Christine Varwig**, committee chair, 2022 OSBA president-elect,  
board member, **Toledo City**
10. Platform amendments introduced from the floor
11. New business
12. Kids PAC – your political action committee
13. Adjournment

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## **2022 OSBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Robert M. Heard Sr.**, president  
Cleveland Municipal

**Christine Varwig**, president-elect  
Toledo City

**Lee Schreiner**, past president  
South-Western City

**Renda M. Cline**  
Mansfield City

**Terry Gibson**  
Lockland Local (Hamilton) &  
Great Oaks Career Campuses

**Sally S. Green**  
Tuscarawas Valley Local  
(Tuscarawas)

**Carol-Ann Molnar**  
Oregon City

**Ed Penrod**  
Muskingum Valley ESC &  
Tri-County Career Center

# 2022 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM COMMITTEE

**Christine Varwig**, chair

## **CENTRAL REGION**

**Dr. Marguerite Bennett**  
Mount Vernon City  
and Knox County  
Career Center

**Emily Gephart**  
Grandview Heights City

**Mary M. Pierce**  
Eastland-Fairfield Career  
& Technical Schools

**Lise Ricketts**  
Lancaster City

**Charlie Wilson**  
Worthington City

## **NORTHEAST REGION**

**T.J. DeAngelis**  
Chippewa Local (Wayne)

**Albert Haberstroh**  
Trumbull County ESC &  
Trumbull Career and  
Technical Center

**Brenda Kimble**  
Youngstown City

**Susie Lawson**  
Tri-County ESC and Wayne  
County Schools Career Center

**Deborah Melda**  
Lorain County ESC &  
Lorain County JVSD

## **NORTHWEST REGION**

**Jaimie L. Beamer**  
Vanguard-Sentinel Career  
& Technology Centers

**Kevin Landin**  
Ottoville Local (Putnam)

**Dr. Paul R. Lockwood II**  
North Point ESC and EHOVE  
Career Center

**Thomas C. Patterson**  
Sandusky City

## **SOUTHEAST REGION**

**Sidney Brackenridge**  
Warren Local (Washington)

**Debra L. Grooms**  
Western Local (Pike)

**Stephanie Lang**  
Fort Frye Local (Washington)

**Jamie S. Murphy**  
Dawson-Bryant Local  
(Lawrence)

**Carol A. Porter**  
Gallia-Vinton ESC

## **SOUTHWEST REGION**

**Mary Cleveland**  
Princeton City and Great Oaks  
Career Campuses

**Terry Gibson**  
Lockland Local (Hamilton) &  
Great Oaks Career Campuses

**Vanessa Jeter-Freeman**  
Trotwood-Madison City &  
Miami Valley Career  
Technology Center

**Dr. Bill Shula**  
Bethel-Tate Local  
(Clermont)

**Darrell Thomas**  
Urbana City



# PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE & RULES

# PROPOSED RULES FOR THE 2022 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

## 1. CREDENTIALS

All delegates present at the annual meeting shall have their credentials filed with the Chief Executive Officer and approved by the Credentials Committee. Credential badges and ribbons shall be displayed where easily recognized. Delegate ribbons must be presented to the Sergeant-At-Arms to permit the delegate to be admitted to the meeting. A delegate may represent only one board.

## 2. SEATING

All delegates shall sit in designated areas. Any delegate leaving the floor shall check out with the Sergeant-At-Arms and shall check in before returning to his or her seat.

## 3. PARLIAMENTARIAN

There shall be an official parliamentarian to whom questions may be directed only through the chair.

## 4. QUORUM

According to Article VI of the OSBA Constitution, delegates from twenty-five percent (25%) of the member boards shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

## 5. RECOGNITION BY CHAIR

A delegate wishing to speak from the floor shall rise, go to the nearest microphone and secure recognition by the chair before speaking.

A DELEGATE SHALL GIVE HIS OR HER NAME IN FULL AND THE NAME OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT HE OR SHE REPRESENTS BEFORE ADDRESSING THE ASSEMBLY.

## 6. DEBATE ON THE FLOOR

No delegate shall speak longer than three minutes at any one time except by consent of the majority of the delegates present. No delegate shall speak more than once on the same question until all other delegates have had an opportunity to speak on the question except by consent of the majority of the delegates present. All members of the Executive Committee and the Legislative Platform Committee shall have the privilege of speaking to any issue but not the privilege of voting on issues unless they are also delegates.

## 7. MOTIONS TO TABLE OR POSTPONE

A motion to table or postpone may be declared out of order by the chair if, in the opinion of the chair, there has not been sufficient discussion to provide the delegates with a clear understanding of the issue(s) to be decided.

## 8. BUSINESS OF THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Article 6 of the OSBA Bylaws requires all matters to be voted upon at the annual meeting to be communicated to each member of affiliated school boards at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the annual meeting.

Any matter not so referred to members of affiliated boards thirty (30) days in advance must be in the form of a duly adopted board of education resolution certified by the treasurer and stating the date of adoption and requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all registered delegates present and voting in order to be placed on the agenda.

New Business may also be originated by the Legislative Platform Committee, the Board of Trustees or the OSBA staff.



# PROPOSED RULES FOR THE 2022 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

## 9. **DELEGATE ASSEMBLY VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

According to Article XII of the OSBA Constitution, amendments to the OSBA Constitution require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting delegates of the association present at the annual meeting of the association, provided that a copy of the amendment shall have been submitted in writing to all member boards at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting.

According to Article 5 of the OSBA Bylaws, the OSBA Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting delegates of the association present at the annual meeting of the association.

Approval of the OSBA Legislative Platform, amendments to the OSBA Legislative Platform, and any items properly raised under "New Business" require a three-fourths (3/4) vote of all delegates present and voting for approval.

Voting at the Delegate Assembly is conducted by a poll of the delegates.

## 10. **DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS**

No printed materials other than official reports of the association officers and committees shall be distributed to delegates at the Annual Business Meeting unless prior permission is granted by the presiding officer or by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting.

## 11. **USE OF RECORDING DEVICES**

During the annual meeting, delegates and guests are prohibited from photographing, recording or broadcasting any delegate or any part of the business portion of the annual meeting without first obtaining the consent of the OSBA President. The OSBA President may revoke such consent at any time during the meeting.

## 12. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board of Trustees shall act as a minute's committee to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly.

## 13. **ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER**

Rules not covered by this report or by the OSBA Constitution and Bylaws shall be those set forth in Robert's Rules of Order (most recently revised).





# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

# REPORT OF THE OSBA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The OSBA Nominating Committee will recommend to the 2022 Delegate Assembly the name of Sally S. Green, a member of the Tuscarawas Valley Local Board of Education for the office of 2023 president-elect. The nomination and election will take place during the Annual Business Meeting of the OSBA Delegate Assembly to be held on Monday, Nov. 14.

Sally S. Green is in her second year on the association's Board of Trustees and serves as president of OSBA's Northeast Region. She has served on OSBA's Executive Committee, Legislative Platform Committee, Black Caucus, Capital Conference Planning Task Force and Northeast Region Executive Committee. She has also served on the association's Board Member Cabinet and Federal Relations Network. In 2020, Green was recognized as an OSBA Master Board Member, a lifetime distinction.

Under the constitution of the association, Christine Varwig, a member of the Toledo City Board of Education will automatically become president on Jan. 1, 2023. Mrs. Varwig is in her fifth year on the association's Board of Trustees and serves on the Executive Committee, Urban Network, Diversity and Equity Committee and Legislative Platform Committee, among others. She has served on OSBA's Capital Conference Planning Task Force and also is a member of OSBA's Northwest Region Executive Committee and was the 2019 region president. Varwig has served on many committees in her school district and was instrumental in creating programs, such as Parent University and Student Voice, and Fine Arts Festivals to showcase young artists and performers. She also is involved with the Toledo Public Schools Foundation, which provides scholarships and grants for students and teachers.

Robert M. Heard Sr., a member of the Cleveland Municipal Board of Education, filled the office of president during 2021-22 and will become immediate past president, an office that will automatically retain him as a member of the OSBA Executive Committee, Board of Trustees and Northeast Region Executive Committee.

**Lee Schreiner**  
Chair

**Albert Haberstroh**  
Northeast Region

**Terry Halley**  
Southeast Region

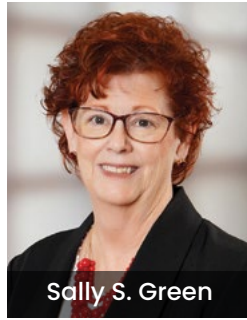
**Tina D. Pierce**  
Central Region

**Christine Varwig**  
Northwest Region

**Fred Hunt**  
Southwest Region

# GREEN IS PRESIDENT-ELECT NOMINEE; VARWIG WILL LEAD OSBA IN 2023

OSBA delegates will vote for the association's 2023 president-elect at the Capital Conference and Trade Show in Columbus. The election will be held Nov. 14 during the Annual Business Meeting of the OSBA Delegate Assembly.



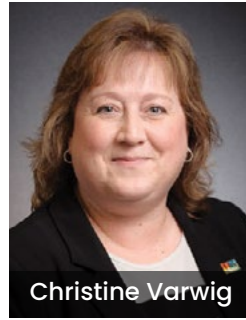
In July, the OSBA Nominating Committee selected **Sally S. Green**, of the **Tuscarawas Local (Tuscarawas)** school board in northeast Ohio, as the president-elect nominee. If elected by the delegates, she will become OSBA president in 2024, following her term as president-elect. Her duties as president-elect include serving on OSBA's Board of Trustees and Executive Committee and chairing the Legislative Platform Committee and Federal Legislative Advocacy Group.

**Christine Varwig, Toledo City**, will serve as OSBA's 68th president in 2023.

Green, who is in her 17th year on the Tuscarawas Valley Local board, was first elected to that position in November 2005. She currently serves as president of OSBA's Northeast Region and was president and vice president of her local board in 2020.

"I am a team player that is action-driven and willing to do any job or task needed to support OSBA," Green said. "I am passionate about quality education for all students. Education can and does change the trajectory of a student's life. OSBA does an excellent job providing educational excellence for school board members. It is an honor to be a part of this organization."

Green is a member of OSBA's Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, Legislative Platform Committee, Black Caucus and Northeast Region



Executive Committee. She also has served on the association's Board Member Cabinet; Federal Relations Network, which is now the Federal Legislative Advocacy Group; Conference Work Committee; Capital Conference Planning Committee; and Arrangements and Hospitality Team.

In 2020, Green was recognized as an OSBA Master Board Member, a lifetime distinction.

"It is so important that each of us strive to improve board governance in our schools, whether it is mentoring new school board members or encouraging others to continue to learn and master their job roles," Green said. "I am extremely proud of my school board that is willing to work as a united team supporting quality education in our district."

Green has served as her district's OSBA student achievement liaison since 2006. In that role, she "loves bringing new ideas from other districts to our district and watching them grow and improve the quality of education for our students."

Green also serves on her district's Fine Arts Council and Certificated Personnel & Benefits, Building and Grounds and Public Relations/ Publicity committees.

She and her husband, **David**, have been married for 39 years. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Varwig was first elected to the Toledo City Board of Education in 2013. She served as her board's president in 2021 and 2017 and vice president in 2020, 2016 and 2015.

*continued on page 14*

Varwig is a member of OSBA's Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, Legislative Platform Committee, Federal Legislative Advocacy Group, Nominating Committee, Northwest Region Executive Committee, Student Achievement Leadership Team, Diversity and Equity Committee and Investment Committee. She was Northwest Region president in 2019. She also has been part of OSBA's Urban Network.

In her district, Varwig has served on many committees and was instrumental in creating programs such as Parent University, Student Voice and fine arts festivals to showcase young artists and performers. She also is involved with the Toledo Public Schools Foundation, which provides scholarships and grants for students and teachers.

Varwig graduated from the district's E.L. Bowsher High School. She and her husband, **Randy**, and daughter, **Caitlyn**, are proud products of the district, where her daughter is a teacher's aide and her son-in-law, **Dane**, a special education teacher.

Varwig and her husband have been married for 33 years and have three grandchildren.



# LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

**Note:** Updates to the OSBA Legislative Platform are identified on the following pages.  
Language that is ~~struekthrough~~ was deleted;  
language that is **BOLD AND CAPITALIZED** was added.

1                                   **2023 Proposed Ohio School Boards Association Legislative Platform**

2  
3   **Preamble**

4   The purpose of the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Legislative Platform is to state  
5   publicly OSBA’s positions on a variety of issues facing public education. The platform conveys  
6   to legislators, policymakers, the public and the media where OSBA stands. The platform guides  
7   OSBA’s advocacy efforts.

8  
9   Each item in the platform has been approved by at least 75% of the voting delegates in the  
10  OSBA Delegate Assembly, where every member board of education has a vote.

11  
12  The level of specificity in the language is by design. The platform is sufficiently precise to state  
13  OSBA’s position, but it is not so specific that it ties OSBA’s hands and prevents OSBA from  
14  achieving the best result consistent with the platform. Latitude is given to the staff to interpret  
15  and apply the statements in the platform. The staff is accountable to the membership and keeps  
16  the membership informed about progress in implementing the platform.

17  
18  Recognizing that support of public education is an investment in Ohio’s future, OSBA works in  
19  cooperation with parents, students, staff, community groups, members of educational  
20  organizations, state and local policymakers and others to make the support of public education a  
21  state priority. OSBA promotes and supports reform that provides for a system of public schools  
22  that is accountable to the communities they serve and prepares students to be productive citizens  
23  in a competitive and global society.

24  
25   **Students and learning**

26  
27  The education of Ohio’s public school students is OSBA’s top priority. Every child can learn,  
28  and every child will learn if the conditions are right. The key component to establishing the right  
29  educational environment is the relationship among students, parents, the school district and the  
30  community. Each needs to be accountable for sharing in the process.

31  
32  OSBA believes that all students must have equal access to a high-quality education that prepares  
33  them for higher education or career entry. Every student must be provided with challenging  
34  instructional programs presented by competent and caring teachers in a safe and supportive  
35  setting.

36  
37   **Adult education**

38  Ohio’s adult residents and employees have ongoing needs for education and training. Ohio’s  
39  public school districts should help meet the adult education needs of the communities they serve.  
40  Public school district facilities and programs should be made available for these purposes as  
41  determined by locally elected boards of education and as resources permit.

42  
43  *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 44   ● Develops and funds adult education programs in Ohio’s public schools.

45  
46   **Alternative schools**



47 Students often require targeted assistance to help them learn and grow. Alternative schools and  
48 educational programs offer supportive learning environments to accommodate the diverse needs  
49 of students. Moreover, the school climate for all students may be improved when students with  
50 diverse needs are served with alternative settings and/or programs.

51

52 *OSBA supports legislation that*

53 ● Allows school districts to collaboratively create alternative schools to address unique student  
54 needs and provides state funding for those schools.

55

## 56 **Assessments**

57 Ongoing assessment of student learning provides an essential means for instruction and  
58 accountability. To be fair, effective and meaningful, student performance should be measured  
59 with appropriate tools and techniques that are clearly aligned with curriculum, instruction and  
60 standards and be collected in an objective and credible manner. Assessment systems should  
61 employ multiple and varied measures of knowledge, skill and abilities.

62

63 *OSBA supports legislation that*

64 ● Aligns state assessment laws with the federal requirements.

65 ● Uses assessments as a diagnostic tool to improve instruction and learning.

66 ● Uses data to ensure that every child has equal access to the resources necessary for a thorough  
67 and efficient education.

68 ● Fully funds any and all requirements associated with implementing state and federal  
69 assessment laws.

70 ● Provides school districts with flexibility and proper resources to meet their students' needs.

71 ● Increases the 1% cap on alternative assessments for students to a realistic percentage that  
72 reflects the number of students with disabilities educated by the districts.

73

74 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

75 ● Subjects school districts to a one-size-fits-all approach that fails to recognize the unique needs  
76 of individual students and individual school districts.

77 ● Rates and/or ranks schools or school districts or is used in a punitive manner.

78 ● Penalizes districts for a parent's refusal to allow his/her student to participate in assessments.

79 ● Subjects school districts to strict use of technology in testing requirements.

80 ● Prevents the advancement of a student to the next grade level and graduation based solely on  
81 state assessment results.

82 ● Seeks to adopt the similar student measure.

83

## 84 **Curriculum**

85 Public education is the responsibility of the state and locally elected boards of education.

86 Governance must be vested in the locally elected board of education that is accountable to the  
87 local community. Arts and extracurricular activities play an integral role in the education of  
88 children. The primary responsibility for approving courses of study, instructional programs and  
89 selection of instructional materials must remain with the locally elected board of education, with  
90 input from the local community. Cuts, necessitated by finances, in no way diminish the belief  
91 that all students should have access to a curriculum that includes art, music, theater, physical  
92 education and world languages, in addition to mathematics, science, social studies, reading and

93 writing. Access to career-technical courses, such as, but not limited to agriculture and  
94 environmental systems, business administration, engineering and science technologies, career  
95 based intervention programs, education and training, and family and consumer sciences is vital.  
96 Preschool and all-day/every-day kindergarten programs, accompanied by clear academic  
97 standards and a comprehensive curriculum, have been proven to raise the achievement levels of  
98 all students and to reduce the achievement and readiness gaps in students first entering school.  
99

100 A comprehensive curriculum is one focused on approaches toward learning, cognitive and  
101 general knowledge (including mathematics, science, and social studies), language and literacy  
102 development, arts, physical well-being, motor development and social-emotional development.  
103

104 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 105 ● Enables locally elected boards of education to make decisions regarding the adoption of  
106 curriculum, textbooks and instructional materials, with advice and input from staff, parents,  
107 students and community members.

### 109 **Discipline**

110 Student conduct standards are integral to maintaining an optimal learning environment. All  
111 students have the right to learn in a school environment that is safe and free of distraction.  
112

113 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 114 ● Furthers the ability of educators to maintain control of their classrooms, buildings, facilities  
115 and other school property, and offers appropriate discipline measures as determined by locally  
116 developed, board-approved policy and/or district procedures.
- 117 ● Prohibits the mandating of zero tolerance policies and instead enables discipline of students to  
118 be dealt with individually in a way that is appropriate for their age, gender, mental health  
119 condition, emotional development and special educational needs and appropriately protects the  
120 school's educational environment.

### 122 **Drug addiction prevention**

123 Drug addiction is a national, state and local crisis. The rate and incidence of ~~heroin and other~~  
124 ~~opioid~~ **DRUG** abuse among Ohioans is staggering. Local school districts are called upon to  
125 educate students and families about the tragic consequences of drug addiction. It is essential that  
126 we provide students with information, skills and support to help them abstain from such harmful  
127 behaviors and their consequences.  
128

129 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 130 ● Provides new and additional dedicated funds to assist schools in the battle against drug  
131 addiction, ~~heroin and other opioid~~ **DRUG** abuse.
- 132 ● Provides sufficient funding to implement trauma-informed training and school program  
133 development.
- 134 ● **PREVENTS DRUG USE BY OHIO STUDENTS AND STAFF.**

### 136 **OSBA OPPOSES LEGISLATION THAT**

- 137 ● **LEGALIZES OR COMMERCIALIZES RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IN THE**  
138 **STATE OF OHIO.**

139 ● **ALLOWS PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL TO USE MARIJUANA WHILE**  
140 **EMPLOYED BY ANY PUBLIC SCHOOL.**

141

142 **Racism/Equity**

143 There is no place for racism or hatred in our schools. We acknowledge the historical,  
144 generational and compounding reality of the systems, structures and practices that have created  
145 and continue to afford advantages to some groups while perpetuating inequities for others. Race,  
146 ethnicity and socioeconomic background inequalities produce unequal opportunities for student  
147 success. Strong public schools are the great equalizer, and education provides the foundation to  
148 change perceptions and attitudes. It is imperative that Ohio implement meaningful solutions that  
149 eliminate racism, social injustice, disparate discipline and bias, as well as foster equity to provide  
150 a catalyst for sustained improvement for students of color and impoverished communities.

151

152 Inequitable systems of school finance at the federal, state and local levels, including special  
153 grants, caps and guarantees, fail to provide schools with adequate or sufficient funding to achieve  
154 a world-class education necessary to prepare students for the future. OSBA is committed to  
155 ensuring school boards have the resources they need to provide students of all backgrounds and  
156 abilities with a high-quality education. It is essential that we create an inclusive environment that  
157 ensures that our students have a future that allows all students to be successful, no matter their  
158 race, ethnicity or socioeconomic background.

159

160 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 161 ● Creates an inclusive environment that ensures that our students have a future that allows all  
162 students to be successful, no matter their race, ethnicity or socioeconomic background.  
163 ● Provides districts with the resources and tools they need to provide students of all backgrounds  
164 and abilities a high-quality education.  
165 ● Removes and actively repairs racial and social inequities to ensure positive educational  
166 outcomes for our students in alignment with our mission and vision.  
167 ● Funds racial and social justice programs in Ohio’s public schools.  
168 ● Addresses racial disparities in discipline through restorative justice.  
169 ● Funds equitable education throughout the state of Ohio.

170

171 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

- 172 ● Limits resources and/or opportunities for students of color and those who are traditionally  
173 underserved based on their race, ethnicity or socioeconomic background.

174

175 **School year/school day**

176 Flexible instructional scheduling is important because time on task is critical to effective and  
177 efficient learning.

178

179 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 180 ● Provides more flexible school schedules to adequately meet the needs of all students.  
181 ● Provides additional state aid for lengthening the school day and/or school year.

182

183 **State report card**

184 Reports of school district quality should provide accurate reflections of district, staff and student  
185 achievement. Publication of district and school report cards must be accurate, fair and credible.  
186 Reports should be communicated to the public in a clear and concise manner.

187

188 *OSBA supports legislation that*

189 ● Makes the overall rating on the state report card a meaningful indicator of the quality of a  
190 school district.

191 ● Provides school districts with an appropriate amount of time to inform parents, students, staff  
192 and communities about changes to assessments and report card standards.

193 ● Includes cohort graduation rates of students four and six years after entering the ninth-grade  
194 cohort group.

195 ● Ensures the graduation rate as computed by the Ohio Department of Education does not  
196 penalize districts for allowing students with disabilities additional time to complete graduation  
197 requirements as stated in federal requirements.

198 ● **MOVES TOWARD A VARIED SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENTS THAT ALLOWS**  
199 **STUDENTS TO DEMONSTRATE ACADEMIC COMPETENCY AND MASTERY IN**  
200 **WAYS BEYOND STATE STANDARDIZED TESTS.**

201 ● **REPLACES THE CURRENT SYSTEM WITH AN ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**  
202 **THAT IS A MEANINGFUL INDICATOR OF THE QUALITY OF A SCHOOL**  
203 **DISTRICT, A HOLISTIC REPRESENTATION OF THE EFFORTS WITHIN THE**  
204 **DISTRICT TO DEVELOP THE WHOLE CHILD.**

205

206 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

207 ● Does not include all students in the baseline beginning in kindergarten and continuing through  
208 grade three.

209

### 210 **Student and school employee safety**

211 Student and school employee safety is the paramount concern for school districts. Ensuring a  
212 safe learning and working environment is a shared responsibility among school board members,  
213 school employees and community members working in collaboration with lawmakers, law  
214 enforcement, mental health and security experts in determining how best to provide a safe  
215 environment within our districts.

216

217 *OSBA supports legislation that*

218 ● Provides for enhanced mental health services and substance abuse treatment so that all  
219 individuals, including children, have sufficient access to these services.

220 ● Increases access to school safety measures, including but not limited to, school resource  
221 officers (SRO), school safety infrastructure and other security measures designed to protect  
222 students and staff.

223 ● Provides for training for school employees and enhanced coordination with law enforcement  
224 agencies and first responders to ensure appropriate responses to incidents of violence in schools.

225 ● Provides full funding for the items above.

226

227 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

228 ● Mandates the implementation of any safety and security measure that is not fully funded by the  
229 state.

230 ● Mandates any security measure to be implemented without the approval of the local school  
231 district board of education.

232

### 233 **Technology**

234 Every public school district should have access to modern technology, regardless of the wealth  
235 or geographical location of the district, because students with limited access to educational  
236 technology are at an educational and economic disadvantage. Affordable broadband and full  
237 access to the Internet for students, staff and communities is critical. Appropriate and ongoing  
238 training is essential for effective use of technology.

239

240 *OSBA supports legislation that*

241 ● Provides the funds necessary to provide for the hardware, software, staff instructional in-  
242 service and infrastructure necessary to provide access to modern technology for all students.

243

### 244 **School governance**

245

246 The cornerstone of public education in Ohio is locally elected boards of education that exercise  
247 local control in establishing policy and governance of their public schools while remaining  
248 accountable to the citizens who elected them. Local control includes control over financial  
249 matters, curricula and educational programs, personnel, school calendars and educational  
250 priorities based on the unique needs of local communities.

251

### 252 **Academic distress commission**

253 State law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish an Academic Distress  
254 Commission for each school district that has ~~been declared to be in academic emergency~~

255 **RECEIVED AN OVERALL PERFORMANCE RATING OF LESS THAN TWO STARS**  
256 **ON THE DISTRICT REPORT CARD FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS.**

257

258 *OSBA supports legislation that*

259 ● Fully includes locally elected boards of education and district administration in the decision-  
260 making process.

261 ● Provides for the composition of the commission and review team to reflect the demographics  
262 (geographic, economic and social) of the school district.

263 ● Provides transparency in the way district commissions are formed and chaired.

264 ● Provides a transparent understanding of the goals and purpose for the work of the distress  
265 commissions.

266 ● Provides clear accountability measures for the commissions, the districts and CEO's appointed  
267 to the district in collaboration with the locally elected board of education.

268 ● Places a focus on student achievement.

269 ● Provides supplemental or additional funding for implementation of commission work.

270 ● Places an emphasis on identifying and seeking the input of community services agencies.

271 ● Repeals ~~Amended Substitute House Bill 70 (131 GA)~~ **THE ACADEMIC DISTRESS**  
272 **COMMISSION PROVISIONS IN THE OHIO REVISED CODE.**

273

274 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

- 275 ● Allows for the exclusion of the locally elected board members from the discussion and work of  
276 the commission.  
277 ● Establishes academic distress commissions, ~~as defined and implemented under Amended~~  
278 ~~Substitute House Bill 70 (131 GA)~~ or any similar creation that interferes with the governance of  
279 public school districts by elected boards of education.

280

### 281 **Board member training**

282 Effective school board members are aware of and knowledgeable about key issues affecting the  
283 operations of public districts and schools. Awareness of key legislative and judicial decisions,  
284 educational reform initiatives and research-based instructional strategies to enhance student  
285 achievement is critical for board members to be effective. Ongoing professional development  
286 prepares board members to provide leadership and make critical educational decisions that  
287 support student achievement.

288

289 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 290 ● Strongly encourages professional development for all elected school board members.

291

292 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

- 293 ● Mandates board member training.

294

### 295 **Charter/community schools**

296 OSBA supports educational options within the public school system as determined by locally  
297 elected boards of education. Locally elected boards of education may decide to sponsor  
298 charter/community schools. Charter/community schools authorized and sponsored by other  
299 entities must be held accountable to the same standards as traditional public schools. All  
300 charter/community schools must be required to report annually information concerning finances  
301 and student achievement in a clear and concise manner. No local funds should be diverted from  
302 the public school district to support charter/community schools sponsored by any entity other  
303 than a locally elected board of education. The term, “Charter/Community Schools,” as used in  
304 this platform refers to brick and mortar schools, electronic schools and any other form of on-line  
305 school.

306

307 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 308 ● Holds charter/community schools and their operators to the same compliance and reporting  
309 requirements as public schools.  
310 ● Requires charter/community school students to meet the State Board of Education’s minimum  
311 standards to be granted a high school diploma.  
312 ● Requires that charter/community schools be subject to full fiscal and administrative oversight  
313 by a locally elected board of education.  
314 ● Requires a charter/community school, receiving public tax dollars to disclose performance  
315 metrics, including but not limited to, the overall performance index and four-year graduation rate  
316 on all advertising.  
317 ● Prohibits a charter/community school from advertising if that school does not meet or report  
318 minimum academic and/or financial standards established by the state of Ohio.  
319 ● Prohibits a charter/community school from any and all advertising if, and while, that school is  
320 being formally investigated by any governmental agency for possible misuse of taxpayer funds.



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*OSBA opposes legislation that*

- Authorizes the sponsorship of charter/community schools by an entity other than the locally elected board of education.
- Creates a charter/community school that adversely impacts a public school district.

**Consolidation/shared services**

Sound fiscal policy requires school districts to maximize the use of available resources. It is important to examine carefully every feasible way to conserve financial resources.

Consolidation, merger and/or sharing services, programs and staff may save dollars. The decision to undertake such efforts should be made by mutual agreement of the involved school districts and their boards of education, taking local factors and circumstances into account.

*OSBA supports legislation that*

- Supports and encourages districts to follow best practices regarding efficiencies and cost savings that may result from shared services and programs.

*OSBA opposes legislation that*

- Requires mandatory consolidation of school districts and or services.
- Requires districts to join other joint vocational entities.

**Deregulation**

Freedom from excessive and constraining governmental regulation encourages innovative reform efforts to improve student achievement. Public school districts should be granted exemptions similar to those granted to nonpublic and charter/community schools.

*OSBA supports legislation that*

- Expands deregulation to give locally elected boards of education the authority to exempt themselves from state statutes and administrative codes that do not apply to chartered nonpublic schools or to charter/community schools.
- Gives educational service center governing boards the discretion to transfer regulatory functions to locally elected boards of education.

**Educational services**

Regional educational service organizations may provide locally elected boards of education the opportunity to purchase and offer services in a more efficient and less costly manner. The decision to participate in a regional system must be the responsibility of the locally elected board of education.

*OSBA supports legislation that*

- Ensures school districts have access to quality regional educational services through the state's educational delivery system.
- Requires those responsible for delivering these regional educational services to be held accountable to locally elected school board members.

**Legislative process**

367 The Ohio School Boards Association believes that every piece of legislation introduced in the  
368 Ohio General Assembly should follow a consistent and thorough deliberative process, allowing  
369 ample opportunity for public review and comment, with the rules established by the Ohio  
370 Constitution.

371

372 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

373 ● Once having been introduced, is later attached to a different and/or larger piece of legislation  
374 before it has been thoroughly and properly vetted ~~and heard by both chambers of the General~~  
375 ~~Assembly.~~

376

### 377 **Locally elected boards of education**

378 Control of the public school system by locally elected board members produces an educational  
379 system designed to meet the needs of the community's children. The locally elected school board  
380 provides citizens with a direct means to influence local education policies, programs, costs and  
381 outcomes.

382

383 *OSBA supports legislation that*

384 ● Maintains locally elected school boards, which exemplify representative government.  
385 ● Amends Ohio Revised Code and increases the rate of maximum compensation for school  
386 board members, and provides for inflationary growth, in order to better ensure that board  
387 members are compensated more commensurately with the responsibilities of their position.

388

389 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

390 ● Diminishes local control.

391 ● Mandates alternative governance structures, including mayoral takeover, without a public  
392 referendum.

393 ● **REDUCES THE TERM LENGTH OF AN ELECTED BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
394 **MEMBER TO ANYTHING LESS THAN FOUR YEARS.**

395 ● **IMPOSES LIMITS ON THE NUMBER OF TERMS, CONSECUTIVE OR**  
396 **OTHERWISE, THAT A LOCAL COMMUNITY CAN DECIDE WHO WILL SERVE ON**  
397 **ITS BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

398 ● **MOVES ELECTION FOR LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS FROM**  
399 **THE NON-PARTISAN BALLOT TO A PARTISAN ONE.**

400 ● **CREATES OR PROVIDES ANY NEED FOR PRIMARY ELECTIONS FOR LOCAL**  
401 **SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES.**

402

### 403 **Open enrollment**

404 Decisions regarding student enrollment must rest with the locally elected board of education of  
405 the district providing the educational service. Open enrollment may have local benefits, but the  
406 ultimate decision must be made by the locally elected board of education, based on local factors.

407

408 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

409 ● Imposes mandatory open enrollment policies.

410 ● Mandates expansion of open enrollment to noncontiguous districts.

411

### 412 **PARENTAL RIGHT TO KNOW**



413 **THE PARENTAL RIGHT TO KNOW ALL ASPECTS OF STUDENTS AND**  
414 **LEARNING, SCHOOL GOVERNANCE, FINANCE, AND PERSONNEL IS ESSENTIAL**  
415 **TO A THOROUGH AND EFFICIENT SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AS**  
416 **GUARANTEED BY THE OHIO CONSTITUTION AND APPLICABLE LAWS.**

417

418 **PARENTS AND/OR GUARDIANS ARE THEIR CHILDREN’S FIRST TEACHERS AND**  
419 **DECISION-MAKERS IN EDUCATION. STUDENT LEARNING IS MORE LIKELY TO**  
420 **OCCUR WHEN THERE IS AN EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE**  
421 **SCHOOL AND PARENTS AND/OR GUARDIANS. GREATER PARENTAL**  
422 **INVOLVEMENT IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN GENERALLY**  
423 **RESULTS IN HIGHER ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, IMPROVED STUDENT**  
424 **BEHAVIOR, AND REDUCED ABSENTEEISM. BY WAY OF EXAMPLE, THE OSBA**  
425 **CONTINUES TO SUPPORT STATE AND FEDERAL PARENTAL RIGHT TO KNOW**  
426 **LAWS THAT CONTINUE TO FOSTER THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH BY THE**  
427 **OHIO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

428

429 ***OSBA OPPOSES LEGISLATION THAT***

430 **● RESTRICTS THE RIGHTS OF PARENTS AND/OR GUARDIANS.**

431

432 **Sale/lease of real property**

433 School facilities represent a major investment of community resources for public education.

434 School facilities and real property represent the most visible evidence of that investment. School

435 board members are stewards of these community resources. Good stewardship requires that

436 facilities be properly maintained and that any proposed disposition of property be of direct

437 benefit to the district and its community. The locally elected board of education must retain the

438 final decision in these matters.

439

440 *OSBA supports legislation that*

441 ● Provides school districts with the flexibility to sell or lease real property in a manner that

442 offers the most benefit to the school district as determined by the locally elected board of

443 education.

444 ● Repeals the right of first refusal to purchase property by private, charter/community, college-

445 preparatory boarding schools, STEM schools and on-line schools.

446 ● Allows local school boards the flexibility to make facility sales and purchasing decisions based

447 on the needs of the district.

448

449 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

450 ● Provides facilities funding to private and charter/community schools.

451

452 **Service funds**

453 Financial resources are necessary to support the professional development of school board

454 members to attend appropriate workshops, seminars, conferences and local board development

455 activities to enable board members to be effective public officials and policymakers.

456

457 *OSBA supports legislation that*

458 ● Supports the authority of public school districts to create a service fund in which it sets aside a  
459 sum each year from its general fund.

460

### 461 **State Board of Education**

462 The State Board of Education has a constitutional and statutory obligation to set forth the needs  
463 of public education in its budget and policy recommendations to the governor and members of  
464 the General Assembly. OSBA supports a State Board of Education composed entirely of elected  
465 members.

466

467 *OSBA supports legislation that*

468 ● Provides for an elected State Board of Education.

469 ● Provides for a reduction in the number of appointed board members.

470 ● Provides for the regulation of education standards by an elected State Board of Education.

471 ● Provides no appointed board members.

472

473 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

474 ● Attempts to remove regulatory control of educational standards from the State Board of  
475 Education as it fulfills its statutory responsibilities, including, but not limited to, the creation of a  
476 professional practice board.

477

### 478 **Vouchers**

479 Although OSBA supports educational options within the public school system as determined by  
480 locally elected boards of education, granting state-funded vouchers to students to attend  
481 nonpublic schools reduces the level of funding available to support and improve the public  
482 school system.

483

484 *OSBA supports legislation that*

485 ● Requires that schools accepting voucher students be held to the same standards and  
486 accountability requirements as public schools.

487 ● Requires that schools accepting voucher students be held to the same performance reporting  
488 requirements as public schools.

489

490 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

491 ● Uses public funds to expand voucher programs in nonpublic schools.

492 ● Expands vouchers, scholarships, tuition tax credits and similar programs at either the state or  
493 federal levels.

494

## 495 **Finance**

496

497 Stable and adequate funding is essential to a sound educational system. OSBA supports the  
498 creation and establishment of an adequate and equitable funding system for Ohio public schools.  
499 The association believes that this is a constitutional responsibility of the General Assembly, with  
500 oversight from the courts. The association pledges to work with the governor and members of the  
501 General Assembly to create such a funding system.

502

### 503 **All-day/every-day kindergarten funding**

504 All-day/every-day kindergarten programs, accompanied by clear academic standards have been  
505 proven to raise the achievement levels of all students and to reduce the achievement and  
506 readiness gaps in students first entering school.

507

508 *OSBA supports legislation that*

509 ● Provides full state funding for all-day/every-day kindergarten that incorporates a  
510 comprehensive curriculum.

511 ● Provides school facilities funding for districts that do not have sufficient space to  
512 accommodate an all-day/every-day kindergarten program that incorporates a comprehensive  
513 curriculum.

514

#### 515 **Assessment rates**

516 The funding of public education is a shared responsibility of the state of Ohio and local  
517 communities. Tax policy at the state level has a direct influence on local revenue. Consequently,  
518 it is essential to maintain an appropriate balance between state and local revenues. State actions  
519 that reduce local revenue resources must be accompanied by appropriate increases in state  
520 educational funding.

521

522 *OSBA supports legislation that*

523 ● Replaces lost revenues with state funds when legislation results in local revenue losses, such as  
524 a reduction of the tax base, exemptions from taxation or other tax structure changes.

525

#### 526 **Average daily membership (ADM)**

527 School districts must have the ability to project revenues accurately on an annual basis. A  
528 school-funding formula based on frequent measures of enrollment and attendance negatively  
529 impacts a district's ability to make accurate forecasts.

530

531 *OSBA supports legislation that*

532 ● Supports enrollment calculations that allow school districts to prepare and provide programs  
533 and services in a way that does not harm the educational experiences of students.

534 ● Stabilizes school funding by limiting the number and frequency of enrollment counts to three  
535 or fewer spaced at appropriate intervals.

536

537 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

538 ● Changes average daily membership to average daily attendance.

539

#### 540 **Base-formula amount**

541 The provision and funding of a thorough and efficient system of common schools are the  
542 responsibilities of the state of Ohio. In practice, the funding of public education is a shared  
543 responsibility of the state of Ohio and the local community. The capacity of local communities to  
544 generate revenue varies widely across the state. Without the state providing sufficient funds for  
545 all, some children will be denied the right to an adequate education. Local communities must  
546 retain the ability to exercise discretion in offering educational programs that exceed the defined  
547 level of an adequate education.

548

549 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 550 ● Establishes a process for determining the components and costs of a high-quality education.  
551 ● Provides that the state shall pay 100% of the cost for an adequate education for every child and  
552 100% of the cost of categoricals that enable every school district to provide such an education to  
553 every student.

554

555 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

- 556 ● Prohibits communities from voting additional taxes to provide educational programs beyond  
557 the defined level of an adequate education.

558

### 559 **Categorical parity**

560 Children with unique educational needs place extraordinary demands on public school district  
561 revenues. Because of the wide disparities in the capacity to generate local revenues that exist  
562 across school districts, additional state revenues must be made available to ensure that children  
563 with unique educational needs are served appropriately.

564

565 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 566 ● Establishes that the state, in addition to determining the cost of a high-quality educational  
567 program, must determine the additional costs necessary to provide services to students with  
568 unique educational needs, such as students who are economically disadvantaged, students with  
569 disabilities and students participating in career-technical education or gifted educational services.  
570 ● Indexes the cost of providing educational services to students with unique educational needs  
571 against the cost of providing a high-quality educational program for ~~regular~~ **TYPICAL** students,  
572 so that each component increases proportionately and in parity with those costs.  
573 ● Fully funds at 100% of the cost, the services needed for every child with unique educational  
574 needs.

575

576 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

- 577 ● Equalizes the funding weights for unique needs categories, in addition to the cost of a basic  
578 education to provide educational services to career-technical education students, economically  
579 disadvantaged students, English learners, gifted students, and students with disabilities.

580

### 581 **Charter/community school funding**

582 Full transparency of the costs of both public schools and charter/community schools dictates that  
583 the flow of tax dollars be accurately reflected. Any transfer of state tax dollars to  
584 charter/community schools must be based on accurate enrollment information. The public school  
585 district of residence must be immediately notified when a student enrolls or withdraws from a  
586 charter/community school. ~~The current practice of deducting funding for charter/community~~  
587 ~~school children from the state funds provided to traditional public school districts is unnecessary~~  
588 ~~and confusing.~~ State funding for charter/community schools must flow directly to the  
589 charter/community school sponsor. All local dollars generated through local levies must remain  
590 with the local taxing authority.

591

592 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 593 ● Provides state based funding, as well as support for special education, career-technical  
594 education, poverty aid and transportation services, directly to the charter/community school

- 595 rather than deducting the payment to the charter/community from the local district's state  
596 funding.
- 597 ● Prohibits state funds for any charter/community school that refuses to accept all students who  
598 apply.
  - 599 ● Eliminates the process of flow-through funding to charter/community schools.
  - 600 ● Prohibits the use of local tax dollars to fund charter/community schools, except those  
601 sponsored by a locally elected board of education.
  - 602 ● Requires that school districts be paid an administrative fee to cover the cost of tracking  
603 charter/community school enrollment.
  - 604 ● Provides full state funding to purchase additional buses required to provide transportation for  
605 charter/community school students.
  - 606 ● Requires charter/community schools to coordinate schedules with the district providing the  
607 transportation services.
  - 608 ● Requires transparency in finances and accounting for all funds transferred to management  
609 companies by charter/community school governing boards for the purpose of administering and  
610 operating a charter/community school.
  - 611 ● Requires the management company to keep all financial records and to make all such  
612 documents public records available to the governing boards and to the public.

613

614 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

- 615 ● Includes children attending charter/community schools in the public school district's ADM  
616 count.
- 617 ● Deducts funding for children attending charter/community schools from the resident district.
- 618 ● Requires school districts to share local tax revenues and resources with charter/community  
619 schools.
- 620 ● Transfers funds from a public school to a charter/community school without complying with  
621 the legal requirement to notify the home district of enrollment or withdrawal.

622

### 623 **Court-ordered judgment counted as debt**

624 A true and accurate representation of school district valuation reflects all debt obligations.

625

626 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 627 ● Requires that contractual agreements with the state and/or bonds issued to satisfy a court-  
628 ordered judgment will count as real debt for a district's net indebtedness for participation in  
629 state-assisted programs.

630

### 631 **Developmental disabilities services**

632 Local tax revenues are generated to support programs for the clients of county developmental  
633 disabilities agencies. When a locally elected board of education is providing the educational  
634 programming and services, the public school district must be fairly compensated by the  
635 respective county developmental disabilities agency.

636

637 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 638 ● Develops a process for fair financial compensation to those school districts that provide the  
639 educational services to students that are within the jurisdiction of the county developmental

640 disabilities agency, but whose developmental disabilities board declines to provide financial  
641 compensation to the actual provider.

642

### 643 **Diversion of voter-approved tax revenue**

644 Voters must be assured that revenues raised through taxes will go directly for the purposes  
645 stated. Voter-approved tax funds generated for education purposes must be administered by  
646 locally elected boards of education and must be spent only for public education purposes.

647

648 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 649 ● Prohibits the diversion of voter-approved tax money without the approval of voters.

650

651 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

- 652 ● Diverts voter-approved tax funds to another purpose without voter approval.

653

### 654 **Earmarking/tax increases**

655 An adequate level of support for every Ohio public school student requires additional state  
656 revenues. Any additional revenues generated to support public education must be earmarked to  
657 ensure that it is spent for the designated public education purpose. New or additional sources of  
658 funding shall not be used to supplant general revenue funds or lottery profits funds currently  
659 designated for public education support.

660

661 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 662 ● Provides the necessary revenues to support an adequate and equitable system of funding public  
663 schools in Ohio and to permit them to offer a high-quality educational program to every student.
- 664 ● Provides an increase in state revenues either through the enactment of an increase in the state  
665 sales tax and/or the state personal income tax and/or the commercial activities tax.
- 666 ● Separately appropriates all lottery, and casino, **AND SPORTS GAMING (BETTING) profits**  
667 **funding REVENUE** to be allocated to districts on a per-pupil basis.

668

### 669 **Educational service centers funding**

670 Educational Service Centers (ESCs) serve as a vital link and partner in the educational process.  
671 Governed by locally elected boards of education, ESCs are considered to be school districts  
672 under state law and as local education agencies under federal law. ESCs provide a wide variety  
673 of direct and support services, including curriculum development, staff development, technology  
674 assistance and special education services to the public school districts they serve, as well as  
675 shared services with other governmental bodies. ESCs save the state of Ohio and school districts  
676 money through cost-effective, collaborative ventures that expand equitable access to resources  
677 and maximize operating and fiscal efficiencies. Despite diminishing levels of state financial  
678 support, ESCs have maintained high levels of service by becoming more entrepreneurial in their  
679 operations.

680

681 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 682 ● Provides an adequate funding mechanism for educational service centers that provides for  
683 inflationary growth.
- 684 ● Requires state funding for facilities to be part of the educational service centers' funding  
685 formula.



686

687 **Election opportunities**

688 Public education depends upon support from local communities through voter-approved tax  
689 levies and bond issues. Because the cycle of elections and revenue collection requires sufficient  
690 opportunity to place issues before the public for approval, the current practice of a primary  
691 election and a general election, combined with the opportunity for ~~two~~ A special elections, is  
692 necessary.

693

694 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

695 ● Reduces the number and frequency of election opportunities available to school districts for  
696 ballot issues.

697

698 **Facilities**

699 OSBA supports a state facilities funding program that provides access to state support when  
700 public school districts determine that a facility program is required. The facility program must  
701 address the demands upon districts and issues related to classroom facilities caused by state  
702 operating requirements and expenditure and reporting standards. A facility program must be  
703 subject to state standards for school construction, rather than on a state-prescribed schedule.

704

705 *OSBA supports legislation that*

706 ● Provides funds and resources to support school safety programs.

707 ● Provides for safe facilities that meet building codes, are conducive to providing educational  
708 services and support the inclusion of technology in the classroom.

709 ● Uses median income of the district's residents as a measure of fiscal capacity, in addition to  
710 recognized valuation.

711 ● Immediately reflects in the facilities funding formula changes in valuation resulting from  
712 legislative or judicial action.

713 ● Requires school buildings determined to be unsafe by local fire and health departments to be  
714 upgraded immediately.

715 ● Authorizes locally elected boards of education that have unsafe buildings in their district to  
716 impose an emergency capital improvements levy to upgrade and correct the unsafe conditions in  
717 the facility.

718 ● Requires the state to provide its full faith and credit as backing for all local facility bonds.

719 ● Repeals the 1/2-mill maintenance requirements.

720 ● Provides funds to support mandated programs, such as all-day kindergarten, preschool  
721 programs and accessibility needs.

722

723 **Fees**

724 Funds provided for educational purposes should be directed only for educational purposes.  
725 Accordingly, user fees must not be charged to local educational agencies.

726

727 *OSBA supports legislation that*

728 ● Eliminates or reduces state-imposed fees for board of election expenses and auditor fees.

729

730 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

731 ● Requires districts to incur a debt limit that will harm a district's financial position.

732 ● Attempts to pass on to school districts any fees by government entities to pay for services that  
733 are the normal responsibility of that entity.

734

### 735 **Gambling**

736 The Ohio Lottery Commission’s advertisements and promotions frequently pair the lottery with  
737 educational funding, which has generated misunderstanding among the general public. Such  
738 advertisements give the general public the false impression that gambling and the lottery are a  
739 major source of educational funds. While the lottery, by law, does direct lottery profits to  
740 education, such revenues are not sufficient for educational funding and, over the years, have  
741 been used to supplant other state funding. A portion of revenues derived from gambling  
742 operations authorized by the state is also set aside for schools and other local government entities  
743 and should not be used to supplant other state funding.

744

745 *OSBA supports legislation that*

746 ● Prohibits advertising or campaigning by the Ohio Lottery Commission or agents of the state of  
747 Ohio that implies directly or indirectly that the funding of public education is contingent upon  
748 gambling.

749

750 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

751 ● Uses profits from **THE LOTTERY**, casinos, **SPORTS GAMING (BETTING)** and video  
752 lottery terminals to supplant other funding directed to public education.

753

### 754 **Impact fees**

755 Impact fees are a source of capital expenses and have been widely used to meet school district  
756 and community needs. Impact fees are particularly useful to those districts experiencing rapid  
757 growth in residential development where the local tax base has not grown sufficiently to offset  
758 the costs associated with student enrollment growth.

759

760 *OSBA supports legislation that*

761 ● Provides for locally elected boards of education to propose to the voters an impact fee assessed  
762 on new housing to provide the additional revenues needed for capital expenses incurred in  
763 rapidly developing school districts.

764

### 765 **Inflationary growth**

766 School districts must realize real funding growth adequate to address revenue needs without  
767 requiring voter approval of new tax levies. House Bill 920, passed in 1976, places a tax reduction  
768 factor on the inflationary growth on real property values caused by reappraisal. The net effect of  
769 HB 920 is to prevent natural growth in revenues as property values grow, thereby requiring  
770 school districts to continue to seek voter approval for school tax levies.

771

772 *OSBA supports legislation that*

773 ● Provides for inflationary growth to ensure an adequate and equitable funding system for  
774 Ohio’s public schools.

775

### 776 **Local taxing options**



777 The economic capacity of school communities varies widely across the state of Ohio. Locally  
778 elected boards of education benefit from the availability of flexible options that enable ballot  
779 issues designed to meet the unique economic conditions of the district.

780

781 *OSBA supports legislation that*

782 ● Supports local taxing options that allow flexibility at the county, district and regional levels for  
783 school districts.

784

### 785 **Medicaid**

786 The Medicaid School Program is administered by the Ohio Department of Medicaid and the  
787 Ohio Department of Education and reimburses schools for Medicaid eligible services provided to  
788 children with an individualized education plan. The Ohio Department of Education is required to  
789 administer aspects of the Medicaid School Program pursuant to an interagency agreement with  
790 the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

791

792 *OSBA supports legislation that*

793 ● Supports a state program that reimburses school districts for medical and related services as  
794 required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act provided to Medicaid-eligible  
795 students.

796

### 797 **Phantom revenue/chargeoff**

798 The calculation of the local share of the cost of a high-quality education must be based on a true  
799 representation of the true district valuation and effective millage rate. Such calculations must not  
800 assume a higher millage rate than the amount actually in effect.

801

802 *OSBA supports legislation that*

803 ● Aligns the local share (charge off) of the cost of a high-quality education program with the tax  
804 reduction floor.

805 ● Bases the local share on actual local revenues available at the chargeoff rate.

806 ● Eliminates all forms of phantom revenue.

807

### 808 **Pooling**

809 Locally elected boards of education must rely upon voter support to raise local tax revenues.

810 Local property taxes raised to support public education must only be used for public education  
811 purposes.

812

813 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

814 ● Pools local property tax revenues and/or diverts locally approved revenues to other entities.

815

### 816 **Prekindergarten funding**

817 Prekindergarten programs benefit children, families and communities. Multiple studies have  
818 shown that high-quality prekindergarten programs lead to increased graduation rates, reduced  
819 retention rates and fewer children ultimately placed in special education.

820

821 *OSBA supports legislation that*

822 ● Provides full state funding to support prekindergarten programs when the locally elected board  
823 of education chooses to offer such programs.

824

825 **Property tax relief**

826 Ohio's overreliance on local property taxes to fund public education has and will continue to  
827 cause local burdens and hardships in fully funding the education system.

828

829 *OSBA supports legislation that*

830 ● Increases property tax relief, while ensuring that all taxpayers pay a fair share of the cost of  
831 public education.

832 ● Eliminates the overreliance on local property taxes.

833 ● Enhances the Homestead Exemption Program to provide additional financial assistance for  
834 senior citizens.

835

836 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

837 ● Achieves increased property tax relief from the existing funding for elementary and secondary  
838 education.

839

840 **Public/nonpublic school funding**

841 The Ohio General Assembly is charged with providing a thorough and efficient system of  
842 common schools. Public school districts must receive no fewer state funds than the amount  
843 received by any nonpublic school.

844

845 *OSBA supports legislation that*

846 ● Grants Ohio's public schools at least the same per-pupil amount as the chartered nonpublic  
847 schools in Ohio receive.

848 ● Directs any and all funds, returned to the state by charter/community schools, to traditional  
849 public schools of residence.

850 ● Requires all private non-public schools receiving public tax money to be held to the same  
851 accountability standards governing Ohio's public schools including licensure requirements.

852 ● Requires all private non-public schools receiving public tax money to be subject to the same  
853 financial reporting, audit requirements and sunshine laws as Ohio's public schools.

854

855 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

856 ● Diverts state dollars from public education to support nonpublic schools.

857

858 **Pupil transportation**

859 Pupil transportation presents a significant challenge for many districts. In many areas of the state,  
860 students would face great challenges in getting to school were it not for the option to ride a  
861 school bus. Rural districts often encompass a large geographic area but have low-density  
862 populations. Funding for transportation services should incentivize efficiencies and account for  
863 specific circumstances among districts.

864

865 *OSBA supports legislation that*

866 ● Provides sufficient funding for every child who rides a school bus.

867 ● Rewards schools for efficiency.

- 868 ● Incentivizes school districts to transport students residing within one to two miles of their
- 869 school.
- 870 ● Incentivizes school districts to provide transportation for high school students.
- 871 ● Fully compensates districts for the transportation of students to schools which are not part of
- 872 the district.
- 873 ● Provides for better support of rural districts with low density and low wealth.
- 874 ● Operates separately from the education funding formula to ensure districts actually receive the
- 875 state transportation levels to which they are entitled.
- 876 ● Limits the requirement for public school districts to provide transportation to only those days
- 877 that are synchronous with the public school district adopted calendar.
- 878 ● Fully funds districts for the cost of transportation of special education students, foster children,
- 879 and homeless students who receive transportation accommodations.

880

881 ***OSBA OPPOSES LEGISLATION THAT***

- 882 ● **PENALIZES DISTRICTS FOR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH TRANSPORTATION**
- 883 **LAWS.**

884

885 **Robin Hood**

886 OSBA believes school funding must be equitable among Ohio’s diverse public school districts.

887

888 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 889 ● Provides the funding changes necessary for adequacy and equity, without lowering the funding
- 890 of other districts.
- 891 ● Supports a high-quality educational program for all public school students, regardless of their
- 892 geographical location in the state.

893

894 **School bus purchase and transportation reimbursement**

895 Because safe and reliable pupil transportation depends on the availability of mechanically sound

896 vehicles, locally elected boards of education rely upon scheduled state reimbursement payments

897 to maintain their transportation fleets.

898

899 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 900 ● Provides for ~~the revision of state~~ standards for school bus purchase reimbursement to consider
- 901 the age and condition of the bus to be replaced, as well as the mileage.
- 902 ● ~~Reinstates~~ **PROVIDES** state funding for bus purchase reimbursements and operating
- 903 expenses.
- 904 ● Makes a state appropriation to replace all buses that are more than eight years old and do not
- 905 have the latest safety features.

906

907 **School district income tax**

908 An increasing number of school districts rely on school district income taxes for a portion of

909 their funding. Tax credits for senior citizens on fixed incomes increase the likelihood that these

910 voters will support income tax levy campaigns.

911

912 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 913 ● Provides for increasing the senior citizen school district income tax credit.

914 ● Establishes and enforces strict rules for reporting school district state income tax identification  
915 numbers.  
916

917 **School district levy reduction/repeal**  
918 School district levy requests are based on five-year or longer projections of costs and revenues.  
919 The ability to repeal levies within the first five years could increase the need for more frequent  
920 levy requests.  
921

922 *OSBA opposes legislation that*  
923 ● Allows a reduction or repeal by citizen petition and vote of any levy that has been approved by  
924 the voters unless such referendum has been initiated by the school district.  
925

926 **School district liability**  
927 Excessive court judgments against school districts can seriously impair the district’s ability to  
928 provide an adequate education to its students.  
929

930 *OSBA supports legislation that*  
931 ● Allows school districts to recover legal costs for any appeal of a court judgment when no  
932 monetary damages were issued by the court.  
933

934 *OSBA opposes legislation that*  
935 ● Increases a school district’s potential liability or increases the damages potentially assessed.  
936

937 **School-funding factors**  
938 OSBA believes school-funding distribution formulas must be equitable and adequate across  
939 Ohio’s diverse public school districts.  
940

941 *OSBA supports legislation that*  
942 ● Makes adjustments in school funding based on operational costs, needs of students and  
943 geographical challenges and funding capacity that exist among school districts.  
944

945 **Self-insured workers’ compensation program**  
946 School districts that are self-insured for purposes of workers’ compensation realize benefits such  
947 as self-administration and claim-related cost savings.  
948

949 *OSBA supports legislation that*  
950 ● Allows all public school districts in Ohio to self-insure for the purposes of workers’  
951 compensation programs.  
952

953 **State fuel tax exemption**  
954 All local governments, including school districts, should be exempt from all state taxes in order  
955 to avoid the imposition of a double tax on local taxpayers.  
956

957 *OSBA supports legislation that*  
958 ● Exempts fuel purchased by boards of education from the state fuel tax.  
959

960 **State investment in education**

961 The Ohio Constitution requires the Ohio General Assembly to provide for a thorough and  
962 efficient system of common schools. The state’s commitment to public education was  
963 strengthened by the 1851 Ohio Constitution’s mandate that “it shall be the duty of the general  
964 assembly to ... encourage schools and the means of instruction and to make such provision, as  
965 will secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the State.” An  
966 investment in education is an investment in the future of Ohio’s citizens and must be the top  
967 priority of everyone.

968  
969 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 970 ● Makes the support of public education the state’s number one priority.

971

972 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

- 973 ● Attempts to shift the responsibility of costs to locally elected boards of education.

974

975 **Tangible personal property tax replacement**

976 The local tax base relies on the fair and accurate assessment of property values. Challenges to an  
977 assessed value must be reported to all affected taxing authorities at the time the challenge is  
978 filed. Any affected taxing authority must have standing to appeal decisions on valuations.  
979 Tangible personal property tax and public utility tangible property tax revenues are no longer  
980 applied, and replacement of these losses have been phased out from all but a few districts.

981

982 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 983 ● Reinstates state reimbursement that fully matches the loss of the local tangible personal  
984 property tax base.
- 985 ● Assesses no interest payment in cases when repayment is necessary due to an error on the part  
986 of the taxpayer.

987

988 **Tax abatements**

989 Tax abatements siphon critical funding away from public school districts, leaving local taxpayers  
990 to make up the difference.

991

992 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 993 ● Requires that locally elected boards of education be involved in all discussions and decisions  
994 regarding tax abatements.
- 995 ● Grants locally elected boards of education the authority to enter into negotiations to receive  
996 compensation for lost revenues with entities granting abatements and with businesses receiving  
997 abatements.
- 998 ● Grants locally elected boards of education veto power if, in the board’s judgment, the  
999 abatements adversely impact the district.
- 1000 ● Requires locally elected boards of education to receive state-mandated compensation based on  
1001 all payroll generated from the abatement (whether tenant or owner).
- 1002 ● Requires locally elected boards of education to receive all reports, studies and information  
1003 available regarding the abatement.
- 1004 ● Allows locally elected boards of education to have standing to institute legal action if the  
1005 recipient of an abatement has not complied with the terms of a tax abatement.

1006 ● Prohibits a township, municipality, or county from imposing a unilateral tax exemption upon a  
1007 school district.

1008

1009 **Tax policy**

1010 Ohio’s tax system must be stable, competitive and reflective of the current economy. The  
1011 funding of public education is a shared responsibility of the state of Ohio and local communities.  
1012 Tax policy at the state level has a direct influence on local revenues. It is essential to maintain an  
1013 appropriate balance between state and local revenues. State actions that reduce local revenue  
1014 resources must be accompanied by appropriate increases in state education funding.

1015

1016 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 1017 ● Requires all sectors of the economy to pay their fair share of the cost of public school  
1018 education and state government.
- 1019 ● Replaces lost revenues with state funds when legislation results in local revenue losses, such as  
1020 a reduction of the tax base, exemptions from taxation or other tax structure changes.

1021

1022 **Taxing/spending limitations**

1023 Locally elected boards of education should have the opportunity and flexibility to work with  
1024 their local communities on taxation and spending issues without restrictions from the state.

1025

1026 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 1027 ● Preserves and supports the right of locally elected boards of education to challenge or appeal  
1028 property tax valuations.

1029

1030 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

- 1031 ● Restricts local taxation and spending by school districts.

1032

1033 **Unfunded/underfunded mandates**

1034 Unfunded or underfunded mandates create burdens locally and sometimes disproportionately  
1035 across school districts in Ohio. Federal and state officials should be conscious of mandate  
1036 burdens being shouldered by public school districts.

1037

1038 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 1039 ● Prohibits the U.S. Congress, the Ohio General Assembly and federal or state administrative  
1040 agencies from enacting or promulgating statutes or rules that result in unfunded and underfunded  
1041 mandates.
- 1042 ● Requires that fiscal impact statements accompany all school-related proposed statutes or rules.

1043

1044 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

- 1045 ● Does not have funding associated with it.

1046

1047

Personnel

1048

1049 The effective recruitment and retention of high-quality staff are critical for the success of any  
1050 school district. Properly trained and highly motivated personnel can provide maximum learning  
1051 opportunities for students. Ongoing evaluation of staff performance is essential.

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Ohio enacted a comprehensive collective bargaining statute in April 1984. The enactment of the collective bargaining bill and a series of court cases, particularly in the area of teacher evaluation and nonrenewal, have made it difficult for locally elected boards of education to effectively manage schools. OSBA believes that changes and modifications to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4117, as well as to Chapter 3319, are necessary.

### **Collective bargaining**

OSBA believes that some board affairs may not be appropriate matters for formal negotiations such as, but not limited to, the length of the school day and school year, class size, curriculum, course of study, and textbook and instructional materials selection.

#### *OSBA supports legislation that*

- Restores management rights to the collective bargaining statutes.
- Recognizes the right of employees to organize for professional organization goals, without interference, coercion or reprisal from the board or its representatives, and guarantees employees the right to refrain from joining any organization.
- Permits parties to negotiate mutually satisfactory dispute resolution processes.
- Provides penalties and sanctions imposed upon striking public employees that are an effective deterrent to such strikes.
- Limits picketing at the residence and/or places of business of public officials.
- Requires a 10-day written notice prior to the commencement of picketing, striking or other concerted refusal to work.
- Allows locally elected boards of education to suspend individual employment contracts for all types of employees for economic considerations.
- Limits the ability of a local collective bargaining agreement from impeding a district's ability to suspend individual employment contracts.
- Supports innovative approaches to employee compensation initiated on the local level.

#### *OSBA opposes legislation that*

- Places restrictions on the exercise of free choice of either party in designating its representatives to the bargaining team.
- Mandates joining an organization by a scheme of fees, assessments or other coercion by an organization upon nonmembers.
- Permits any person or agency to intervene in negotiations or a job action without the agreement of all parties.
- Permits strikes by public employees.
- Imposes binding arbitration as a method of resolving collective bargaining disputes.

### **Confidentiality of personnel applications**

Maintaining confidentiality permits districts to attract the best candidates possible for employment or promotions.

#### *OSBA supports legislation that*



1096 ● Provides through the Ohio Public Records Act that applications for employment, including  
1097 applications for promotion, are confidential and not subject to disclosure except at the discretion  
1098 of the locally elected board of education.  
1099

1100 **Evaluations**

1101 Evaluations serve as both an evaluative process and a communication tool between the employer  
1102 and employee. Evaluations communicate desired outcomes to employees and help employees see  
1103 how their work and expected contributions benefit their schools.  
1104

1105 *OSBA supports legislation that*

1106 ● Provides for evaluations of all school employees.

1107 ● Permits the removal of employees who do not correct identified deficiencies and improve their  
1108 performance.

1109 ● Creates a probationary period for those employees who have deficiencies noted in the  
1110 evaluation process so that they may correct deficiencies. Failure to correct deficiencies after  
1111 appropriate intervention may be cause for termination.

1112 ● Authorizes the components of evaluations to be developed locally, including job descriptions  
1113 and performance standards.

1114 ● Mandates that personnel evaluations of employees be confidential records which may be  
1115 released only at the discretion of the board.  
1116

1117 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

1118 ● Requires evaluations of school personnel in a manner that hinders a board's ability to  
1119 nonrenew an employee.  
1120

1121 **Health care**

1122 Health care pooling may offer significant savings for districts.  
1123

1124 *OSBA supports legislation that*

1125 ● Supports the concept of expanding health care pooling, provided that school districts maintain  
1126 local decision-making authority, that their employees maintain quality benefit levels and that  
1127 significant cost savings or other efficiencies are created by the pooling.  
1128

1129 **Professional development**

1130 Students must be prepared to compete in the global marketplace. Consequently, teachers must be  
1131 prepared to provide modern methods and instructional strategies that meet the academic needs of  
1132 students.  
1133

1134 *OSBA supports legislation that*

1135 ● Requires institutions of higher education for teachers to include in their curriculum courses in  
1136 technology, classroom management, trauma-informed training, crisis management and behavior  
1137 management, including training in appropriate behavioral intervention techniques.  
1138

1139 **Retirement systems**

1140 Ohio school employee retirement systems offer benefits to their members and may help attract  
1141 and retain employees. OSBA supports the school employee retirement systems and has not



1142 opposed benefit enhancements in the past. However, when determining pension benefits and  
1143 eligibility, the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) and State Employees Retirement  
1144 System (SERS) should consider current demographic realities such as life expectancy and the  
1145 number of years employees remain in the workforce.

1146

1147 *OSBA supports legislation that*

1148 ● Includes representation of locally elected boards of education on the STRS and SERS boards.

1149

1150 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

1151 ● Provides future benefit enhancements proposed by STRS and SERS unless the enhancement is  
1152 accompanied with a reduction in the 14% employer's share and repeal of the SERS surcharge.

1153 ● Increases the employer's share to cover increases in costs.





# REFERENCE MATERIALS

# SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE 66TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE OSBA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Greater Columbus Convention Center | Monday, Nov. 8, 2021

The 66th Annual Business Meeting of the OSBA Delegate Assembly convened in the Union Station Ballroom of the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio, on Monday, Nov. 8, 2021. OSBA President Robert M. Heard, Cleveland Metropolitan, presided.

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

President Heard called the 66th Annual Business Meeting of the OSBA Delegate Assembly to order.

## 2. INTRODUCTION OF PLATFORM GUESTS

President Heard introduced the following head table guests:

Governor Mike DeWine; Will Schwartz, OSBA deputy director of legislative services; Jennifer Hogue, OSBA director of legislative services; Richard Lewis, OSBA chief executive officer; Susie Lawson, OSBA interim president-elect; Mary Remson, parliamentarian and Sara C. Clark, OSBA chief legal counsel.

## 3. INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

President Heard recognized members of the Board of Trustees, Legislative Platform Committee and OSBA regional managers and Veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

President Heard acknowledged the dedication and commitment of the OSBA past presidents. President Heard introduced past presidents Thomas H. Pickering; Paul D. Mock; Kathy Leavenworth; Linda R. Anderson; State Representative Catherine D. Ingram; Martha F. Rothey; Sharon E. Manson; Charlie Wilson; Susie Lawson; Ed Penrod; Eric K. Germann; Randy Smith; John Halkias and Lee Schreiner along with special guest Fran DeWine, the Governor's wife. President Heard welcomed Governor DeWine to the podium to address the delegates.

## 4. OHIO INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

President Heard introduced and welcomed Ohio Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Stephanie K. Siddens. Interim Superintendent Siddens thanked President Heard for the introduction. Dr. Siddens addressed the delegates and introduced State Teacher of the Year, Kurt Russell. Mr. Russell addressed the delegates.

## 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Doug Stewart, Rittman Exempted Village & Wayne County Schools Career Center, chair of the Credentials Committee, reported that the committee met to review the procedures for registration of delegates and to review the credentials presented by the delegates and name alternates. Mr. Stewart stated that Article 6, Section 2 of the OSBA Constitution provides that 25% of the board members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

The Credentials Committee chair declared a quorum with 309 delegates/alternates present and moved for adoption of the Credentials Committee report. **Motion carried.**

Deborah Dunlap, Reynoldsburg City, of the Rules Committee, gave the report of the committee. Ms. Dunlap stated that the committee met on June 30 via Zoom for the purpose of reviewing the rules, and she moved to adopt the rules as printed in the delegate book for the 2021 Delegate Assembly. **Motion carried.**

Lee Schreiner, OSBA immediate past president and board member from South-Western City and chair of the Nominating Committee, gave the report of the committee. Mr. Schreiner stated that the committee met on August 7 to consider four applicants for the position of president-elect for 2022. The members of the committee were Renda M. Cline, Central Region; Susie Lawson, Northeast Region; Penny Kill, Northwest Region; Larry A. Good, Southeast Region and Linda A. Jordan of the Southwest Region. As directed by the Nominating Committee, the committee nominated Christine Varwig, Toledo City, for the office of 2022 president-elect of the Ohio School Boards Association.

## **6. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT**

President Heard moved to accept the Nominating Committee's report and the nomination of Christine Varwig as 2022 president-elect. Sally S. Green, Tuscarawas Valley Local (Tuscarawas) and Bob Vasquez, Toledo City, provided honorary seconds to the motion. **Motion carried.**

## **7. INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT**

President Heard congratulated Ms. Christine Varwig and presented her with a personalized copy of Robert's Rules of Order. Ms. Christine Varwig gave the following remarks:

I guess I was just handed Robert's Rules – officially Robert's Rules. Wow. I have a few thank you's if you don't mind. First, I would like to thank the Nominating Committee. They took a long time and commitment to go through this process. We had really outstanding applicants, so I'd like to thank the applicants. If you can give them a round of applause. It's not easy. And I'm sure they'll be filling these shoes soon.

I would like to thank all of you, the delegates, for not only your vote, but also your trust. That is something I will not take for granted. I'd also like to thank my colleagues and my friends across the state, and of course the colleagues in my own district. Without them, I could not be doing what I'm doing, so I thank them for that.

I love OSBA. I love the opportunities to learn. I love the opportunities to advocate for public education. I love the opportunity to become a better school board member and I think that's what we're all here for; and that's what this association is about, becoming better school board members for our communities, for the state of Ohio and specifically for our students. I look forward to leading OSBA in the future, so thank you very much. I certainly appreciate it.

## **8. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Richard Lewis, chief executive officer, gave the following remarks:

I know many of you have played, coached or watched Little League teams. I had the privilege of coaching my sons' teams. Coaching provided endless opportunities for wisdom and enlightenment – usually more for me than the team.

At the beginning of one season, I bought a "doughnut." When slipped onto the bat, the tool provides extra weight for practice swings. When the batter steps up to the plate after the sleeve is removed, the bat feels much lighter.

To my dismay, the first young man to use the new training tool put it on the bat incorrectly. Assuming that it was just difficult to put on, he relentlessly pounded and pounded the weight, driving it to the point of no return. Looking back, I should have been impressed by his persistence.

When our batboy brought me the now useless bat, I thought I'd simply slip the weight off. Instead, I was stunned that it would not move. I asked the team which Einstein had pounded the doughnut on upside down. Not surprisingly, no one stepped forward.

Over the summer, this bat became likened to Excalibur, King Arthur's legendary sword. Teams across the league learned of "the bat." At the end of each game, players lined up to see who could remove the doughnut.

In between games, the bat moved from family to family. Most dads tried pure strength, employing manly might. Each thought that with just a little more effort he would succeed. The moms were more scientific, applying lubricants such as WD-40, olive oil, motor oil, Vaseline and Pam. Still, no luck.

The people who tackled this challenge had extremely diverse skills and abilities. They were attorneys and accountants, bankers and builders, surgeons and scientists. We all had two things in common – we all had faced the bat and we all had failed.

At season's end, one of our 12-year-olds made a suggestion. He learned in school that when a material is heated, its energy increases and its molecules move around more, causing the material to expand. When it's cold, energy decreases, so the molecules take up less space and the material contracts. Why didn't we just freeze the bat? We tried it and it worked.

This season-long quest revealed several insights. First, it affirmed that science has a place in our everyday lives. More importantly, it reinforced lessons about problem solving. Our team had a lot of great minds, but that alone was not enough. We were dedicated and shared a single mission, but that, too, was inadequate. We tried to succeed by applying failed strategies, hoping that perseverance would triumph.

Everyone takes the limits of their own vision for the limits of the world. But we don't accomplish anything alone, and we never know when we'll find wisdom. During the rest of your terms as board members –and for the rest of your lives – take advantage of those around you. You have done a masterful job in listening to your communities in times of incivility, anger and even fury. While it would have been easy to become outraged, you instead became engaged. That is the hallmark of a leader. You have kept your heads about you when everyone else was losing theirs.

Continue that spirit and learn from your newly elected board members and each other's diversity, backgrounds and experiences. Never be afraid to try something new. Working together, you can make a difference and free the doughnut from the bat.

I am thrilled to be back with you at the Capital Conference. Your staff has worked very hard to make it one of the first and largest events to return in person. I know you are finding the curriculum, keynote speakers, trade show and student achievement fair more valuable than ever. We also have implemented an enhanced wellness protocol to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Each year, I become prouder of Ohio public education. 2020 was a year of uncertainty, challenges, setbacks and polarity, but still you succeeded. In 2021, you capitalized on those successes and achieved even more in a world that is more polarized and politicized than ever. OSBA is extremely moved by the creativity, dedication and resolve of our 711 school boards. No matter what – you always are there for our students.

When times are tough, school boards need an even stronger state organization to represent their interests. OSBA is proud to have delivered superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions to our members in a time when you needed that support the most.

Like collaborating to free the donut, OSBA's partnerships have reached higher levels. We have communicated and collaborated regularly with Gov. DeWine. We enjoyed fantastic relationships with our State Superintendent Paulo DeMaria and Interim State Superintendent Dr. Stephanie Siddens. We are more engaged than ever with the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the state's employee unions – OEA, OFT and OAPSE. Our strong relationship with the Ohio Educational Service Center Association helped navigate the census challenges and provide protective equipment to schools during the pandemic.

Working with the Ohio Department of Education, we made progress on important projects such as "I Educate Ohio," the department's new initiative on diversity and equity, and the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission. Teaming with non-traditional partners such as the Center of Science and Industry enabled OSBA to help deliver science kits and food to underserved areas of the state.

Collaborating with other state school boards associations, Ohio and Illinois led a 500-person online professional development opportunity for staff. This event demonstrated the capability of our sister organizations across the county to develop programming that benefits board members and staff from coast to coast.

OSBA leadership understands there are many questions about our association in a post-NSBA world. Please know, above all, that our Board of Trustees made this important decision to isolate OSBA from the political theater surrounding the National School Boards Association. Several states followed this lead and are now working hard to ensure that networking, advocacy, legal or professional development opportunities will continue to be available in a seamless transition.

Your legislative team represented you well at the Ohio Statehouse and on Capitol Hill. They successfully fought to implement a new state funding formula; report card reform; a pathway out of academic distress; and a new transportation formula. They also helped eliminate the practice of charter school and voucher funding being deducted from individual school districts' funding. OSBA advocacy continued in other areas such as bus driver shortages and the Statewide Community Learning Center Advisory Committee.

Our legal division fielded thousands of phone calls and developed many new resources. Our Legal Assistance Fund provided support in important cases of statewide significance, including the pandemic; district and employee liability; the open meetings act; and other legal matters impacting all Ohio schools.

OSBA's groundbreaking superintendent search software is now being utilized across the nation. State school boards associations that use our platform credit it as being key in continuing to provide search services during the pandemic.

It is important that you know the association constantly reviews its operations and practices. 2021 saw the completion of a communications audit; continued conversion of policy services to the online BoardDocs platform; increased media outreach; and enhanced student achievement initiatives. To help you navigate a post-pandemic world, OSBA implemented hybrid professional development opportunities; offered town hall meetings; developed an Informed Governance Series; and created new OSBA podcasts called Leading the Way.

OSBA also recently completed a multiyear Governance Review that examined key documents, interviewed stakeholders and relied on other diagnostic tools to complete its report. Recommendations from the review identify actions the Board of Trustees can take to enhance the effectiveness of OSBA's leaders.

I want to thank our longtime partners, the Buckeye Association of School Administrators and Ohio Association of School Business Officials for their continued collaboration. Along with the Ohio Schools Council, we offer Power4Schools, an electricity purchasing program that has saved Ohio school boards over \$55 million.

Along with OASBO, we created Ohio SchoolComp, the largest, most stable workers' compensation pool in Ohio. Administered by Sedgwick, SchoolComp consistently delivers the most reliable projections and achieves the greatest savings of any such program. Ohio schools participating in SchoolComp have realized almost \$90 million in workers' compensation premium relief.

In partnership with BASA, we support Ohio School Plan, one of the largest and most successful alternative insurance programs in the state. The program is member-owned and directed by school leaders.

The Board of Trustees and many other committees work tirelessly on your behalf. Our officers deserve special recognition. President Robert Heard, Interim President-elect Susie Lawson and Immediate Past President Lee Schreiner stepped up in a time of need and volunteered their service, experience and leadership, and I thank them for their leadership.

I also need to mention my colleagues – the OSBA staff. They believe in you. They are proud to serve Ohio's school board members. I am proud to be working alongside of them.

Thank you for everything you do every day, not just for Ohio's 1.7 million public schoolchildren but also for your communities. OSBA looks forward to working with you in the coming year. Welcome back to your Capital Conference!

## **9. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM COMMITTEE**

President Heard referred to the Legislative Platform Committee discussions, input and deliberations at the August meeting. Resolutions were discussed and voted on individually. President Heard called on Chair Susie Lawson, Tri-County ESC and Wayne County Schools Career Center, to present the proposed platform amendments as recommended by the Platform Committee. The following amendments were considered by the Delegate Assembly to modify OSBA's legislative platform.

Proposed Amendment 1  
Section: Students and learning  
Plank: Curriculum



## Curriculum

Public education is the responsibility of the state and locally elected boards of education. Governance must be vested in the locally elected board of education that is accountable to the local community. Arts and extracurricular activities play an integral role in the education of children. The primary responsibility for approving courses of study, instructional programs and selection of instructional materials must remain with the locally elected board of education, with input from the local community. Cuts, necessitated by finances, in no way diminish the belief that all students should have access to a curriculum that includes art, music, theater, physical education and world languages, in addition to mathematics, science, social studies, reading and writing. Access to career-technical courses, such as, but not limited to agriculture **AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS**, business **ADMINISTRATION** technology, industrial technology **ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES**, **CAREER BASED INTERVENTION PROGRAMS, EDUCATION AND TRAINING**, and family and consumer sciences is vital. **PRE-SCHOOL AND** all-day/every-day kindergarten programs, accompanied by clear academic standards and a comprehensive curriculum, have been proven to raise the achievement levels of all students and to reduce the achievement and readiness gaps in students first entering school.

A comprehensive curriculum is one focused on approaches toward learning, cognitive and general knowledge (including mathematics, science, and social studies), language and literacy development, arts, physical well-being, motor development and social-emotional development.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Enables locally elected boards of education to make decisions regarding the adoption of curriculum, textbooks and instructional materials, with advice and input from staff, parents, students and community members.

President Heard asked if there were any comments or questions from the floor. Seeing none, a vote was taken. **Amendment passed.**

Proposed Amendment 2

Section: Students and learning

Plank: Drug addiction prevention

### Drug addiction prevention

Drug addiction is a national, state and local crisis. The rate and incidence of heroin and other opioid abuse among Ohioans is staggering. Local school districts are called upon to educate students and families about the tragic consequences of drug addiction. It is essential that we provide students with information, skills and support to help them abstain from such harmful behaviors and its **THEIR** consequences.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides new and additional dedicated funds to assist schools in the battle against drug addiction, heroin and other opioid abuse.
- Provides sufficient funding to implement trauma-informed training and school program development.

President Heard asked if there were any comments or questions from the floor. Seeing none, a vote was taken. **Amendment passed.**

### Racism/Equity

There is no place for racism or hatred in our schools. We acknowledge the historical, generational and compounding reality of the systems, structures and practices that have created and continue to afford advantages to some groups while perpetuating inequities for others. Racial, and socioeconomic, **SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY** inequalities produce unequal opportunities for student success. Strong public schools are the great equalizer, and education provides the foundation to change perceptions and attitudes. It is imperative that Ohio implement meaningful solutions that eliminate racism, social injustice, **INCLUDING INJUSTICES BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY**, disparate discipline and bias, as well as foster equity to provide a catalyst for sustained improvement for students of color and impoverished communities.

Inequitable systems of school finance at the federal, state and local levels, including special grants, caps and guarantees, fail to provide schools with adequate or sufficient funding to achieve a world-class education necessary to prepare students for the future. OSBA is committed to ensuring school boards have the resources they need to provide students of all backgrounds and abilities with a high-quality education. It is essential that we create an inclusive environment that ensures that our students have a future that allows all students to be successful, no matter their race, ethnicity, **SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY** or socioeconomic background.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Creates an inclusive environment that ensures students are provided opportunities for achievement and success no matter their race, ethnicity, **SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY**, or socioeconomic background.
- Provides districts with the resources and tools they need to provide students of all backgrounds and abilities a high-quality education.
- Removes and actively repairs racial and social inequities to ensure positive educational outcomes for our students in alignment with our mission and vision.
- Funds racial and social justice programs in Ohio's public schools.
- Addresses racial disparities in discipline through restorative justice.
- Funds equitable education throughout the state of Ohio.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Limits resources and/or opportunities for students of color and those who are traditionally underserved based on their ethnicity, **SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY** or socioeconomic background.

President Heard asked if there were any comments or questions from the floor.

Dr. Tina Pierce, Columbus City, motioned to amend the proposed language, line 141 to read: Race, ethnicity – strike the word “and” and add socioeconomic background, sexual orientation and gender identity; line 155 to read: No matter your race, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation or gender identity; line 172, on their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation and identity. After review by parliamentarian, Mary Remson, a determination was made that this is a conforming amendment, and we will proceed with making those changes when we print the platform. Dr. Pierce withdrew her motion knowing the language would be updated.

President Heard asked if there were any more comments or questions from the floor.

Several others offered comments on the topic at hand. Before the vote was taken, Victoria Powers, Bexley City, asked if they would be voting on the language that's on the screen or the language, including the new language, that would include race, ethnicity and socioeconomic background? Parliamentarian Mary Remson clarified that the vote today is whether or not to include the new language that is on the screen.

President Heard asked if there are any comments or questions from the floor. Hearing none, President Heard called upon the region managers to assist with counting the votes. A vote was taken, the amendment garnered 194 for the motion, 75 against. Seventy-five percent was needed for the amendment to pass. The amendment received 72.1 percent of the vote. Amendments require 75 percent of the vote to pass. **Amendment failed.**

Proposed Amendment 4

Section: Students and learning

Plank: Technology plank

### **Technology**

Every public school district should have access to modern technology, regardless of the wealth or geographical location of the district, because students with limited access to educational technology are at an educational and economic disadvantage. **AFFORDABLE BROADBAND AND** full access to the Internet for students, staff and communities is critical. Appropriate and ongoing training is essential for effective use of technology.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides the funds necessary to provide for the hardware, software, staff instructional in-service and infrastructure necessary to provide access to modern technology for all students.

President Heard asked if there were any comments or questions from the floor. Seeing none, a vote was taken. **Amendment passed.**

Proposed Amendment 5

Section: School governance

Plank: Sale/lease of real property

### **Sale/lease of real property**

School facilities represent a major investment of community resources for public education. School facilities and real property represent the most visible evidence of that investment. School board members are stewards of these community resources. Good stewardship requires that facilities be properly maintained and that any proposed disposition of property be of direct benefit to the district and its community. The locally elected board of education must retain the final decision in these matters.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides school districts with the flexibility to sell or lease real property in a manner that offers the most benefit to the school district as determined by the locally elected board of education.
- Repeals the right of first refusal to purchase property by private, charter/community, **COLLEGE-PREPARATORY BOARDING SCHOOLS, STEM SCHOOLS** and on-line schools.
- Allows local school boards the flexibility to make facility sales and purchasing decisions based on the needs of the district.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Provides facilities funding to private and charter/community schools.

President Heard asked if there were any comments or questions from the floor. Seeing none, a vote was taken. **Amendment passed.**

Proposed Amendment 6

Section: Finance

Plank: Categorical parity

### **Categorical parity**

Children with unique educational needs place extraordinary demands on public school district revenues. Because of the wide disparities in the capacity to generate local revenues that exist across school districts, additional state revenues must be made available to ensure that children with unique educational needs are served appropriately.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Establishes that the state, in addition to determining the cost of a high-quality educational program, must determine the additional costs necessary to provide services to students with unique educational needs, such as students who are economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities and students ~~who require~~ **PARTICIPATING IN** career-technical education or gifted educational services.
- Indexes the cost of providing educational services to students with unique educational needs against the cost of providing a high-quality educational program for regular students, so that each component increases proportionately and in parity with those costs.
- Fully funds at 100% of the cost, the services needed for every child with unique educational needs.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Equalizes the funding weights for unique needs categories, in addition to the cost of a basic education to provide educational services to ~~special education~~, career-technical education **STUDENTS, ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS, ENGLISH LEARNERS, and** gifted students, **AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.**

President Heard asked if there were any comments or questions from the floor. Seeing none, a vote was taken. **Amendment passed.**

## **10. PLATFORM AMENDMENTS INTRODUCED FROM THE FLOOR**

President Heard thanked Chair Lawson, members of the Legislative Platform Committee and the OSBA Executive Committee for their work and their efforts. President Heard asked for new amendments from the floor. Seeing none, President Heard moved to item #11.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

President Heard asked if any new business needed to come before the Delegate Assembly.

Amy Kissinger, Cambridge City, recommended that the delegate assembly approve the Equal Representation amendment to the OSBA Constitution as submitted by the Cambridge City School District Board of Education.

**Section 3.** The president, president-elect and immediate past president of the association, the president, the president-elect and immediate past president of the each of the five (5) regional associations, ~~one representative each from the six (6) districts in the state of Ohio with the largest pupil enrollment,\* together with no less than six (6) nor more than eight (8) other persons~~ **and one (1) large appointment from each of the five (5) regional associations** shall constitute the Board of Trustees.

**\*NOTE: The phrase "largest pupil enrollment" shall mean all pupils regularly enrolled in the district, plus all students enrolled in community schools sponsored by the district board of education. Data for this determination shall be taken from the Ohio Department of Education Average Daily Membership Report for the school year that ends six months prior to the beginning of an OSBA membership year. (Approved by the Board of Trustees, May 2004)**

Article VIII

Election of Officers and Other Members of the Board of Trustees

**Section 3.** Each region is entitled to a minimum of four (4) seats on the OSBA Board of Trustees, inclusive of the region officers and one at large appointment and exclusive of the six (6) districts with the largest pupil enrollment appointments pursuant to Section 6 of this article. In addition, the Executive Committee, before the first of September of each year, shall determine the number of trustees each regional association is entitled to elect or appoint in proportion to the number of boards in that region holding membership in the Ohio School Boards Association, excepting the six (6) largest districts from this determination, for a two-year term commencing January 1 of the succeeding year. This determination shall be based on membership rolls of the next preceding June 1.

**Section 6.** The representative of the Board of Trustees from each of the six (6) districts with the largest pupil enrollment shall be appointed by the board of education of each such district for a term of one (1) year.

**Section 7.** In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Trustees, replacement shall be made for the unexpired term by the regional association ~~or board of education~~ which first elected or appointed the member now vacating.

Amy Kissinger offered a few amendments to the amendment starting with changing the effective date to January 1, 2025, to allow time for attrition to occur as to not interrupt people who are currently in those positions. Terry Halley, Gallia County Local (Gallia) seconded the motion.

President Heard asked if there were any comments or questions from the floor. Seeing none, a vote was taken. **Amendment to the amendment passed.**

Amy Kissinger offered another amendment to rescind the new language that was proposed and making the only change proposed to Section 3 the strikethrough of one representative of each of the six districts in the state of Ohio with the largest pupil enrollment and leaving the current process for appointment of the at-large trustees as is. Terry Halley, Gallia County Local (Gallia) seconded the motion. After several comments on the proposed amendment, President Heard called for a vote on the amendment to the amendment only. **Amendment to the amendment failed.**

President Heard announced we are now back to the original proposed amendment.

Several delegates provided comments on the proposed amendment. Sally S. Green, Tuscarawas Valley Local (Tuscarawas), moved to table the discussion indefinitely. Anthony Gomez, Cuyahoga City, seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

President Heard proceeded to item #12.

### **12. Kids PAC – YOUR POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

President Heard encouraged members of the OSBA delegate assembly to support Kids PAC, the resource that supports OSBA's lobbying efforts at the Statehouse.

The Golden Apple Award for their summa cum laude contributions to Kids PAC of \$250 was presented to John Halkias, Jennifer Hogue, Frank Mahnic, Jr., Thomas C. Patterson, Lee Schreiner and Larry Walton.

President Heard presented the Valedictorian Award for contributions to Kids PAC of \$500 to Russell Garrison, Sally S. Green, Al Haberstroh, Linda A. Jordan, Susie Lawson and Rick Lewis.

### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

President Heard declared the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

ACTION BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Approved by the OSBA Board of Trustees \_\_\_\_\_ .





**OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION**