

Mike DeWine, Governor
Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: November 24, 2019
TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Paolo DeMaria, State Superintendent
RE: Weekly Update – Weeks (2) of November 11 and November 18, 2019

Thanksgiving Reflection: I am thankful for so many things – among these is your leadership and partnership in supporting each of Ohio’s children in achieving future success individually, and for the betterment of our state and nation. We can all be proud of the tremendous positive activity happening in education all across the state.

Vision and Direction: We continue to use social media to tell stories about great things happening in schools and emphasizing key messages:

- **Celebrating Ohio’s Amazing Students:** This was the focus of my visit to the OSBA Capital Conference Student Achievement Fair. I posted a variety of videos featuring students and their accomplishments. There were so many incredible presentations. You can see my posts [here](#).
- **Celebrating Great Teaching:** This message came out loud and clear at Harding Early College High School in Fairport Harbor Exempted Village Schools at the announcement of Ohio’s Milken Educator Award recipient. Nathan Yaussy is an incredible teacher – and his colleagues and students are a testament to that. See the various posts about this event [here](#).
- **Encouraging Students in Teacher Preparation Programs:** I reviewed the Strategic Plan with attendees at the Ohio Christian University Education Summit (most of whom were students enrolled in the college’s teacher preparation program). My message was that the learning never stops when it comes to creating an excellent education system. You can see my post [here](#).
- **Valuing Dropout Prevention and Recovery:** I enjoyed my visit to the Foxfire Schools in Muskingum County. It was particularly encouraging to have three district superintendent’s as part of a discussion about the value of the school. You can view the coverage by WHIZ [here](#).

Budget Bill Report Card Committee: President Kohler and I delivered testimony at the second meeting of this Committee on Nov. 13. The testimony was emailed to Board members. Many Board members were in attendance. Presentations were also given by the Buckeye Association of School Superintendents, the Alliance for High Quality Education, the Ohio Federation of Teachers, the Ohio Education Association, the Thomas Fordham Institute, and Ohio Excels (written testimony). It was encouraging to see many similarities among the various proposals. I was also encouraged to hear many references relative to alignment to the Strategic Plan. **December 4 is tentatively being held for the next meeting of this committee. Stay tuned for time and place.**

STOP School Violence Grant Trainings. In partnership with Sandy Hook Promise, we continue to roll out these violence prevention and threat assessment trainings. Upcoming day-long trainings are in Columbus (Dec. 16, Jan. 22, Feb. 10, Feb. 24, March 1), and Rio Grande (Dec. 18, 19, 20). Sessions are scheduled through May 2020. More information about future trainings can be found [here](#).

More Details on S.B. 34: In the Legislative Update accompanying this memo, there is some additional information provided by our legislative staff about the provisions of S.B. 34. You will likely recall that at the last State Board meeting there was an extensive conversation about this bill during the Legislative Update portion of the agenda.

Items Released or Out for Comment: The following are recent items released on the web or out for public comment:

- **Kindergarten- Grade 12 Prevention Funding.** The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services released their request for applications for \$18 million included in the last budget supporting K-12 Prevention Funding. These funds will flow to schools through county Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Boards. ODE is working on a parallel path seeking proposals from Educational Service Centers for \$2 million in professional development funds to support prevention activities. The [grant application](#) is available for review on the Department’s website and application submissions can be submitted through the CCIP system. The deadline to submit is December 20 and awards will be made in January. We anticipate awarding approximately five grants.
- **Community School Operator Reports:** On Nov. 15, the Department released the 2018-19 community school Operator Reports. The Department is required to publish an annual performance report for all operators of community schools based on their performance from the previous school year. The reports are posted as PDF files and in Excel files on the Office of Community Schools website: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Community-Schools>.
- **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Legislative Report.** On November 15, we posted the [Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Legislative Report](#) to the department's website. This report is required by legislation enacted last year. The report provides a variety of information on PBIS implementation, best practices, and ODE’s recognition program. It also provides out-of-school suspension and expulsion data for students in pre-kindergarten through third grade, including data disaggregations.
- **Career-Focused Programs Survey.** The Department is seeking input to help improve the operation of career-focused programs and the assistance the Department offers to those who implement these programs. The Department will use the feedback it gathers to inform Ohio’s federally required Perkins V Plan development and gauge the influence of the New Skills for Youth grant work. The survey can be found [here](#). Please feel free to share with those who may be interested.
- **Purple Star Application Process.** The Purple Star is Ohio’s designation for military family-friendly schools. We opened the next application round on Oct. 7. Those interested in the applying can find more information [here](#). Applications will be accepted through Dec. 2.

Graduation Requirements and High School Redesign Task Force (Columbus – Nov. 25): The next meeting of the Task Force will be on Monday, November 25 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. The committee will continue to be updated on progress around graduation requirements implementation (include some discussion around the determination of “competency”), as well as continue work on high school redesign.

Dropout Prevention and Recovery Work Group: This group convened on Nov. 11 and Nov. 21. The Nov. 21 meeting included a presentation and discussion with Representatives Bob Cupp and John Patterson relative to school funding. The next meeting will be Monday, November 25 and will include discussions with ODE staff Stephanie Siddens and Jo Hannah Ward. The workgroup is continuing the development of its report and recommendations, and the specifications for accountability measures. The final meeting is scheduled for Dec 2nd. Information about this committee, including agendas and minutes, can be found at <http://education.ohio.gov/State-Board/Committees/Dropout-Prevention-Recovery-Workgroup>

Territory Transfer Lawsuit Refiled: Plain Local has re-filed its lawsuit relative to the recently enacted alternative territory transfer provisions in the biennial budget bill (H.B. 166). The suit names the Governor, the State Superintendent, and the members of the State Board.

Geauga and Lake County ESCs Merge: The Geauga County ESC and the Lake County ESC are merging. A joint resolution of the two boards was adopted on November 7. The new ESC will be named the ESC of the Western Reserve. The new ESC will begin operating on Jan. 1, 2020.

Meetings/Activities:

The following summarize events/activities of note this past two weeks.

- **School Visits:**
 - **Foxfire Schools – Maysville Local Schools (Maysville - Nov. 20):** These schools (one intermediate and one high school) are Dropout Prevention and Recovery programs operated by Maysville Schools. They operate an innovative instructional model and are focused on meeting the needs of the whole child with intensive wraparound services. I very much enjoyed learning about the program model, and the many students being served. Three district superintendents shared how the school provides educational opportunities for difficult-to-serve students that would otherwise cost much more to educate, or who many not be able to find an appropriate option.
- **Ohio School Improvement Institute/High Schools that Work (Columbus – Nov. 14-15):** I enjoyed providing closing remarks at this event. There were so many great sessions with practical advice and examples of school improvement activity. I'm always very proud of districts and schools that share their wonderful accomplishments to help others learn about improvement options.
- **Ohio Art Education Association Conference (Columbus – Nov. 15):** I joined Jonathan Juravich for this event and provided some brief welcoming remarks at the association's awards dinner. Art educators are a very fun group!
- **Ohio Christian University 2019 Education Summit (Circleville – Nov. 15):** I provided an overview of the Strategic Plan, as well as served on two panels about social emotional learning, and about the future of education. Both panels offered great perspective on the changing needs of students and how education is changing.
- **Buckeye Hills Regional Council Policy Summit (Marietta - Nov. 20):** Buckeye Hills Regional Council is made up of governments and local development districts that serve 8 rural counties in SE Ohio. I was joined by Chancellor Randy Gardner (Higher Education) and Director Mary Mertz (Natural Resources) for a panel discussion around state agency collaboration in service of workforce and recreational opportunities. The Director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia – John Carey – moderated the panel.
- **Annual Human Trafficking Youth Prevention Summit (Columbus – Nov. 22):** Hundreds of students attended this summit to learn about and share information on human trafficking and how they can be human rights defenders. Our 2019 Teacher of the Year Mona Al-Hayani had her "Young Women for Change" group from Toledo in attendance. They also presented a session entitled "Human Trafficking 101." In my remarks, I reminded students to never be afraid to ask for help, and to be on the lookout when friends need help. I told them that their voice is so important, and they must never hold back when they have something to say. I'm so proud of the students who are engaged in this important work.
- **Leader in Me Symposium (Columbus – Nov. 20-21):** I used this opportunity to share how Stephen Covey's *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* contributed to the process of developing and implementing the strategic plan. I also conveyed the importance of continuous improvement and always looking for ways to get better. The Leader in Me is a program used by many districts to support the development of leadership skills as well as behavior expectations. Many schools use this program successfully.

The following are upcoming events/activities of note:

- **School Visits:**

- **Arts and College Preparatory Academy (Columbus - Dec. 6):** The leader of this school, Tony Gatto, served on several of our graduation requirements work groups. ACPA is one of the most successful central Ohio charter schools, and I'm excited to be visiting.
- **Dayton Public Schools (Dayton – Dec. 11):** Since I will be in Dayton on this date, I will be visiting several schools within Dayton Public Schools -- Horace Mann Elementary, Ponitz Career Technology Center, and Belle Haven Elementary.
- **Scioto County/Vinton County (Dec. 17):** I may be visiting yet to be determined locations in the southern part of the state. This is being contemplated as a joint effort between ODE and the Department of Natural Resources relative to their "Trees to Textbooks" program whereby profits from the sale of timber from state forests is shared with school districts in which those forests are located.
- **Mahoning Valley (Dec. 18):** I will be visiting yet to be determined locations in the Mahoning Valley (likely in Mahoning County). More details will be shared shortly.
- **Project Evidence: Brookings Institute Conference (Washington, D.C. – Dec. 3):** I've been asked to serve on a panel entitled "Improving Education: Funding, Learning and Using Evidence." In particular, panelists are being asked to share what and how they think the research sector can change / improve/ evolve to better support practitioners (at the federal, state, regional and local level).
- **KnowledgeWorks Personalized Learning Convening (Columbus -- Dec. 5):** KnowledgeWorks is partnering with the Department to dive deeply into policies and practices that help support and scale *personalized learning*. Attendees at this convening will participate in an in-depth review of state policies and practices that support student-centered learning. This review is designed with the goal of solidifying a statewide vision for *personalized learning* and identifying opportunities for continued, supported growth of *personalized learning* in Ohio.
- **Model U.N. [High School] (Columbus – Dec. 8):** I may be stopping by to interact with the students participating in this program. Model U.N. is one of those great extracurricular programs that build student engagement and expand student awareness of global issues.
- **Governor's Executive Workforce Board Meeting (Columbus – Dec. 10):** I will be attending the next meeting of this workforce development policy and coordinating group.
- **PBIS Showcase (Dayton – Dec. 11):** I will be attending this annual event to provide some welcoming remarks and help give out the Gold, Silver and Bronze awards for PBIS implementation.