

Education Update

To: LWVO
From: Joan Platz
Education Update for November 2, 2009

1) 128th Ohio General Assembly: The Ohio House and Senate will hold committee hearings this week. "As Needed" sessions for the House and Senate are scheduled for November 17 & 18, 2009.

*November 3, 2009 Election: According to the Secretary of State's web site, voters in Ohio will decide on November 3, 2009 a variety of issues including three statewide issues; ballot issues for school districts, libraries, public children services agencies, county boards of developmental disabilities and mental health, senior services, and local and municipal government; charter amendments; and elect several mayors, members of city councils, and judges. Voters will decide 39 bond issues for schools; 117 school levies; and 20 school income tax/tax changes for schools.

For more information about the ballot issues on November 3, 2009 please visit <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/electResultsMain/2009ElectionResults/2009General.aspx>.

*The Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee, chaired by Senator Carey, held hearings on October 28, 2009 on HB 318 (Sykes) Income Tax Freeze. The Committee heard testimony from Representative Vern Sykes, the sponsor of the bill and chair of the House Finance and Appropriations Committee; Pari Sabety, director of the Office of Budget and Management; and Rich Levin, Tax Commissioner. More hearings are planned this week. Please see #4 below.

2) Governor's Announces Appointments: Governor Strickland announced on October 30, 2009 appointments to several boards and commissions, including the State Board of Education, the Ohio Arts Council, and the Ohio School Funding Advisory Council.

*State Board of Education: The Governor has appointed Juanita Sanchez to the State Board of Education. This appointment will fill one of two vacancies on the board stemming from the resignations of Jennifer Sheets and Carl Wick several months ago. The Board has 11 elected members and eight appointed members, and creates policy and makes recommendations for K-12 education in Ohio.

Ms. Sanchez is a graduate of the University of Findlay and is a paraprofessional bilingual aide for Fremont City Schools.

*Ohio Arts Council: Governor Strickland re-appointed Barbara Gould and appointed Sarah Vance and Jacquelyn Nance to the Council.

Barbara Gould (Cincinnati) has served in the fashion, interior design, and music industries before retiring, and currently serves on numerous cultural arts boards in the Cincinnati area.

Sarah Vance (Cincinnati) is the owner of SMV Media, and currently serves on the board of directors for the Cincinnati Art Museum and the Nueberger Museum of Art.

Jacquelyn Nance (Moreland Hills) is president of Philanthropic Solutions, and is currently on the board of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, and on the Charter One Bank & Fox 8 News' "Champions in Action" Selection Committee.

*Ohio School Funding Advisory Council: The 28 member council was established in Am. Sub. HB 1. The council is to submit biennial recommendations for revising the components of the new evidence-based model (EBM) for funding schools in the following areas:

-Gifted education services

-Career-technical education, and the extent to which current funding for joint vocational school districts and compact and comprehensive career-technical schools is responsive to state, regional, and local business and industry needs - Arts education -Services for limited English proficient students -Early college high schools -Special education -Educational Service Centers, and the extent to which they serve school districts -Regional Service Delivery System, including governance structure and accountability metric -Compensation and retirement benefits for teachers -Community and STEM schools reporting requirements -Open Enrollment -Strategies and incentives to promote school cost-saving measures and efficiencies -Options for adding learning time to the school year -The adequacy of the model's accounting for and financing of operation costs -The accuracy of the funding model's component calculations and the model as a whole -Options to encourage "excellent" school districts and schools to go beyond state standards and aspire to higher international norms.

-Recommendations for fostering collaboration between school districts and community schools, including fiscal incentives for collaboration.

A report shall be issued by September 1, 2010, and periodically thereafter.

-Recommendations for a student-centered evidence-based model that uses a per pupil level of funding to follow a student to the school that best meets the student's individual learning needs.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction, or designee, will serve as the chair of the Council, which includes the following members:

The Governor, or designee

The Chancellor of the Board of Regents, or designee

Governor Appointments

Two teachers

Two non teaching non administrative school employees One parent public schools

One rep. community schools One rep. early childhood providers

House Speaker Appointments

One principal

One Treasurer

One rep. from college of education

One rep. philanthropic organizations
One rep. educational service centers
One rep. fiscal officer community schools One rep. charter nonpublic schools Two people, one recommended by the minority leader

Senate President Appointments

One Superintendent
One School Board member
One member business community
One rep. Ohio Academy of Sciences
One rep. General Public
One rep. operators of community schools
Two people, one recommended by the minority leader

The appointments from the House Speaker and Senate President have not been announced as yet. The Governor has made the following appointments to the council:

Nathan DeRolph (Newark) has been appointed as a parent representative. He is a father of two children, ages 6 and 1. In 1991, DeRolph and his parents filed a lawsuit against the State of Ohio for failing to provide adequate funding to educate the state's students. This action resulted in four Ohio Supreme Court rulings and a finding that the system of funding K-12 schools was unconstitutional. Mr. DeRolph received a bachelor's degree in finance from the Ohio State University in 1999 and works at Fifth-Third Bank.

Robyn Essman (Dayton) has been appointed as a community school representative. She has served as the executive of budget and financial management for the Columbus City Schools since 2008.

Sue Taylor (Cincinnati) has been appointed as a teacher representative. She serves as the president of the Ohio Federation of Teachers, and serves as an educator in the Cincinnati Public School system for the past 23 years.

William Leibensperger (Upper Arlington) has been appointed as a teacher representative. He serves as the vice president of the Ohio Education Association and as a teacher at Westland High School.

James McClure (Painesville) has been appointed as a non-teacher, non-administrator representative. He serves as a material handler for the Mentor Public Schools.

JoAnn Johntony (Girard) has been appointed as a non-teacher, non-administrator representative. She serves as a custodian for the Girard City Schools and as the president for the Ohio Association of Public School Employees.

Dayvenia Chesney (Dayton) has been appointed as the early child representative. She currently serves as the CEO for the Miami Valley Child Development Centers.

To read more about the appointments, please visit
<http://www.governor.ohio.gov/News/PressReleases/2009/October2009/News1030091/tabid/1305/Default.aspx>

3) Update on Federal Education Issues:

*President Obama signed into law on October 30, 2009 H.R. 2996, the "Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010". The Act provides FY 2010 appropriations for the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service (Department of Agriculture), the Indian Health Service (Department of Health and Human Services), the Environmental Protection Agency, and various other agencies. Division B of the Act is a continuing resolution that provides FY 2010 appropriations through December 18, 2009 for other agencies of the government currently provided for under Continuing Resolution -- Public Law 111-68. The fiscal year for the U.S.

government started on October 1, 2009, so the continuing resolution provides FY10 funding for Federal agencies at the FY 2009 level until enactment of regular FY10 appropriations.

*U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan addressed the issue of teacher preparation on October 22, 2009 before an audience at Columbia University's Teachers College. Secretary Duncan called for "a revolutionary change" in the way colleges of education prepare teachers, and asked teacher preparation programs to "raise the bar".

To provide an incentive for teacher preparation programs to improve, Secretary Duncan noted that the \$4.3 billion Race to the Top criteria will reward states that publicly report and link student achievement data to teacher and principal accreditation programs.

The speech is available at

<http://www.ed.gov/news/speeches/2009/10/10222009.html>

4) This Week at the Statehouse

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2009

*The House Education Committee, chaired by Representative Williams, will meet on Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 10:00 AM in Hearing Room 017. The committee will hear testimony on the following bills:

-HB83 (Boyd) Public School Assaults, which provides for the reporting of assaults in public schools to school administrators and law enforcement authorities.

-HB290 (Bubb) Junior ROTC, which would include Junior ROTC as a permitted elective within the Ohio Core curriculum and permit schools to excuse Junior ROTC students high school physical education.

-HB268 (Driehaus) Support for Non-Public Schools, which would temporarily reduce the per pupil base-cost payments to community schools in academic watch or emergency, and use the aggregate of those reductions to make supplemental payments for Auxiliary Services for chartered school students.

-HB279 (Foley) Staff Member to Child Ratios, which allows adjustments to be made in staff member to child ratios in schools and maximum group sizes for Montessori preschools that combine preschool-aged children and kindergartners.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2009

*The Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee, chaired by Senator Carey, will meet on Thursday November 5, 2009 at 9:30 AM and 1:00 PM in the Senate Finance Hearing Room. Testimony on HB 318 (Sykes), Income Tax Freeze, will be presented from the Office of Budget and Management and the Department of Taxation in the morning.

The committee will reconvene at 1:00 PM to hear public testimony on HB318. HB318 postpones for two years the last of five scheduled income tax rate reductions, reduces salaries of General Assembly members by five per cent, and makes conforming amendments.

The committee will also hear testimony on HB280 (Stautberg) Special Elections and SB177 (Seitz) Tax Law Changes.

5) Ohio Tax Trends: The Center for Community Solutions, John Begala executive director, released on October 29, 2009 a policy brief entitled "A Balanced Approach Promoted Ohio Recovery after Previous Recessions" by Jon Honeck, Ph.D., Director of Public Policy and Advocacy. The brief summarizes how Ohio's economy has responded to recessions in the past, and how lawmakers approved tax changes to increase revenue in addition to making budget cuts during the last five recessions.

According to the brief, "The historical record shows that raising taxes during a recession will not harm an economic recovery. In fact, just the opposite is likely to occur. Ohio raised taxes in the recessions of the 1980s and 1990s to fund vital public services, and job growth was strong during the economic recoveries that followed.

In the current decade, the state saw moderate job growth under a temporary sales tax and then lost jobs starting in 2006 after taxes were cut."

The brief agrees that Governor Strickland's proposal to freeze personal income tax rates at 2008 levels thereby postponing the final cut in tax rates until 2011 is a "step in the right direction". But the brief goes on to recommend that lawmakers cancel the final income tax cut, and solve Ohio's budget deficit with a balanced approach that includes new revenues rather than making additional spending cuts that "...harm Ohio families and will have long-lasting negative effects."

The brief is available at <http://www.communitysolutions.com/>.

6) Center to Hold Workshops About the State Budget: The Center for Community Solutions will sponsor workshops throughout Ohio to provide a technical perspective on state budget and revenue issues. The initial workshops will be held in the eight major urban areas of Ohio and Athens. After the first of the year the workshops will be extended to all of the 80 remaining counties. The first workshop was held in Dayton on October 28, 2009. The next workshops will be held on the following dates:

November 4: Athens
November 12: Cincinnati
November 17: Akron
December 3: Mahoning Valley
December 8: Toledo
December 10: Cleveland
December 12: Columbus

For more information please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/ydt8yft>. Or contact David Howard, 216-781-2944 x406, dhoward@CommunitySolutions.com.

7) Report Promotes Community Schools: The Center for American Progress, John Podesta president and chief executive officer, released a report on October 28, 2009 entitled "A Look at Community Schools" by Saba Bireda. This report provides an overview of community school strategies and highlights successful models.

Community Schools are schools that partner with nonprofit and local agencies to provide students with health care, academic enrichment, mental and behavioral health services, and youth development activities in the schools during the school day, after school, and on weekends. They are also called "full service schools". They are not to be confused with the term "community school" used in Ohio to mean an independently operated public school.

Community schools and their community partners link students and families with services to address the impact of poverty and poor health on families so that schools can focus on instruction. These schools often become the hub for community-building activities and reinvestment.

Recent evaluations of community schools throughout the nation show that schools that integrate student services and high quality educational experiences have a positive effect on students and their families in the areas of student achievement, school attendance, and parent involvement.

The report recommends that the Obama administration adopt a national community school strategy that includes dedicated funding to encourage community school growth and a more consistent model of community schools, such as the model used in England.

The report is available at <http://www.americanprogress.org/>.

8) Report Shows How State Standards Compare to NAEP: The U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics released on October 29, 2009 a report entitled "Mapping State Proficiency Standards Onto NAEP Scales: 2005-2007" by Victor Bandeira de Mello, Charles Blankenship, and Don McLaughlin.

The report includes the results of an analysis of 1) how states' 2007 standards for proficient performance compare with each other when mapped on a NAEP scale; 2) how the 2007 NAEP scale equivalents for state standards compare with those estimated for 2005; and 3) using the 2005 NAEP scale equivalent for state standards to define a state's proficient level of performance on NAEP, how NAEP

and state assessments agree on the changes in the proportion of students meeting that state's standard for proficiency from 2005 to 2007.

Because states use different standards to determine student proficiency, the National Center for Education Statistics developed a mapping procedure that aligns each state standard for proficient performance onto a common scale, the achievement scale of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The scores from 48 states were used in this study.

According to the report, "...state standards for proficient performance in reading and mathematics (as measured on the NAEP scale) vary across states in terms of the levels of achievement required."

In grade 4 reading, 31 states set grade 4 standards for proficiency that were lower than the cut point for Basic performance on NAEP (208). In grade 8 reading, 15 states set standards that were lower than the Basic performance on NAEP (243). In grade 4 mathematics, seven states set standards for proficiency that were lower than the Basic performance on NAEP (214). In grade 8 mathematics, eight states set standards that were lower than the Basic performance on NAEP (262).

"In reading, Missouri, Minnesota, and South Carolina were among the five states with the most difficult standards for proficiency at both grade levels. Tennessee appears among the five states with the least difficult standards at both grade levels."

"In mathematics, Massachusetts, Missouri, South Carolina, and Washington were among the states with the most difficult standards at both grade levels in 2007. At both grade levels, Tennessee was the state with the least difficult standards."

Ohio Results: The 2007 NAEP scale equivalent scores for Ohio for grade 4 reading is 198 compared to the NAEP basic score of 206 and NAEP proficient score of 238. Massachusetts has the highest NAEP scale equivalent score of 231, and Mississippi the lowest at 163.

The 2007 NAEP scale equivalent scores for Ohio for grade 8 reading is 240 compared to the NAEP basic score of 243 and NAEP proficient score of 281. South Carolina has the highest NAEP scale equivalent score of 281, and Tennessee the lowest at 211.

The 2007 NAEP scale equivalent scores for Ohio for grade 4 mathematics is 225 compared to the NAEP basic score of 214 and NAEP proficient score of 249. Massachusetts has the highest NAEP scale equivalent score of 249, and Tennessee the lowest at 198.

The 2007 NAEP scale equivalent scores for Ohio for grade 8 mathematics is 265 compared to the NAEP basic score of 262 and NAEP proficient score of 299. South Carolina has the highest NAEP scale equivalent score of 312, and Mississippi the lowest at 234.

The report is available at

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/studies/2010456.pdf>

9) News from the ODE: The Ohio Department of Education's October newsletter Social Studies Signal by Virginia Moore includes the following information:

*The Bill of Rights Institute, a non-profit educational organization in Washington, D.C. is sponsoring an essay contest entitled "Being An American Essay Contest". This contest challenges high school students to reflect on the civic values important to good citizenship, and describe in up to 750 words, which civic value (s) are most important, and how civic value(s) can be incorporated in daily life.

Last year, more than 31,000 essays were submitted, and 180 students and teachers were awarded cash prizes. The submission deadline is Dec. 1, 2009. For more information, including a free lesson plan, please visit <http://www.beinganamerican.org>.

*The Ohio Center for Law-Related Education (OCLRE) provides teachers professional development opportunities aligned with state social studies content standards. These programs are sponsored by the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Ohio Attorney General, the Ohio State Bar Association, and the ACLU of Ohio Foundation.

The Center is presenting the following programs in November 2009:

-Project Citizen: professional development for teachers of grades 5-12 - November 5 in Columbus. Excellent hands-on service learning or AP government program. Free classroom texts. Also aligned with English language arts standards.

-Ohio Government in Action: professional development for elementary grade teachers - November 17-18 in Columbus. See the inner workings of Ohio government. Ashland credit available.

-Youth for Justice: professional development for intermediate level teachers - November 17 in Columbus. Service learning or anti-violence program.

For additional information, please visit the OCLRE Web site at <http://www.oclre.org>

10) Study on STEM Careers Released: Researchers at Rutgers University and Georgetown University released on October 28, 2009 a study entitled "Steady as She Goes? Three Generations of Students through the Science and Engineering Pipeline" by B. Lindsay Lowell, Harold Salzman, Hamutal Bernstein, and Everett Henderson. The study was funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and includes a comprehensive analysis of a major longitudinal dataset to examine the transition of American students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) from high school into the labor force.

According to the report "Contrary to fears expressed by educators and employers, American students have not wavered in their interest in science and math studies over the past 30 years."

"Our findings indicate that STEM retention along the pipeline shows strong and even increasing rates of retention from the 1970s to the late 1990s. The overall trend of increasingly strong STEM retention rates, however, is accompanied by simultaneous and sometimes sharp declines in retention among the highest performing students in the 1990s."

The researchers attribute the decline in retention in STEM fields among the highest performing students to several reasons, including the inability of firms to attract students; the degree to which the job is attractive including salary level, interest, work environment, stability; and the recruitment of students into fields not traditionally categorized as STEM, such as management jobs, but require a background in STEM.

The report is available at <http://www.heldrich.rutgers.edu>

11) Bills Introduced Last Week

-HB343 (Schneider) State Government Operating Efficiencies: Requires that a study of potential operating efficiencies in state government be conducted.

-SB198 (Schiavoni) Tax Credit For Certain Degrees: Grants an income tax credit to individuals who earn degrees in science, technology, engineering, or math-based fields of study, and authorizes municipal corporations to grant a credit to individuals qualifying for the state credit.

-HB330 (Patten M.) School District Purchasing: Authorizes the director of transportation to include school districts in purchase contracts for machinery, materials, supplies, and other articles.

-SB192 (Cates) School Transportation: Permits non-civil service school district boards to terminate positions of district transportation employees for reasons of economy and efficiency and contract with independent agents to provide transportation services as certain conditions are satisfied.

###