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OHIO ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

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State Board of Education votes to request state funds to avoid a budget deficit

The State Board of Education (SBE), Paul LaRue President and Martha Manchester Vice President, met on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 25 South Front Street in Columbus.

Last week Governor Mike DeWine appointed Amy Malone Fugate of Springfield to replace Member at Large, Brandon Kern, who recently resigned from the State Board. The governor is also expected to name a replacement for Dr. Christina Collins, who resigned from the State Board last December. Dr. Collins was an elected member of the State Board representing District 7.

The **Ohio Channel February 2024 SBE meeting** is available [HERE](#).

Materials for the **February 2024 meeting** are available [HERE](#).

Agenda for the State Board of Education meeting

Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

Superintendent Paul Craft presented a report that included a **discussion of the superintendent's goals**; a discussion about relocating the SBE team to the Edward Green Building; Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3301:2 -24-18 Resident Educator Program; a draft of rules for the State Board of Education to issue a Pre-Service Teacher Permit; and Rule 3301:2 -89-01-04 Territory Transfers.

Superintendent Evaluation and Goals: Superintendent Craft told SBE members that he **intends to bring his goals to the State Board of Education in March for approval**. The goals and proposed metrics to measure the achievement of the goals are based on the "Superintendent Performance, Accountability and Evaluation" section of the *SBE's Policies and Procedures Manual*. **Superintendent Craft proposes five goals which** will be measured by fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of the SBE in a timely, professional, and efficient manner; building relationships with stakeholders and legislators; and securing adequate funding and staffing so that the SBE can operate effectively. [HERE](#).

Superintendent Craft said that he removed the personal goal to earn his Ed.D. degree. He also said that he has been meeting with lawmakers to rebuild relationships and trust.

SBE expected to move to the Edward Green Building: Before the Superintendent could begin his next presentation, John Hagen asked about the Department of Administrative Services' (DAS) directive that the

SBE and its team move from their current location at 25 South Front Street in Columbus. **Last month the SBE unanimously approved an emergency resolution opposing a possible move** to a state building located in Reynoldsburg.

Superintendent Craft said that he has had conversations with DAS about moving to the 12th floor of the William Green Building at 30 W. Spring Street, but there has not been a written directive from DAS. **The superintendent expects that the move could take place in April.** The William Green building is about four blocks away from the State Board of Education's current location. The move would relocate 60 employees who work for the State Board of Education, although currently there are about ten vacancies.

Superintendent Craft also told SBE members that **he has never been given a rationale for the pending move, and believed that lawmakers were not behind this action. He said that it probably was a decision made by the governor's cabinet.**

While Superintendent Craft said that he has yet to visit the building, he said that it looks like the space will be adequate, and will save the SBE \$50,000 in rent a year. The building also includes an auditorium, which could be used for SBE meetings. He has not assessed the parking or lodging possibilities for several board members who stay in a hotel when they come to Columbus for a SBE meeting. Meryl Johnson responded by saying that **she felt neglected that the Superintendent had not looked into where SBE members will stay, noting that having the hotel right across the street from where the SBE currently meets is convenient and safe, and wondered how much will be saved if SBE members are spending more on hotels and parking because of the move.**

This is the second time DAS has proposed moving the State Board of Education. Last month Walt Davis introduced a resolution opposing a DAS proposal to move the SBE to Reynoldsburg. He asked if the SBE should pass a similar resolution to oppose this move. Superintendent Craft said that the rationale that the SBE used to oppose the proposed move to Reynoldsburg did not apply in this case, because the proposed new location is close to the Statehouse, close to partners at the Department of Education and Workforce and the Department of Higher Education, and costs \$50,000 less than what the SBE is currently paying for rent. That savings is important, considering that the SBE's will have a budget deficit of \$4 million at end of the FY25.

Review of Resident Educator Program and RESA: Jim Wightman, associate director in the Office of Educator Licensure, along with Jenny Cardwell, Program Specialist and Lori Parker, Program Specialist, presented an overview of the Resident Educator Program (RE) and the Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA).

The presentation was in response to the January 2024 meeting in which **SBE members had many questions about the RE and RESA programs, when they were reviewing changes** in Rule 3301:2-24-04 to align the rule with current law.

Jenny Cardwell said that the Resident Educator Program (RE) is required through ORC 3319.223 and Administrative Code Rules 3301-24-04. **The program started-out as a four-year program to support beginning teachers, but was recently reduced to two-years.** Through another recent change the program allows a teacher to renew the Resident Educator License rather than requiring a teacher to pass RESA. Beginning teachers are required to enroll in the Resident Educator mentoring and professional development program, which is designed to improve teacher retention, enhance teacher quality, and improve student achievement. Beginning teachers must also pass the RESA in order to qualify for a professional teaching license. However, **since there is no longer a limit on the number of times the Resident Educator License can be renewed, there is no incentive for teachers to pass RESA, unless**

a local contract stipulates that a teacher must have a professional teaching license before receiving a continuing contract.

The RE program currently serves 11,707 educators through mentors, training and resources. There are 70 state trainers and 6,000 mentors, who work locally with beginning teachers. The program also includes 1900 program coordinators and 3000 facilitators, and serves all public schools and some nonpublic schools.

The Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA) requires a beginning teacher to prepare a video of teaching a lesson to students that includes evidence of the Teaching and Learning Cycle and Lesson Reflection. In 2023-24 6,766 beginning teachers registered for the RESA. The passage rate of RESA in 2023-24 was 98 percent. TeachForward is the vendor, and charged the SBE \$1.9 million this year for the assessment and grading.

In response to SBE member questions about the quality of the RE and RESA programs, Jim Wightman said that there is confusion about the two programs. As a mentoring program RE is very popular with beginning teachers, while RESA is not. This response led **several SBE members to ask if the price of the RESA, \$1.9 million out of the SBE's \$11.5 million budget, is worth it, considering that the SBE's budget will no longer be balanced by the end of FY25?** Superintendent Craft said that RESA is one of the most expensive items in the SBE's budget. The SBE loses money on the assessment because the cost of the two-year license is \$80, but the cost of the assessment is \$150 per educator. But since the program and the assessment are required by law, changes would have to be made by the General Assembly. Meryl Johnson and Michelle Newman said that **they supported RESA, because the process has been successful at improving beginning teaching, but other SBE members suggested that a cheaper assessment should be found.**

Source: **Ohio Revised Code 3319.223 Educator License Requirements Beginning 7/1/2017.** [HERE](#).
A new version of this law will become effective on April 30, 2024.

Source: **Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3301-24-04 Teacher Residency** [HERE](#).

Review of the Pre-Service Teacher Permit Rule and Territory Transfer Rules: House Bill 33, the FY24-25 Operating Budget, created the Pre-Service Teacher Permit. The SBE reviewed **a new rule to implement the permit. The rule includes the number of years that the permit will be valid; requirements to obtain and renew the permit; and guidelines for who must obtain the permit.** The Educator Standards Board approved a \$25 charge for the permit.

SBE members also reviewed four territory transfer rules that are being amended to conform with changes in law as a result of the restructuring of the State Board of Education and the creation of the Department of Education and Workforce. The rules are 3301:2-89-01 through -04. It was noted that the State Register is adding a :2 after the rule chapter to distinguish a rule adopted by the State Board of Education instead of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

SBE reorganizes its committee structure

President Paul LaRue explained the new committee structure for the State Board of Education moving forward. The previous committee structure was based on the former duties and responsibilities of the State Board of Education before it was restructured. The **new committee structure aligns to the new focus of the SBE on teacher licensure, conduct, effectiveness, and evaluation, and territory transfers.**

John Hagen will serve as chair of a new committee called the Second Chance/Licensure Committee, while Charlotte McGuire will chair the Legislative Committee.

Meeting of the Budget Committee

The new Budget Committee, chaired by President Paul LaRue and the Policies and Procedures Manual Committee, chaired by Vice President Martha Manchester, met this month.

The Budget Committee includes Michelle Newman, Martha Manchester, Brendan Shea, and Mark Lamoncha.

Superintendent Craft reviewed the financial status of the State Board of Education with the budget committee, and after his presentation, **recommended that the State Board of Education adopt an emergency resolution to request that the General Assembly transfer \$10 million into the Teacher License Fund 42LO to support the activities of the State Board of Education.**

According to a presentation from Superintendent Craft, Aaron Rausch, Budget Chief at the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, estimated that the cost of operating the State Board of Education to **meet its responsibilities and obligations in the future is \$17 million per year. This includes funding for the following responsibilities:**

- Licensure
- Professional Conduct - Investigations and Hearings
- Resident Educator Program Management RE and RESA
- Ohio Teacher of the Year State Program and Local Regional Programs
- Local Professional Development Committees
- Educator Standards Board
- Rapback Program
- Interdistrict Territory Transfers
- Advising the Director of Education and Workforce
- Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - Administration
 - IT
 - Chief Legal Counsel
 - Human Relations
 - Communications

Under House Bill 33, the **FY24-25 Operating Budget, the SBE is funded with \$11.5 million** in collected educator license fees, which are allocated to Fund 42LO. But that **leaves a deficit of \$5.5 million**, if the **cost of operating the SBE is \$17 million**. Currently the SBE is using a \$1.8 million cash balance to make payroll, but that money will be gone by the end of FY25, leaving a \$4 million deficit.

In addition, the **SBE is operating without a legal counsel, executive assistant, communications person, chief of staff, human resources personnel, and there are 10 vacancies** in the department. The cost of the **Rapback program will also increase by \$1 million** this year, because the General Assembly expanded the program to include investigations for non-educators, including bus drivers, lunchroom personnel, and custodians.

Superintendent Craft told the Budget Committee that he **suggests that the SBE pass an emergency resolution to request that the General Assembly restore \$10 million in licensure fees that were**

removed from Fund 42L0 in 2020 to balance the state's budget at the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic. At that time the Office of Budget and Management redistributed any excess funds that it could find and cut spending across all agencies to ensure that the state budget was balanced. Governor DeWine included the \$10 million in the executive version of HB33 the FY24-25 Operating Budget to restore the fund, but the Senate removed those funds.

Superintendent Craft's plan calls for the SBE's request to be included in the biennial capital budget, which the House and Senate are expected to adopt in May or early June 2024. Superintendent Craft has already spoken to Senator Andy Brenner about the SBE's deficit and the intent to ask for the funds to be restored. He added that the SBE only has a month to secure the funds to tie their budget over until the FY25 budget is approved.

Superintendent Craft also asked the Budget Committee to begin work on the FY25 budget proposal to the governor, and include recommendations to balance the SBE's budget going forward. The Budget Committee will consider increasing licensure fees, which have been unchanged for about 15 years; making budget cuts, which will be difficult since the SBE already has 10 vacancies; consolidating programs; and other ways to balance the SBE's budget. In the fall the SBE will approve proposed budget recommendations that will be submitted to the governor to be included in the governor's executive budget for FY26-27.

The Budget Committee voted unanimously to request that the General Assembly transfer \$10 million to the SBE's Licensure Fund 42L0.

Meeting of the Policies and Procedures Committee

The Policies and Procedures Committee, chaired by Vice President Martha Manchester, also met. The committee includes Diana Fessler, Walt Davis, Antoinette Miranda, and Melissa Bedell.

The committee will be reviewing and revising the SBE's manual, which was last updated in 2021. **The committee will align the manual with the changes in law that restructured the SBE and created the Department of Education and Workforce.**

SBE members were asked to submit comments and recommendations to the committee by the end of the month, and the committee will begin reviewing sections 1-3 of the manual in March.

Source: Hannah News Service, "School Board Rebuilding Committee Structure; DeWine Fills Open Seat," February 9, 2024 [HERE](#).

Report and recommendations of the Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

The following SBE members were absent during the voting agenda: Antoinette Miranda, Michelle Newman, Jim Mermis, and Meryl Johnson. Brendan Shea was absent for some of the voting agenda.

The State Board of Education took action on the following resolutions during its February 2024 meeting:

School Personnel Disciplinary Actions: 17 Resolutions. These resolutions identify the disciplinary actions that the State Board of Education is taking against individuals who hold permits or licenses authorized by the State Board of Education and have been found in violation of their professional codes of conduct.

Administrative Rule: Adopted a Resolution to Recommend Changes to Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3301:02-02-24 Teacher Residency.

Miscellaneous Resolution: Adopted Resolution #19 to Approve the 2024-25 State Board Meeting Dates.

Emergency Resolution: Adopted by a vote of 13 to 0 an emergency resolution to ask the General Assembly to transfer \$10 million into Fund 42LO. Superintendent Craft will take this resolution with him to meet with lawmakers, including Senator Brenner. The expectation is that the \$10 million request will be included in the capital budget, which lawmakers expect to address after the March primary election.