CLOSED CAPTIONING

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Honesty Lunch & Learn

Why School Board Elections Matter
Understanding the Importance of School Boards & Candidates
Welcome!

Cynthia Peeples (she/her)
Founding Director
Honesty for Ohio Education

Honesty for Ohio Education
We Are

Coalition
Nonpartisan, Statewide, Diverse Stakeholders

Pillars
Educate • Advocate • Build Community

Priorities
Statehouse • State Board of Ed • Schools

Resources
News, Info, Events, Programs, Organizing
Agenda

State of Education

Overview of Local School Boards

Panel with Elected School Board Members

Q&A

TAKE ACTION

Resources
State of Education
K-12 Censorship Bills

K-12 Anti-CRT Bills

Higher Ed Destruction Bills

Anti-LGBTQ+

The ACLU is tracking 492 anti-LGBTQ bills in the U.S.

Choose a state on the map to show the different bills targeting LGBTQ rights and take action. While not all of these bills will become law, they all cause harm for LGBTQ people.
STATEHOUSE

National extremist agenda imported into Ohio

GOAL:
- Disrupt, dismantle, defund public education
- Create flight to privatized education
- Distract from REAL education issues
- Perpetuate othering, discrimination, hate

HOW:
- Weaponize race, identity, faith
- Villainize educators and staff
- Cast chilling effect on education
- Pass extremist legislation

2024-25 State Budget
- SB 1 - State Takeover of Public Education
- SB 11 - Universal Vouchers
- SB 171 - Partisan Thought Centers at 5 universities

Academic Standards & Curricula
- HB 103 - State Overhaul of K12 Social Studies Standards
- HB 171 - Multicultural K12 Social Studies Curricula
- SB 83/HB 151 - Higher Ed Destruction Act

Anti-LGBTQ+
- HB 8 - Forced outing of students
- HB 68 - Gender-affirming care and sports ban
- HB 183 - Restroom Ban
- HB 245 - Drag show and gender expression ban

Staff, Conduct, Governance
- HB 214 - Alignment of district values and staff values
- HB 240 - Chaplains as unlicensed school counselors
- HB 206 - Indefinite expulsion policy
- HB 235 - State Board of Education Restructure
Why School Board Elections Matter

The Importance of Local School Boards
Honesty Welcomes

Cheryl Ryan
Director, Board & Management Services
Ohio School Boards Association
Why School Board Elections Matter

Lunch & Learn for Honesty for Ohio Education

Friday, September 1, 2023

Leading the way as the respected voice of Ohio public education.
OSBA VISION

Leading the way as the
RESPECTED VOICE
of Ohio public education.
How does OSBA assist boards of education?

❖ Promotes the importance of public education and the role of the board of education.

❖ Provides professional development for board members and administrators.

❖ Builds supportive networks based on member needs and interests related to association participation.
How does OSBA assist boards of education?

❖ Serves as an advocate for the legislative platform -- adopted by a vote of the association’s full membership at annual Capital Conference.

❖ Keeps members up-to-date about current and future educational trends and legislation as well as changes or additions to Ohio educational laws, Revised Code or policy.

❖ Assists in matching training or management resources of need or interest to the district with appropriate OSBA or affiliate partner expertise.
In Ohio, public school boards are locally elected. Those elected therefore represent the values, culture and priorities of their community.
Why School Boards Matter

• Like most other boards of directors, the multiple members of a school board help assure staff and community members that multiple perspectives will be considered when making or implementing policy.
Why School Boards Matter

• Ohio currently has 712 public school districts
  – Large, medium and small
  – Rural, suburban, semi-urban, urban
  – Like-minded and not like-minded
  – Diverse priorities and needs
  – Diverse socio-economic positions
Why School Boards Matter

• School board membership in Ohio has traditionally been non-political
  – Decisions can be made based on what’s really best for all students in the district
  – Decisions can be made representing the will of the full community
Why School Boards Matter

• School board membership often leads individuals to seek higher office. School board service is critical to future positions and success.
Board of Education Powers and Duties

Under the laws of the State of Ohio, the Board acts as the governing body of the public schools.

Within the extent of its legal powers, the Board has responsibilities for operating the District in accordance with the desires of local citizens who elect its members.
Five Standards for High-Achieving Boards

1. Responsible school district governance
2. Commitment to high expectations
3. Conditions for success
4. Accountability
5. Community engagement
Key School Board Member Responsibilities

- Adopt and maintain governance policies
- Select and employ the superintendent and treasurer
- Approve the annual budget and appropriations
- Provide for the resources necessary to finance the operation of the District
Key School Board Member Responsibilities

- Provide safe, modern and appropriate facilities to support student achievement
- Consider superintendent and treasurer recommendations
- Establish monitoring, assessment and evaluation processes
- Set goals and evaluate progress toward goals
- Inform the public about progress and needs and engage community members for greater district investment
We hope board candidates...

Have done or do attend meetings of their school boards.

Make efforts to learn about the district’s current goals and priorities.

Manage and participate in honest, factual, positive and professional election campaigns.

Are more interested in problem-solving than in criticizing.
How else can I help?
Let’s Talk!

Locally Elected School Board Members
Let’s Talk

Sam Shim (he/his)
Programs
Honesty for Ohio Education

Honesty for Ohio Education
Honesty Welcomes

Renda Cline
Mansfield City Schools

Dion Manley
Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools

Kareem Moncree-Moffett, PhD
Cincinnati Public Schools
What’s next?

VOTE!
2023 General Election
Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Voter Registration Deadline Tues, Oct 10

Military & Overseas Voting: Sept 22-Nov 6
Early In-Person Voting: Oct 11 - Nov 5
Absentee Mail-In Voting: Oct 11 - Nov 6, Nov 7*
ELECTION DAY: Nov 7, 6:30am-7:30pm

www.VoteOhio.gov
VOTE 3 Easy Steps

1. Make a Voting Plan
2. Research Candidates, Issues
3. Go VOTE!
Make a Voting Plan

Register to Vote: Register, update, or check your voter registration

Choose Method: Early In-Person
- Oct 11 - Nov 5
- Local BOEs
- Bring Voter ID
- Use Sample Ballot

Mail-In
- Request Ballot NOW
- Oct 11 - Nov 6, Nov 7*
- Mail & Local BOEs*
- Use Sample Ballot

Election Day
- Nov 7, 6:30am - 7:30pm
- Check Polling Location
- Bring Voter ID
- Use Sample Ballot

Get Involved:
- Become a Poll Worker, Election Protection, voter registration drives, tabling, clipboards

HELP others make a voting plan!

www.VoteOhio.gov
Research Candidates & Issues

Candidates
Local BOE
Vote411.org

Voter Guides
LWV Voter Guide
Vote411.org

Forums/Debates
Research candidates ahead of event, bring questions*
LWV Candidate Forums
Equality Ohio
Ohio Debate Commission
Local Media Interviews
Town Halls

Other Sources
School Board meetings
Candidate Website
Candidate Social Media
Trusted Endorsements
*Honesty Candidate Questions

PRO TIP: Create a sample ballot!
Go VOTE!

3 Ways to Vote in Ohio
- Early In-Person Voting
- Mail-In Voting
- Election Day Voting

REMINDEERS
- Check voter registration
- Request absentee ballot NOW
- Bring voter ID
- Bring sample ballot

HELP at least 5 other people VOTE!
- Students
- New voters
- Newly naturalized citizens
- Voters with disabilities
- Shelterless voters
- Incarcerated voters
- Homebound voters

www.VoteOhio.gov
Learn more to DO more
Coming Up...

**SBOE Monthly Meeting**
Sept 18-19 | ODE, 25. S Front St, Columbus or watch on The Ohio Channel

**Community Discussion About Education**
Sept 29-30 | House Three Thirty, Akron | Hosted by Akron NAACP, Partners

**14th Annual Trans & Ally Symposium - Coming Together**
Sept 29-Oct 1 | Baldwin Wallace | Hosted by Trans Ohio, Baldwin Wallace

**Banned Book Week! Oct 1 - 7**

**Advocate for Education Day**
Oct 7 | University of Cincinnati | Hosted by School Board School, Partners

**SBOE Monthly Meeting**
Oct 10-11 | ODE, 25. S Front St, Columbus or watch on The Ohio Channel

Find more at Honesty Events
JOIN the Honesty Mailing List
FOLLOW @Honesty4OhioEd
ATTEND Events & Programs
SHARE Alerts, Newsletter, Info
INVITE Us to Your Community/Org
Resources

Honesty for Ohio Education
- Mailing List HERE
- Legislation Tracker HERE
- Website HERE
- Social Media: FB • Instagram • Twitter

GOTV
- Vote411.org
- VoteOhio.gov

Statehouse
- Honesty Legislation Tracker HERE
- Ohio Legislature Site HERE

State Board of Education
- Each Child Our Future Strategic Plan HERE
- Whole Child Framework HERE
- Education Resources HERE
- Anti-LGBTQ+ Resolution HERE
- Anti-Racism and Equity Resolution HERE
- Gerrymandering SBOE Districts HERE

State of Education
- Track Actions Across US K-12 | CRT | HE | LGBTQ+
- Roots of Critical Race Theory Campaign HERE

Local Schools
- 2022 KIDS COUNT Data Book HERE
- 2022 KIDS COUNT Ohio Data Profile HERE
- Finding Unity and Common Ground HERE
- ACLU Ohio Student Rights Handbook HERE
Thank You

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