



Week of April 10, 2023

Interim state superintendent announces departure

Dr. Stephanie K. Siddens, the current interim Superintendent of Public Instruction, announced last week her intention to resign from the Ohio Department of Education on June 30. She will join the Upper Arlington City School District as its deputy superintendent on July 31.

At its April meeting, the State Board of Education again delayed action on hiring a search firm for a new state superintendent and is faced with appointing another interim due to Siddens' departure. Siddens will provide to the Board a list of recommended internal candidates for the interim position. The Board will interview those candidates at its May meeting, with a potential appointment at that meeting.

House teed up for action on budget bill, other items

As lawmakers return from their two-week recess, the House Finance Committee will meet next week to adopt a substitute version of [House Bill \(HB\) 33](#), the biennial budget bill. These changes, which could occur as soon as Tuesday, represent the House's first major modifications to Gov. **Mike DeWine's** executive budget proposal. The committee is expected to hold additional hearings next week on the bill and accept a second round of changes the following week. That same week, a committee vote with a subsequent vote of the full House vote is expected.

Meanwhile, budget hearings in the Senate will begin next week as the upper chamber's Finance Committee will receive advanced testimony from various state agencies, including the Office of Budget and Management, Legislative Service Commission, and Department of Education.

A vote on [House Joint Resolution 1](#) – the proposal to increase the threshold to amend the state constitution from 50% to 60% – will occur Wednesday in the House Constitutional Relations Committee. Placement of the measure on the floor for a full House vote is uncertain given House Speaker Rep. **Jason Stephens'** inconsistent stance on the measure.

[HB 1](#) will receive a sixth hearing next week for all testimony.

The House Primary and Secondary Education Committee will hold hearings on:

- [HB 117](#) (sponsor testimony), which eliminates retention under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, expands the grades for which intensive reading intervention is provided, and expands the inclusion of phonics in learning standards;
- [HB 8](#) (amendments only), which requires public schools to adopt a policy on parental notification on student health and well-being and instructional materials with sexually explicit content;
- [HB 12](#) (all testimony), which creates the Department of Education and Workforce and revises the duties of the State Board of Education.

State Board passes resolution in response to SB 1

The State Board of Education this week passed an emergency resolution entitled, "[Resolution to](#)

[Preserve Transparency and Public Participation in Ohio K-12 Education.](#)" The resolution, which passed 13-6, is in response to [Senate Bill 1](#).

Among the items in the resolution, it states:

- the Board should "retain the voice of Ohioans and transparency in all facets of public education through its public meetings, public decision-making, and public input."
- the Board should "retain complete rulemaking authority under Title 33 of the Ohio Revised Code."
- the Board "urges legislators to involve State Board of Education leadership in the policymaking process to avoid delays between the enactment and implementation of legislation."
- the Board believes the Superintendent of Public Instruction should be a member of the Board of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation if any agency restructuring occurs;
- the Board authorizes ODE staff and the interim Superintendent of Public Instruction to advocate on behalf of the Board's work and its constitutional role in educational oversight in Ohio.

Heard around the Statehouse

"I was in the legislature probably criticizing too much ODE and the board," - **Teresa Fedor**, member of the State Board of Education, speaking to colleagues at the April meeting regarding legislative proposals to restructure the agency and a board resolution on the issue.