

Other Issues for Principals – FYI

Gunlock Tells OCMC Committee Education Governance in State 'Not Working' (Hannah Report)

Explaining that the state of Ohio currently has "three different organizations creating education policy," Ohio Board of Education President Tom Gunlock went on to characterize the "current governance structure as simply not working" in a presentation Thursday before the Ohio Constitutional Modernizations Commission's (OCMC) Education, Public Institutions and Local Government Committee. The committee is currently studying Article VI, Sec. 4 which creates the State Board of Education.

"I believe it is ridiculous to think for one minute that the Ohio Department of Education or individual school districts can be successful with this many bosses, competing priorities and agendas. Remember, primary and secondary education in Ohio is a \$20 billion a year operation with children's futures at stake. It's difficult to imagine any organization being successful under those conditions," he added, making clear he was speaking for himself and not the state board.

The three policy making entities are the governor, the General Assembly and the State Board of Education. Repeatedly, Gunlock commented that at least two of the three "need to get out." This is further complicated by each chamber's having "one or more standing committees that deal with education. Two joint legislative committees, the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review and the recently created Joint Education Oversight Committee, also provide oversight."

He told the committee that no other state "has a governance structure quite like Ohio's. The size of the board and the combination of appointed and elected members who select the state superintendent are somewhat unique. "This superintendent selection process, he observed, has "no direct link to either the governor or the Legislature."

He explained that the board is comprised of 19 members with 11 members elected and eight members appointed by the governor.

Further challenges, according to Gunlock, are the high turnover among both elected and appointed board members as well as the "increased emphasis on political affiliation" although the board members are elected on anon-partisan ballot.

His solution, Gunlock told the committee, would be a five- to seven-member board of persons who know education appointed by the governor and approved by the Senate. They would be paid "a substantial salary" and would meet weekly. Among their duties would be teacher licensure, territory transfers and vetting policies.

Questions from committee members addressed the following issues:

- The benefits of having a state board of education and the possible elimination of Article VI, Sec. 4 which creates the State Board of Education "leaving education oversight to the General Assembly."
- Election of the state of superintendent.
- How teacher licensure is handled and how that might change.
- What state has the "gold standard" for oversight of education.
- The "merging" of primary and secondary education and higher education.
- The purpose of any changes with Rep. Mike Curtin (D-Columbus) saying he thinks it would be simplicity of governance and the minimization of partisanship in education policy.

Youngstown plan update

This week, Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) introduced SB 230, legislation dealing with the operation of academic distress commissions. Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) introduced identical legislation in the Ohio House — HB 379. The bills were introduced to address concerns with last-minute amendments to House Bill 70 that dramatically changed the structure of academic distress commissions.

SB 230 and HB 379 seek to ensure greater transparency and accountability for distress commission improvement plans. The proposals would strip some CEO powers and delay others. The legislation would eliminate the eventual possibility of mayoral control, as well as the CEO's ability to change union contracts. Implementation of other powers would be delayed by a year.

The legislation would expand the commission to seven members and tilt the balance toward locally appointed members. Under HB 70, as written, a distress commission is made up of three members appointed by the state superintendent of public instruction; one by the city mayor; and one appointed by the board of education president. The board president's appointee must be a teacher in the district. The new proposal would add an additional teacher as well as a district parent.

The legislation also would change the trigger for ending the commission's oversight from HB 70's requirement for an overall state report card grade of C to a new requirement for a C on performance index or value-added measures.

In addition, the legislation includes a requirement that the CEO institute a community learning center model in at least one building within the district.

"Prepared for Success" (PFS) grading scale

The State Board of Education (SBOE) Accountability Committee Monday debated how tough the state should be on schools and districts when scoring them on how they prepare students for college and careers. Committee members generally agreed that the "Prepared for Success" (PFS) grading scale should have rising benchmarks over time, but members disagreed on where the baseline should be set for receiving a "C" or "D" grade. The PFS component, created in 129-HB555 (Stebelon-Butler), will be graded for the first time on the 2016 report card. It takes into account students being remediation-free on the ACT/SAT, earning an industry credential or earning an honors diploma.

Revised Technology Learning Standards

The proposed standards are divided into the following three" topics:

- Information and Communications Technology: *The understanding and application of digital tools for accessing, creating, evaluating, applying and communicating ideas and information.*

- Identify and use appropriate digital tools and resources for a defined task.
- Use digital tools to locate, evaluate and use information.
- Identify and use digital tools to construct new knowledge.
- Use digital tools to communicate and disseminate information to multiple audiences.

- Design and Technology: *Addresses the nature of technology to develop products to meet human/societal needs and wants through iterative design processes.*

- Technology design utilizes systems thinking, collaboration and interdisciplinary understanding to solve complex problems.
- Define technology and identify, describe and discuss its core concepts.
- The engineering design process includes identifying a problem, research, developing, testing, evaluating and presenting.
- Design has functional, aesthetic and creative elements that can be evaluated.

- Society and Technology: *The interconnectedness of technology, self, society and the natural world, specifically addressing the ethical, legal, political and global impact of technology.*

- Demonstrate an understanding of technology's impact on the advancement of humanity -- economically, environmentally and ethically.
- Reflect upon the impact of communication and collaboration on both digital and physical environments.
- Explain how technology, society and the individual impact one another.

New State Superintendent Search

THE DISPATCH:

COLUMBUS, Ohio - The state school board and the [Ray and Associates](#) search firm set a plan Tuesday for trying to find a new state superintendent.

The key dates: Applications will be due March 18. The board will likely start discussing candidates with the search firm April 4. Interviews of finalists will likely be at the April 11 and 12 board meeting.

"I have already had folks contact me about the position and what the requirements might be," said Gary Ray, the firm's head. "But that's a little bit ahead of the game."

The new superintendent will replace Richard Ross, who held the post from 2013 until [retiring at the end of 2015](#).

Lonny Rivera, former superintendent of the Oregon schools near Toledo, will [fill the job until the final choice is made](#).

The board has not decided what salary it will offer the new superintendent, but had a spirited discussion Tuesday, with some suggesting that the state should pay significantly more than the \$195,000 it now pays.

State Rep. Andrew Brenner, chairman of the House Education Committee, suggested that [bonuses or pay of as much as \\$1 million should be on the table](#).

Whether the board will make its selection right away after interviews is unclear, and final dates are still subject to change while Board President Tom Gunlock sorts out several schedules.

But the board and Ray mapped out their general plan, along with a few ways of gathering input from the public on what people seek in a new superintendent.

Those traits - "the characteristics and leadership skills that we would recommend for the next superintendent," as Ray described them - will be approved by the board next month before being included in advertisements for the job.

"I hope that there's some common themes that everyone is looking for," Ray said.

Ray and his staff met for a half hour with each school board member individually on Monday and Tuesday while the board had committee meetings. The firm is also meeting with several other educational organizations.

What traits do you want in a new superintendent? Tell us below,

These are: The Ohio Association for Gifted Children, Catholic Conference of Ohio, Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators, Ohio Association of Independent Schools, Ohio Association of Community Colleges, Buckeye Association of School Administrators, Ohio Federation of Teachers, Ohio Education association, Ohio Association of School Business Officials, Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools, Ohio Educational Service Center Association, and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio.

The firm will do phone calls with the Ohio 8, the Ohio School Boards association, the Association of Career and Technical Education and the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators.

The general public will also be able to offer input through an online survey. It has not been posted yet, but we will provide an address when available.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF _____ QUALITIES DESIRED IN THE NEW COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Please read each of the following 33 qualities and mark 10 characteristics you believe are most important to your organization in the selection of a candidate. You do not need to prioritize your selection; simply place a check mark next to the characteristics which you feel are most important. Please select only 10.

QUALITIES DESIRED

Is willing to listen to input, but is a decision maker

(Required)

Demonstrates ability to understand and integrate instructional and administrative technology

Possesses the leadership skills required to respond to the challenges presented by an ethnically and culturally diverse statewide educational community

Is able to work with legislators on key topics and can lead an organization throughout the legislative process

Possesses an earned or degree

Inspires trust, has high levels of self-confidence and optimism, and models high standards of integrity and personal performance

Is a strong communicator--speaking, listening and writing

Demonstrates commitment to visibility with high interest in a broad range of statewide groups and organizations

Is able to work cooperatively with the state board and keeps members informed.

Has successful experience in sound management practices, including appropriate participation of others in planning and decision-making.

Is able to build consensus and commitment among individuals and groups with emphasis on parental and business involvement

Has experience working with employee representative groups/unions

Is able to delegate authority appropriately while maintaining accountability

Has experience in the management of resources and knowledge of sound fiscal procedures

Possesses excellent people skills and can present a positive image of Ohio education

Is a non-traditional or hybrid candidate" with background in the military or business community in addition to an educational career

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