



John R. Kasich, *Governor*
Debe Terhar, *President, State Board of Education*
Stan W. Heffner, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

To: Debe Terhar, President, State Board of Education of Ohio

From: Dannie Greene, Chairperson, OSD and OSSB Governance Taskforce

Date: June 11, 2012

Re: Ohio School for the Deaf (OSD) and Ohio State School for the Blind (OSSB)
Governance Taskforce Recommendations to the State Board of Education

Pursuant to your directive as the President of the State Board of Education, I am providing you with the following recommendations on behalf of my fellow members of the Ohio School for the Deaf and Ohio State School for the Blind Governance Taskforce:

- Based upon our review and discussion, the taskforce is recommending that the State Board of Education continue to support Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3325 which outlines the governance structure related to the OSD and the OSSB. Specifically, it is our recommendation that each school continued to be administered via a superintendent of schools that directly reports to the Ohio Department of Education.
- The taskforce recommends that the State Board of Education direct the State Superintendent or his designee to require each school superintendent to continue the development of an advisory group of diversified stakeholders for each school. Suggested representatives may include age appropriate students, parents/guardians representing preschool, elementary, middle, and high school aged students, and representatives of the faculty, staff, alumni, community, professional organizations, ODE, and a State Board of Education member. Said advisory group shall be constituted and chaired by the superintendent of each school no later than September 15, 2012. It is recommended that the advisory group of each school have clearly delineated roles and functions which result in providing input and recommendations to each school regarding funding, student life, facilities, technology, programming, quality, and other matters that directly enhance the education, achievement, progress, and life of students at each school. Further, it is recommended that each advisory group be charged to work directly with the superintendent of each school to develop an annual survey as outlined herein.
- The taskforce recommends that the State Superintendent or his designee require that each school superintendent provide for an annual electronic survey of students, faculty, staff, parents/guardians, resident district partners, alumni, and the community-at-large. Results of said survey shall be published and shared by each school via each school's website, newsletter, or other means as recommended by the advisory group.

- The taskforce recommends that the State Superintendent or his designee direct the superintendent of the OSD to charge the Chief Operating Officer for OSD/OSSB to research the feasibility of use of a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization to determine how such may permit for the solicitation of other funding sources to directly benefit and support any/all school activities. The exploration and/or use of such feasibility shall be discussed by the Chief Operating Officer of the OSD/OSSB and the superintendent with their respective advisory group during the 2012-2013 school year.
- The taskforce recommends that the State Superintendent or his designee direct the Director of the Office of Exceptional Children, her designees, and other staff necessary from the Ohio Department of Education to conduct an on-site review for each school in cooperation with the OSD and OSSB superintendents. When completed, information related to the on-site review for each school shall be made available publicly by each superintendent, including sharing such information with the State Board of Education and the advisory groups.
- The taskforce recommends that the State Superintendent or his designee direct the superintendent of each school to continue to assess technological needs for each school in concert with the respective facility project in cooperation with students, faculty, staff, and advisory groups.
- The taskforce recommends that the State Superintendent or his designee direct the superintendent of each school to provide a written monthly update for the State Superintendent and the State Board of Education, with exception to the summer months of school recess. Further, each school superintendent shall be requested to provide a semi-annual update at a State Board of Education meeting as scheduled by the State Superintendent or his designee.
- Lastly, the taskforce recommends that the State Superintendent or his designee repost and continue to actively recruit successful candidates to assume a permanent role as the superintendent of the OSD beginning no later than August 1, 2013.

On behalf of my taskforce colleagues, I believe we have fulfilled the charge provided to examine the governance of OSD/OSSB. Upon acceptance or modification of our recommendations by the State Board of Education, I recommend that this taskforce be dissolved. Please contact me or my taskforce colleagues directly should you have any questions or require additional information.

Cc: T. Elshoff, J. Farmer, A. Jacobs, K. McKinley, C. Todd Jones, D. Shelton, S. Heffner, M. Sawyers, J. Childs, J. Herrholtz, B. Zelei, J. Gordon, C. Johnson, S. Schaller