



School  
for the Deaf



State School  
for the Blind



John R. Kasich, Governor

Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Lou Maynus, Superintendent, Ohio School for the Deaf and Interim Superintendent, Ohio State School for the Blind

Dear OSSB Family,

It is an honor as your new Interim Superintendent to write this *Welcome Back to School* letter. The Ohio Department of Education recently released the new state strategic plan with one goal. OSSB shares in reaching this goal of increasing the number of students who graduate high school engaged in a meaningful vocation, college, or earning a living wage. We will continue to collect data to see just how successful we are with this goal.

I plan to *think big, start small, and learn fast* in serving the OSSB community. I will soon reach out to parents, community stakeholders, business and industry, state leaders, principals, and teachers to inform our continued efforts to improve our school. A representative number of stakeholders will be invited to help us as we plan. We will consider initiatives such as a possible five-year technology plan, increasing our transition services, improving our facilities, and increasing services available in our residential program. We will solicit feedback for example, on our school safety plan and how we might improve communication with all stakeholders.

With such goals in mind, it is my pleasure to introduce to you our new assistant principal, Michelle Wagner. Mrs. Wagner comes to us with experience as an IEP Coordinator, and she is an alumnus of our own Ohio State School for the Blind. She is very knowledgeable and ready to serve OSSB in this new role. We are fortunate to have such a skilled educator join our administrative team. I am confident with our leaders, Danny Ransey and Michelle Wagner, we will have an exceptional year for our students, staff, and the OSSB community.

Another strong and sincere educator who will be working at OSSB again this year is Dr. Alison (Al) LaBarre. Her role has expanded as she has accepted the Assistant Superintendent position for both the Ohio State School for the Blind and Ohio School for the Deaf. Dr. LaBarre has been charged with leading data gathering using *multiple measures*. These measures include academic achievement, access and use of braille, related services, as well as other measures connected to the Expanded Core. This will allow us to quantify our student growth at OSSB. She will work in unison with me and the other administrators and teachers to move OSSB to greater rigor and curriculum relevance for all students.

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I witnessed evidence of rigor in our curriculum this summer. If your child participated, I hope you were as impressed as I was about the variety of offerings. There were a lot of great experiences for our students and we hope we will be able to expand our offerings next summer. Special thanks to those educators who worked hard to make this happen. OSSB is a great place for students. We want to continue to grow the school and we aspire to be recognized as a premier school for the blind. I look forward to getting to know everyone in the OSSB family. One of my first observations has been the passion and hope of this community. I am ready, with sleeves rolled up, to work with everyone to make this school year great by *thinking big, starting small and learning fast*.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lou Maynus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lou Maynus, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent, OSSB  
Superintendent, OSD