

Report on the OSBA Capital Conference and Delegate Assembly

As a board member, I had the privilege of attending the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Capital Conference this year. This conference provides an invaluable opportunity to gain knowledge and insights into the key issues and challenges facing school districts across the state. Recognizing that tax dollars support this professional development, it is essential to share the highlights of my experience.

While I thoroughly enjoyed the variety of sessions I attended, I would like to focus on the Delegate Assembly, where I served as Tiffin's delegate. This meeting is one of the most critical parts of the Capital Conference, as delegates convene to articulate OSBA's policy positions on pressing education issues. The 69th OSBA Delegate Assembly, held on November 11 in the Union Station Ballroom of the Greater Columbus Convention Center, centered on refining OSBA's Legislative Platform.

The legislative platform is a cornerstone of OSBA's advocacy efforts, guiding the association's positions and communicating its unified agenda for public education to legislators and the citizens of Ohio. Delegates do not pass laws but consider and vote on proposed amendments to the platform. This year's meeting was particularly lively, featuring a floor amendment on the role and authority of locally elected school boards.

Key highlights from the platform discussions included:

- **Support for locally elected boards of education**, recognizing them as a direct means for citizens to influence education policies, programs, costs, and outcomes.
- Proposed amendments to **increase compensation for school board members**, accounting for the significant responsibilities of the position and ensuring adjustments for inflation over time.
- A focus on empowering local boards to appoint the best-qualified representatives to joint vocational school district boards.
- Opposition to legislation that diminishes local control or imposes alternative governance structures, such as mayoral takeovers, without a public referendum.

The floor amendment sparked a thoughtful and robust discussion among delegates, highlighting the commitment of OSBA members to uphold local control and ensure governance structures are both fair and effective.

It was an honor to represent Tiffin at this important meeting. The discussions reinforced the importance of locally elected boards and their critical role in shaping the educational landscape to meet the needs of our communities.

- Dr. Meagan McBride