



## **Memorandum** | Department of Community School

Date: November 28, 2023

To: Tomorrow Center Administrators and Governing Board Members

From: Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison, Dave Jones, Director of Community Schools, and Mid-Ohio ESC Sponsoring Staff

Subject: November Monthly Updates

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### **General Update**

Hello Everyone,

As a sponsor of the Tomorrow Center, one of the requirements is to collect data from at least three stakeholder groups over the course of a school year. One of the stakeholder groups we recently collected data from was the Tomorrow Center's staff. They were asked to take a survey, with a total of 15 responses completed. This represented 79% of the 19 total Tomorrow Center's staff. The sponsor wanted to obtain information about the general operation of the school and how the staff felt about a number of issues. The results of the survey were shared with the Tomorrow Center's Director of School who will also share these results with her staff.

Below is a summary of the survey results, which are rounded to the nearest whole number. The actual graphs as well as comments made by the staff are attached to this newsletter.

- 1. Staff members treat one another with respect.**
  - a. 13 or 87% of the staff members strongly agree
  - b. 2 or 13% of the staff members agree
  - c. 0 or 0% of the staff members neither agree nor disagree
  - d. 0 or 0% of the staff members disagree
  - e. 0 or 0% of the staff members strongly disagree
  - f. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied not applicable
  - g. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied other
- 2. Students and staff members treat each other with respect.**
  - a. 6 or 40% of the staff members strongly agree
  - b. 9 or 60% of the staff members agree
  - c. 0 or 0% of the staff members neither agree nor disagree

- d. 0 or 0% of the staff members disagree
- e. 0 or 0% of the staff members strongly disagree
- f. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied other

**3. Most staff members are enthusiastic about teaching and communicate this to their students.**

- a. 10 or 67% of the staff members strongly agree
- b. 4 or 27% of the staff members agree
- c. 1 or 7% of the staff members neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the staff members disagree
- e. 0 or 0% of the staff members strongly disagree
- f. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied other

**4. The school consistently enforces the code of student conduct.**

- a. 6 or 40% of the staff members strongly agree
- b. 8 or 53% of the staff members agree
- c. 1 or 7% of the staff members neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the staff members disagree
- e. 0 or 0% of the staff members strongly disagree
- f. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied other

**5. The school community has high expectations of all students.**

- a. 9 or 60% of the staff members strongly agree
- b. 5 or 33% of the staff members agree
- c. 1 or 7% of the staff members neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the staff members disagree
- e. 0 or 0% of the staff members strongly disagree
- f. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied other

**6. I have access to the tools I need to do my job.**

- a. 12 or 80% of the staff members strongly agree
- b. 3 or 20% of the staff members agree
- c. 0 or 0% of the staff members neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the staff members disagree
- e. 0 or 0% of the staff members strongly disagree
- f. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied other

**7. I am satisfied with opportunities for my professional growth.**

- a. 10 or 67% of the staff members strongly agree
- b. 3 or 20% of the staff members agree
- c. 1 or 7% of the staff members neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the staff members disagree
- e. 0 or 0% of the staff members strongly disagree
- f. 1 or 7% of the staff members replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied other

**8. I understand what is expected of me in my roles and responsibilities as a staff member.**

- a. 12 or 80% of the staff members strongly agree
- b. 3 or 20% of the staff members agree
- c. 0 or 0% of the staff members neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the staff members disagree
- e. 0 or 0% of the staff members strongly disagree
- f. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied other

**9. School administrators and staff members communicate with each other effectively.**

- a. 11 or 73% of the staff members strongly agree
- b. 4 or 27% of the staff members agree
- c. 0 or 0% of the staff members neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the staff members disagree
- e. 0 or 0% of the staff members strongly disagree
- f. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied other

**10. Parents know what is going on in this school.**

- a. 6 or 40% of the staff members strongly agree
- b. 7 or 47% of the staff members agree
- c. 1 or 7% of the staff members neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the staff members disagree
- e. 0 or 0% of the staff members strongly disagree
- f. 1 or 7% of the staff members replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the staff members replied other

If you have any questions, please contact us. As always, thank you for all you do to support the students and staff at the Tomorrow Center.

## Legislative and Policy Updates

The **Ohio Department of Education** (ODE) is no more. We are now in the transition phase of splitting ODE into two successor agencies, the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) and the State Board of Education, as required by HB-33, Ohio's biennial budget. For now, DEW has retained ODE's website ([education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov)). The State Board's new website is: [sboe.ohio.gov](http://sboe.ohio.gov). Should you need to contact DEW, the agency's general phone number is: 877-644-6338. If you need to speak with some at the State Board, the general contact number is: 614-728-2754. Although both agencies continue to reside at the former ODE building (25 South. Front St., Columbus), there have been comments about the State Board possibly moving its offices to the Riffe Center or perhaps the Rhodes Tower.

While the responsibilities of each agency were defined in HB-33, staff assignments, allocation of assets, and selection of leadership need to be made during the transition period. Recently, Gov. DeWine **nominated Steve Dackin** to be the inaugural Director of DEW. He brings a wealth of experience in K-12 education to the position. Dackin has served as an administrator in both rural and suburban school systems and was an administrator with the former Department of Education. He was an At-Large (a.k.a. appointed) member of the State Board of Education and was previously a candidate to be State Superintendent of Education. Most recently, he has been an administrator with Columbus State Community College working in school and community partnerships. It is anticipated that the Ohio Senate will conduct confirmation hearings during December. During an abbreviated November meeting, the Board of Education advanced the timeline for selecting a new State Superintendent. The deadline for interested individuals to apply for the position was set as 11/26/23, with the executive consulting firm employed to assist with the search providing its recommendation of candidates during the Board's December meeting. The Board hopes to complete the interview and selection process before the end of December.

During its November meeting, the State Board of Education considered a resolution calling for a review of its rules related to the denial, suspension, and revocation of educator licenses. Under current law, the commission of certain crimes calls for the denial, suspension, or revocation of an educator license. The Board has discretion when it comes to the status of the license/license application of individuals who have been found guilty of certain other crimes. Given the current teacher shortage, the Board is interested in determining parameters for using its discretionary power to reverse the permanent denial of an application for, or permanent revocation of, a license.

You may recall that in late summer Representative Fowler-Arthur, a former elected member of the State Board of Education, introduced **HB-235** seeking to grant additional powers to the State Board that were not given to the Board under the provisions of HB-235. Specifically, HB-235 calls for the Board to conduct public hearings on any rules proposed by the Director of DEW. The Board will be required to prepare a report for the Director on any testimony received. DEW will be required to post the report. HB-235 also seeks to restore a fully elected State Board of Education. The number of Board members and their districts would mirror Ohio U.S. House districts. The House Education Committee received sponsor testimony from Rep. Fowler-Arthur in early September, however, no further hearings have been held on the bill as of this writing

Recently introduced legislation includes:

- **SB-182** which seeks to fund a Foster-to-College Scholarship program. If enacted, this scholarship would provide needed college funds to a foster child which may be needed after consideration of any PELL Grant, Ohio Opportunity Grant, other state/federal aid, and private scholarships. The bill also calls for DEW to employ a full-time school foster care liaison. One of the liaison's responsibilities would be to work with various involved agencies to help a student entering foster care to remain in his/her home district. Another responsibility of the liaison would be to ensure that children in foster care are aware of the scholarship.
- **HB-310** seeks to change the calculation for the payment of the purchase of military service credit. If HB-310 is enacted, former members of the military seeking to purchase STRS would pay into the system an amount equal to the sum of what he/she would have paid plus what his/her employer would have paid. HB-310 would eliminate the provision for the payment of interest.

**On the national scene**, although both the House and Senate have approved some appropriations measures funding various operations of the federal government, none of these measures have been approved by both houses of Congress (and naturally none has been signed by the President). In mid-November, the newly appointed Speaker of the House Johnson proposed a Continuing Resolution (or CR) to maintain funding for various agencies at FY-'23 levels. The CR funding for most federal agencies is set to expire in mid-January. Funding for the Department of Defense and the Department of Education, however, will continue through February 2, 2024. Although appropriators for Labor-HHS-Education approved an FY-'24 funding measure, the measure was pulled from consideration by the full House prior to Thanksgiving. Pulling of the appropriations measure is good news as it provides concerned advocates with additional time to advocate for an increase in funding for those education programs facing large cuts. As approved by the Labor-HHS-Education appropriators, the measure called for an 80% reduction in funding for Title I, elimination of funding for Title II (professional development) and Title III (English Language), a \$750 million cut in funding to Head Start.



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