

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Nov. 28 - Dec. 5, 2014

Education Bill Passes without Salary Schedule Change - House Republicans Tuesday undid a controversial change to education omnibus bill HB343 (Stebelton) Tuesday and passed it with a near unanimous vote.

The House Education Committee had amended the bill to eliminate state salary schedules for teachers, which teachers' unions had opposed. The bill with changes was expected to go before the full House on Tuesday, but the Rules and Reference Committee amended it to restore the current salary schedule to law before sending it on to the floor. There, it received little debate before passing 84-2.

Source: Hannah News Service

Legislation being heard in the Education Committee

HB 303 Student Religious Expression Bill - This bill would change the Revised Code regarding student religious expression. Fifth Hearing and Possible Vote.

[HB 303 Language](#)

[HB 303 Analysis](#)

HB 304 Student Access to Public School Facilities Bill - This bill would change the Revised Code regarding student access to public school facilities. Fifth Hearing and Possible Vote.

[HB 304 Language](#)

[HB 304 Analysis](#)

HB 370 Prevailing Wage Bill - This bill would make a board of education of a school district or the governing board of an educational service center subject to the Prevailing Wage Law for public improvement contracts. First Hearing.

[HB 370 Language](#)

HB 411 Police Records Bill - This bill would include in the definition of public record records kept by a police department established by a qualified nonprofit corporation or a campus police department established by a private college or university and to amend the version of section 149.43 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect March 20, 2015, to continue the provisions of this act on and after that effective date. First Hearing

[HB 411 Language](#)

HB 428 Vocational School District Bill - This bill would revise the law regarding terms of office of members of certain joint vocational school district boards of education.. First Hearing

[HB 428 Language](#)

Source: Heather Bishoff, State Representative

Know! The Facts: Understanding Teens Who Self-Harm - Why would anyone intentionally cause themselves physical pain? Self-harm is a hard concept for many of us to wrap our minds around. A new study, however, reveals self-harming behaviors to be more common in youth than most of us realize, and that the impact of such behaviors is likely to cause problems in both the short and long-term.

What exactly is self-harm? It is any type of deliberate and direct injury to one's own body. It may come in the form of cutting, scratching, burning, head-banging, pulling out hair, piercing skin with sharp objects or taking too many pills. Some youth may self-harm once or twice and then stop, while for others, it becomes routine behavior.

In a Bristol University study in England, out of the nearly 5,000 16-year-olds who participated, 19 percent said they had harmed themselves at least once. The study also revealed that those self-harming teens were more likely to experience problems in school and in their relationships, difficulties in their workplace down the road, and were at increased risk for developing alcohol or other drug-related issues later in life.

When it comes to “why” youth self-harm, there is no one single reason. However, medical experts say that it usually occurs among teens due to an inability to cope with emotional pain in healthy ways. Youth that self-harm tend to experience feelings of worthlessness, loneliness, panic, anger, rejection, self-hatred or confused sexuality.

According to the Mayo Clinic, youth who self-harm may be attempting to:

- Manage or reduce severe distress or anxiety and provide a sense of relief;
- Provide a distraction from painful emotions through physical pain;
- Feel a sense of control over his or her body, feelings or life situations;
- Feel something, anything, even if it's physical pain, when feeling emotionally empty;
- Express internal feelings in an external way;
- Communicate depression or distressful feelings to the outside world;
- Be punished for perceived faults.

Regardless of why individuals self-harm, the momentary “relief” is usually followed by guilt, shame and the return of painful, negative emotions. In addition to the inner scars, self-harm may produce permanent physical scars and disfigurement, cause severe infection, serious injury or could lead to death.

While visible scars are the most obvious sign of self-harm, other red flags include your child wearing long sleeves or long pants, even when it's hot outside; claiming to have frequent accidents or mishaps; spending a great deal of time alone; asking questions like ‘Who am I?’ or ‘What am I doing here?’; behavioral and emotional instability, impulsivity and unpredictability; and statements of hopelessness or worthlessness.

Any act of self-harm needs to be taken seriously. Do not dismiss it as merely attention-seeking. Know that such actions may be warning signs for suicidal behavior or other problems.

Despite how taboo the topic may seem, self-harm must be talked about and better understood in order for those experiencing it to get the help they need, and to prevent others from taking the same path. If you suspect or know your child is self-harming, seek outside help immediately. Start by consulting your pediatrician or family physician. Or check with your employer about a link to your insurance

provider's mental health services or, if your company provides one, contact your employee assistance program.

Some youth who self-harm may not have suicidal intentions. However, if you feel your child is in immediate danger of attempting suicide, stay with him/her and call for emergency help. Another option is to call the Suicide Hotline at 800-273-TALK to be connected to a skilled, trained counselor at a crisis center in your area.

Sources:

Ohio Department of Education: Parent Tips

Partnership for Drug Free Kids: Self-Harming Teens More Likely to Develop Substance Use Problems

Medical Daily: Self-Harm In Teenage Years Predicts Substance Abuse, Lower Grades, And Difficulties At Work

Psychology Today, Overcoming Self-Sabotage: How to understand and regulate destructive behaviors

OFFICE OF TEACHING & LEARNING

Late Arrival – Students will have a two-hour late arrival on Wednesday, December 10. Teachers will continue their work on standards alignment and preparation for the new state assessments.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

College Prep 101 Course Brings Back Recent Graduate - As part of our HS Postsecondary Action Planning to: ***Help more students pursue postsecondary education through local college access programs, financial aid advising, scholarship and grant availability advising, career guidance, and other services***, teachers of HTHS College Prep 101, Mrs. Steele, Ms. White and Ms. Stevens brought back 2014 HTHS Graduate and Class President, Joe Bennett to discuss and present his experiences as a current freshmen at Bowling Green State University to 60 of our students enrolled in College Prep 101. Joe focused his presentation on the enrollment process, to difficulties he overcame the first semester, study habits and writing papers. The information presented to HTHS students was very valuable as they are currently in the process of applying to college.

HTHS Teacher of the Month: Mrs. Kelly Patino

"Kelly Patino for Teacher of the Month. She does so much behind the scenes that never gets noticed and is rarely talked about. She is also my go-to for any questions regarding Transition and Special Education in general. She is always willing to lend a hand whenever it is necessary!" - HS Teacher

"Mrs. Patino is dedicated to challenging her students to succeed. Her time commitment to the students of Hamilton Township High School goes beyond her duty day. She provides daily assistance to students after school, and she attends after-school meetings to stay current with ODE expectations and trends for post-secondary transition planning. Under the leadership of Mrs. Patino, special education students at our high school receive stellar services that challenge them to excel." - HLS Staff

"I want to nominate Kelly Patino for Teacher of the Month. She does so much that no one sees and for every IEP in the building, works on Transition Plans and sets up post-high school work experiences for students." - HS Teacher

Mrs. Patino stated, "I would like to thank the staff at HTHS for selecting me! My ability to do my job effectively relies on the support and dedication of each of you! Aside from the time spent team teaching in World History, American History and Government classes, I also meet with students during Advisory period to discuss their goals for the future and research potential opportunities with them, whether it be competitive employment or post-secondary schooling. For those students seeking competitive employment after graduation, I arrange meetings with outside agencies and help those students gain the employability skills necessary to obtain and keep a job. For students planning to pursue higher education, I work with them to prepare for the placement tests in college and also arrange for necessary accommodations on college entrance exams. Helping students to match their interests to a career is an essential part of my job as a Transition Coordinator and much of my time is spent with students researching 2 and 4 year colleges, determining admission requirements and helping students make decisions about what may work best for them. Not a day goes by when my staff isn't communicating to one another about student needs and brainstorming ideas to implement either in class or in tutoring in order to address those needs. My day is full from beginning to end.....whenever that may be :)" - Mrs. Patino

HTHS Congratulates Mrs. Kelly Patino for earning HTHS Teacher of the Month.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Student and Teacher Honored - For the Month of November, the Middle School honored Haylee Adams and Mr. Jason Benton. Haylee, an 8th grader, nominated by Mrs. Schuller, is a member of the choir, takes HS Algebra 1, and is a member of the Honors Language Arts Class. Mr. Benton, a 7th grade Social Studies teacher, was nominated by Mrs. Jett for his caring attitude, his participation in school events, and his eagerness to help students. Congratulations to these two deserving honorees!

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Mrs. Murray Is December's Educator Of The Month - *"Mrs. Murray has been a great role model for me in Hamilton since I started last year and has helped me learn the ropes and push myself to be a more engaging math teacher. I was pulled into jury duty and she helped me immensely while I was out for those 2 weeks, making sure my substitutes knew what was going on and even making copies at times. Aside from that, she went above and beyond her call as a teacher and willingly helped take our students who are on our schools' volleyball team to their game after school and back since my jury hours didn't match up. I can credit many of my creative lessons to her, and am happy to have someone to look up to and strive to be like at our school."* - H.I.S. Teacher

Halie Thanakeo Is December's Student Of The Month - *"I am nominating Halie Thanakeo as our Star Student for her positive attitude and incredible work ethic. Halie is always very positive and friendly to all who know her regardless of*

what kind of day she is having. Halie is very helpful to any new student that joins her class. She takes a leading role in helping that student get acclimated to our building and our schedule. Halie also excels in the classroom. She continually earns honor roll by excelling whenever possible, even as the difficulty level increases as she moves from grade to grade and subject to subject. Halie consistently adapts and maintains her level of understanding by asking good questions and doing her best work at all times. Hamilton Intermediate is very fortunate to have Halie as a student. Halie's leadership abilities and attitude allow her to succeed in all that she attempts." - H.I.S. Teacher

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kindergarten Students Enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner - The Kindergarten students enjoyed a day of giving thanks by doing crafts and learning activities related to the Thanksgiving holiday. They finished their day by having an enormous feast that fed over 300 students! This year's kindergarten class is the largest single class in school history. It is likely that this was the largest meal ever served in the history of the Hamilton Local School District. Over 80 pounds of turkey, 13 crock pots of mashed potatoes and corn and more than 300 rolls and juice boxes were served. Many students said that the feast "is the best thing ever!" The feast could not have taken place without the generosity of the PTO, the Kindergarten teachers and more than a dozen parent volunteers. We would also like to extend a special thanks to Kelly's Market for giving us a discount on the turkey.

Student of the Month – 2nd grade student Sania Thomas was selected as the HES Student of the Month for November. Sania's teacher, Mrs. Rucker, had this to say: "Sania is without a doubt, one of the kindest, most conscientious and hardworking students in our class. She is a fabulous role model for other students to follow in that she always puts forth 100% effort in her work no matter the content or difficulty level. Her positive attitude and great work ethic make her an absolute pleasure to have in class." Congratulations to Sania and her family.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Winter Fest 2014! - This was an amazing event for the families of the Elementary School and Preschool. Parents and students enjoyed a night of shopping, wrapping gifts, and a visit from Santa! Congratulations to our Santa Gift Bag raffle winner **Nathen Williams in Mrs. Tigner's class!** Thanks to the Elementary PTO and Preschool Boosters for hosting this event!

OSU Day at the Preschool - The students showed their scarlet and gray pride on Tuesday, November 25, 2014. Even the best UM fan could not get us rattled!

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Rangers Football Players Earn Division II All-Ohio Recognitions - Three members of the HTHS Rangers Football team earned Division II All-Ohio honors this week, recognizing the top football players in the state of Ohio in each of the seven OHSAA divisions. Senior Deric Phouthavong was a First Team selection for his successful season at wide receiver for the Rangers. Senior Linebacker Dillon Hawthorne and Junior Lineman Christian Swauger received Special

Mention recognitions. Congratulations to these Rangers and their families for this honor. To view all of the Division II All-Ohio honorees listed in the *Columbus Dispatch*, click [here](#).

Varsity Girls' Basketball Opens Season with Victory - The Rangers Varsity Girls' Basketball team opened the 2014-15 season with a victory over Central Crossing. The team won Monday night by a score of 39-35. They were led in scoring by Josie Kasprzak with 12 points and Lauren Longbrake with 12 points and 9 rebounds. The following Rangers also contributed to the scoring efforts: Chase Gray-Still with 6 points, Brooke Wilhite with 5 points, Devyn Stevens with 2 points and Zadei Edwards with 2 points.

Rangers Boys' Basketball Hosts Game to Support Wounded Warrior Project - The HS Boys' Basketball teams hosted Canal Winchester last Friday evening for an OHSAA Foundation Game which raised money to support the Wounded Warrior Project. The Wounded Warrior Project was founded to support men and women who have returned from military duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. This organization has been around for 10 years with a mission to "foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation's history". The Rangers are proud to be able to donate and support such a worthy cause!

UPCOMING EVENTS

[See what's happening in our district this week!](#)

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