

House Education Chair seeks to implement a two-year phase-in for switching high school science exams from physical science to biology -

House Education Committee Chairman Gerald Stebelton (R-Lancaster) outlined the idea to implement a two-year phase-in for switching high school science exams required for graduation from physical science to biology and Senate Education Committee Chairwoman Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) voiced support for it as they look to revisit problematic sections of the mid-biennium review. The statements came at the first meeting of the Chartered Nonpublic Graduation Requirement Committee, the body created in the mid-biennium review to hash out a compromise on what mandates the state can impose on graduation requirements for private schools.

Source: Hannah News Service

Licensure system adds enhancements - On Friday, Oct. 31, the Ohio Department of Education unveiled a number of changes aimed at improving efficiency and the user's experience with online licensure applications. With these changes, the department is:

- Stopping the printing and mailing paper licenses, certificates and permits for applicants requesting these credentials.
- Allowing educators who are ready to request renewal of their credentials for 2015 the ability to do so beginning November 1.
- Unveiling changes to help users find appropriate license options.

On the department's website, the [main licensure Web page](#) and the [Apply for a New License page](#) include information in these same categories, with links to information about various licenses.

Source: ODE

Huffman Looks to Gather Floor Votes after Panel OKs Common Core Repeal - The House Rules and Reference Committee quickly approved a bill to repeal the Common Core education standards with little fanfare and no discussion Wednesday, reporting it along party lines.

While Wednesday's hearing on HB597 was over within minutes of starting, it follows several hearings that featured hours of testimony for and against the measure, which would temporarily swap out Ohio's Common Core-aligned standards in favor of Massachusetts' pre-Common Core standards while state officials write new standards.

The meeting saw votes in favor of passage from Rep. Matt Huffman (R-Lima), the committee chairman, as well as Speaker William Batchelder (R-Medina) and Reps. Jim Buchy (R-Greenville), Tony Burkley (R-Payne), Tim Derickson (R-Oxford), Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marietta) and Andy Thompson (R-Marietta), who joined Huffman to sponsor the bill. Reps. Tracy Heard (D-Columbus) and Debbie Philips (D-Albany), the first- and second-ranking House Democrats, voted against the bill. Reps. Dan Ramos (D-Lorain) and Michael Ashford (D-Toledo) weren't at the hearing.

Huffman said after the hearing that he and other Common Core critics will now go in search of the 50 votes the bill needs to pass the chamber, saying the bill won't go to the floor absent that level of commitment.

While Rep. Gerald Stebelton (R-Lancaster), the House Education Committee chairman and a Common Core supporter, recently claimed a majority of the GOP caucus and the overall House opposes HB597 (see The Hannah Report, 10/21/14), Huffman said members' minds can change.

As an example, Huffman pointed to anti-sweepstakes measure HB7, which started out with middling support and even went to the floor without a firm commitment of 50 votes, only to become law when lawmakers came to realize the scope of the problem it was addressing. He said a similar wave of support is building as members learn more about the Common Core and the process by which it was developed.

Following the vote, the group Ohioans Against Common Core issued a statement urging Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) to take quick action to advance the bill through an "objective committee" -- a call to bypass Senate Education Committee Chairwoman Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering), who opposes HB597.

Heidi Huber, leader of the group, noted recent efforts to flood Gov. John Kasich's office with calls to stop Common Core. "We encourage all Ohio legislators, who were bypassed in the adoption of Common Core, to support HB597 toward that end," she said in a statement.

Meanwhile, school leadership groups and others expressed dismay over the vote.

In a joint statement, the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA), Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) and Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) urged members to reject the legislation if it comes to a floor vote.

"The committee's passing of HB597 is particularly troubling in light of the many school leaders from across the state who testified in favor of 'staying the course' with the Common Core State Standards. While more rigorous and challenging than the old standards, educators from Ohio's public schools have sent a clear message that these new standards are good for students," said BASA's Tom Ash.

Philanthropy Ohio and StudentsFirst Ohio also released statements critical of the bill vote.

"In addition to the time invested in helping prepare our students for success, much [has] been spent by foundations to support Ohio's new learning standards that could be lost as a result of HB597. We cannot afford to lose these investments," said Philanthropy Ohio President Suzanne Allen.

"Like most states, Ohio saw the need to set higher learning goals for students so they would be ready to compete internationally in the workforce. Given the consensus of everyone from the nation's governors to teachers to major employers, it is unfortunate that Ohio persists in a debate that should have long been settled," said Greg Harris, state director of StudentsFirst Ohio.

Ohio Federation of Teachers President Melissa Cropper likewise criticized the vote, saying the committee is "following politically charged rhetoric" when it

should be focused on other issues, like properly implementing the current standards and evaluating Ohio's overall testing requirements.

Source: Focus Education is a service of Hannah News

OFFICE OF TEACHING & LEARNING

Social-Emotional Learning – Research has shown that social emotional learning affects academic learning and college and career readiness. Critical areas include: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. The Center for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning has [numerous free parent and educator resources to support student development](#).

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HTHS Teacher Of The Month - Mrs. Marjorie Langston

"Mrs. Langston for HTHS Teacher of the Month. She makes a difference. She is kind, hard working, devoted to her students and loves her job. She is definitely deserving of Teacher of the Month recognition." - HS Teacher

"I vote Marjorie as Teacher of the Month. She gets it. She impacts so many students' lives. They will always think about how she influenced their life." - Teacher

"I remember Chemistry as drudgery -- if only Mrs. Langston had been my chemistry teacher! Her passion for science and ability to connect to real-life applications bring chemistry classes alive. She is always learning and exploring new ways to bring science alive for her students. However, it is her passion for students and commitment to being their teacher, role model, mentor, life coach, and fan that makes her really special." - HLS Staff

"I nominate Mrs. Langston. She has a gift for helping students understand chemistry at a college level. They don't just learn chemistry, she is able to help the students apply it to real world events." - HS Teacher

Mrs. Langston stated, *"I am so grateful to be selected as teacher of the month! Honestly, to me, all of you are the teachers of the year! Thank you so much for helping me these last 6 years! I feel really blessed to work with so many caring, and kind professionals!"*

"A typical day for me involves a lot of different activities related to my personal professional goals. (I am assuming that many of my goals are similar to that of my wonderful colleagues as I hear students speaking very highly of so many of you.) Of course, 100% engagement and 100% understanding is a top goal of mine. With that, the district's post-secondary initiative is also a goal that is in the forefront of my mind so I am engaged in a lot of conversations around that. In addition, I am always trying new things such as incorporating technology, problem-based learning, other teaching techniques, and the students' interests (and modes of learning) into my classroom more and more. On any given day you will see students working in groups, doing experiments, engaged in large and small group discussions (as to how to alter an experiment), trying new things, working iPads, explaining problems, tutoring each other, working on projects, etc. Another of my goals this year is to improve our students' ACT scores so you will see activities centered around that in my class as well. A final

goal I have is to be present with my students and to continue to build relationships with them and help them achieve their goals." - Langston (Hill)

HTHS Congratulates Mrs. Marjorie Langston for earning HTHS Teacher of the Month.

Telhio Credit Union - Nathalie McDaniel from Telhio Credit Union visited the Personal Finance classes at Hamilton Township High School on Tuesday. Telhio sponsors the popular BANZAI budgeting simulations that Hamilton students use. Mrs. McDaniel explained to students the differences between a bank and a credit union, and how to avoid overdraft charges. Students were encouraged to review their credit reports before they turn 18 years old (should be nothing on it, watch out for fraud charges) and to understand interest and other charges when they obtain credit.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

8h Graders Create and Give Back - The 8th graders in Mrs. Lutz's Art Class have been busy creating and giving back to the community! Each 8th grader created a "Soup-Can Mug." Each mug was created by using a canned food item as an armature and wrapping the clay around the mug. When the mugs were completed the cans were removed. All the cans the students brought in to use are being donated to a local food pantry! All together, the students brought in 71 cans of food! Grade job 8th graders!

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

5th Grader, Yasmine Crallie Is November's Star Student - Yasmine is an absolute pleasure to have in class. She is always focused and on task, while at the same time ready to share her well developed thoughts and ideas for the benefit of the whole class. She is determined and hardworking, always going above and beyond what is required. In addition, Yasmine is kind, considerate, and helpful, always ready to lend a helping hand. Although she is often quiet, she is a leader, setting a standard of excellence through her actions.

Ms. Long Is November's Teacher Of The Month - Ms. Long is always helpful and gets things accomplished before anyone else has even thought of it. Ms. Long gives up a huge amount of her own time to work with students during recess. She is also a very effective communicator with students and their parents/guardians utilizing various methods, such as texts and Twitter.

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Elementary Students Recognized at Success Assemblies - Every nine weeks Hamilton Elementary students are recognized by their teachers at their grade-level success assembly. To wrap up the first nine weeks of this school year, each grade level team held an assembly where students received certificates of recognition for Principal's Honor Roll, Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, Most Improved Student, and Most Respectful Ranger. The assemblies were well attended by parents, and the students were very excited to receive their certificates.

Interdisciplinary Lessons – One of the hallmarks of modern education is the concept of interdisciplinary lessons. Research has shown that students retain

more information when multiple indicators from a variety of subjects are covered using the same theme. Below is an excellent example of this style of instruction from Ms. Turner's 1st grade class.

Last week, Ms. Turner's first grade classroom learned all about pumpkins. They celebrated with a pumpkin day. With parent help, students completed fun, hands-on pumpkin activities. Students tasted different pumpkin foods and graphed their favorite. They created pumpkin play dough and wrote the steps. They weighed a pumpkin using different items, painted a pumpkin character that they wrote a story about later, made a prediction and tested if a pumpkin would sink or float, and labeled the parts of their pumpkin diagram. Many parents donated items and volunteered to come in and help with pumpkin day. They truly made this day a success.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Mrs. King's Class Update - The holiday season is always a special time of the year. The Halloween Parade was the kick off for the festive holiday activities for the Preschool Families! In Mrs. King's class the students had a creative family project to complete for the front showcase. The students were given undressed turkeys to take home to decorate however they would like. The families did a outstanding job decorating their turkeys! These turkeys will be displayed in the front showcase throughout the month of November. Mrs. King and Mrs. Woollet have many more surprise in store their students!

Fall Fundraiser - The following students were the top sellers in their classrooms and will receive a Dairy Queen Gift card: Jemma Whited, Courtney Brewer, Connor Mitchell, Weston Hopkins, and Brian Patton-Adams. Top seller and winner of a \$75.00 Toys R Us gift card was Jemma Whited she sold over \$400.00 worth of merchandise! Congratulations to all our great sellers the money raised will go towards activities and materials for the Preschool! Thanks to all the families who participated in this event!

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Occupational Therapists Do Much More than Handwriting - Our Occupational Therapist, Julia Lawson, has created a wonderful sensory room at our Elementary Building. We often have children who become over stimulated, overwhelmed, and frustrated with everyday school demands. We have children identified with Autism, sensory motor issues, oppositional defiant disorder, and a never-ending assortment of other diagnoses. Sometimes, children just need a place to calm down. Now, thanks to Julia Lawson, Hamilton Elementary has a place where that can happen.

PARCC Assessments and Special Education - Many teachers and parents have expressed concerns about the new generation of state-wide assessments and how that affects our special education students. There are two primary changes to which all parents should become aware:

- We are no longer allowed to read the questions and answers for any area of the English Language Arts assessments. As a result, our teachers are no longer doing this for district short cycle assessments. The PARCC requires that we read ALL of the English Language Arts assessments or NONE of them. For now, we are keeping the bar high at Hamilton and

- continuing to work with the highest percentage of our students to advance their reading ability and not read the English Language Arts assessments except to a very few students. These decisions are made by the IEP team.
- No students - even students on IEPs - are allowed to use a calculator for the math calculation parts of the math PARCC. This is new. In the past, with the OAA, some students in grades 6 and above could be given a calculator as an accommodation. This is no longer allowed for the calculation parts of the PARCC.

Questions regarding these new assessments can be directed to your child's intervention specialist or Wynona Smith, Director of Special Education. We are all still getting new information every day from the Ohio Department of Education, so stay tuned. Sometimes, the IEP cannot keep up with the changes.

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Varsity Football Defeats Logan Elm, Wins Share of MSL Title and Playoff Berth - On Friday, October 31st the Rangers football team defeated Logan Elm 27-21. With the win, the Rangers won a share of the MSL Championship for the second straight season and earned a spot in the OHSAA Division II State Playoffs for the first time since 2002. The Rangers will play in the Regional Quarterfinal this Friday at Wooster High School beginning at 7:30pm.

Below are the MSL Award winners recognized by the MSL:
Championship Coach of the Year - Nathan Hillerich
Back of the Year - Deric Phouthavong

1st Team:

- Xavier Harris
- Deric Phouthavong
- Christian Swauger
- Dillon Hawthorne

2nd Team:

- Josh Sweet
- Aaron Williams
- Houston Palmer
- Patrick Robinson
- Jeremy Maynard

Honorable Mention:

- Jake Ellis
- Erick Juarez
- Jacob Maynard

Congratulations to the players and coaches for their accomplishments this season!

Volleyball Sophomore Nikkie White Earns All-Ohio Recognition - Rangers Sophomore Volleyball player Nikkie White earned Honorable Mention in Division II All-Ohio recognition. These players were named this past week by the Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association. Nikkie is the first Rangers Volleyball player to be recognized in this way in school history. Congratulations to Nikkie and the volleyball program!

Winter Sport Seasons Begin - As fall sport seasons wind down, last Friday marked the beginning of the 2014-15 girls' basketball season with tryouts on Friday, October 31 and Saturday, November 1. The boys' basketball team tryouts took place Friday, November 7, and wrestlers begin their season on Friday, November 14. Good luck to the Rangers Winter sports programs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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