

# CMSD SponsorShip



A newsletter for CMSD-sponsored community schools

## Contact CMSD

Please direct inquiries on CMSD sponsorship of community schools to:

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Executive Director of Charter Schools

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In addition to Ms. Klupinski, please continue to contact other key CMSD staff members on these specific matters:

Special education, ADA, ELL:

### Jessica Baldwin

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More information on CMSD's community school sponsorship and other collaborative initiatives related to community schools in Cleveland is available on the CMSD website, [ClevelandMetroSchools.org](http://ClevelandMetroSchools.org), by clicking on the "Schools" tab on the main menu and then on "CMSD/Charter School Collaboration."



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## Letter from the Executive Director

Happy New Year! January is always a busy time, and this year was especially hectic with all the days off for inclement weather for many Cleveland area schools. We hope you all had a relaxing and wonderful holiday break and are back in the swing of things.

As you might have noticed, I am pregnant and am expecting to deliver in early February. I am thrilled to announce that Matt Rado, who has been working with CMSD as a consultant for over a year, recently accepted an offer with the district in the charter schools division. Matt has been attending many of your board meetings and is familiar with ODE's Sponsor Evaluation System. He will be the point person for most of your immediate questions and concerns while I am on leave. He does not yet have a CMSD email so please reach out to him at [MattSRado@gmail.com](mailto:MattSRado@gmail.com) until he is officially on board.

## Dates to Remember

This list is not comprehensive but highlights some upcoming events, opportunities, deadlines, and other dates. Schools should continue to rely on other tools as well, especially Epicenter.

### **FEB. 9, NOON–1:30PM**

*Reinventing America's Schools: Creating a 21st Century Education System*  
**City Club of Cleveland,**  
 850 Euclid Ave.

In David Osborne's new book, *Reinventing America's Schools: Creating a 21st Century Education System*, he shares the stories of communities who are embracing innovative ways to improve students' success, to reflect upon the history and future of public education. After years of extensive research, he argues that charter schools provide necessary autonomy, accountability, diversity of school designs, and parental choice that could be executed in public schools.

### **FEB. 16, 8:30AM–3:30PM**

*Inclusive and Learner-Centered Instructional Practices Conference*  
**Corporate College East,**  
 4400 Richmond Rd.

Choose from a variety of sessions to build a knowledge base for inclusive, learner-centered instruction to address the academic and social-emotional needs of all students—especially those with disabilities. To register, please call Yvonne Larkins at **216.838.7733**.

For other questions or concerns, or to get in touch with others at CMSD while I am on leave, please contact Shemekia Love at [Shemekia.Love@ClevelandMetroSchools.org](mailto:Shemekia.Love@ClevelandMetroSchools.org) or call her at 216.838.4966.

You will be in good hands with Matt and Shemekia!

The ODE Sponsor Evaluation is underway again. CMSD is thrilled with our Effective rating from the 2016–17 year and is now aiming to be rated exemplary for this year. Our two big deadlines with the state are April 30 and June 30. We've been working with the schools to ensure we're on track for another successful year.

One thing ODE always checks as part of the evaluation is whether all board members and administrators have had their annual public records and open meetings training. We know many of you have already completed this, but if you have not, CMSD is offering another opportunity on March 8. Please see the "Upcoming Events" section for more details.

I look forward to seeing you all when I return.

—Stephanie

**Stephanie Klupinski,**  
**Executive Director of**  
**Charter Schools,**  
**CMSD**



## Dates to Remember

**FEB. 22, 8AM–4:30PM**

*Study the Network*

**United Preparatory Academy,**  
617 W. State Street, Columbus, OH

Through the [Study the Network™](#) workshop, you will visit United Preparatory Academy, a high-performing charter school in Columbus, during a live school day to observe how the school has been purposefully designed to get results in a high-poverty context. Along with direct exposure to proven methods, you will also have the opportunity to discuss concrete ways to apply these ideas in your own school. Learn more and register by going here: [SchoolPerformanceInstitute.org/what-is-study-the-network](http://SchoolPerformanceInstitute.org/what-is-study-the-network).

**MARCH 8, 2–4PM**

*Public Records and Open Meetings Training*

**East Professional Center,**  
1349 E. 79th Street

CMSD attorneys Kevin Burtzloff and Jonathan Decker will provide a free training on public records and open meetings. Please note that Ohio law mandates that all charter board members and school administrators complete this training annually, so if you have not yet been trained during the 2017–18 school year, this is a great way to complete your training! To register, please email [Shemekia.Love@ClevelandMetroSchools.org](mailto:Shemekia.Love@ClevelandMetroSchools.org).



## Legislative Update: January

The October issue of the *SponsorSHIP* newsletter included a summary of **Sub. H.B. 170**, which calls for adding computer science instruction as an option to several of the prescribed subjects in the state minimum high school curriculum.

At that time, the Ohio House of Representatives had already approved the bill, which was sent to the Senate for further consideration. A slightly modified version was approved by the Senate. After the House concurred with the Senate's changes, the bill was sent to Gov. John Kasich (R-Westerville) who signed it into state law effective March 22, 2018.

Under the final version of the bill, changes were made to the qualifications of teachers permitted to provide computer science instruction (with the State Board tasked with establishing rules for computer science supplemental teaching licenses). Additionally, the final version of the bill prohibits students from substituting computer science for any life sciences or biology course, and requires schools to communicate to students substituting computer science for Algebra II that Algebra II may be required for college admission at some institutions.



In other legislative news, Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering), who chairs the Senate Education Committee, recently introduced legislation (**S.B. 246**) to: enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of students; prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre-kindergarten through three; and, require public schools to implement positive behavior intervention and supports frameworks in accordance with state standards.

In December, the Ohio House passed legislation (**Sub. H.B. 21**) calling for modifications to the process for verifying community school enrollment.

Under current law, each school district must conduct monthly enrollment reviews for district students attending charter schools. As part of the review, the district must verify to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) the charter school in which each student is enrolled and that the student is entitled to attend school in the district.

**Sub. H.B. 21** would require charter school governing boards—rather than districts—to conduct monthly reviews of students' residency records and to submit verification to ODE.

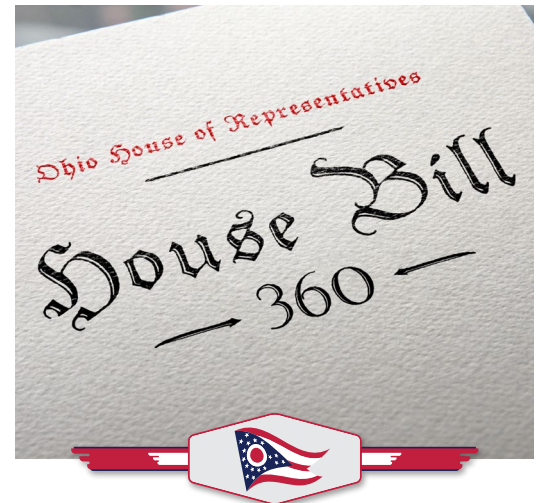
"Districts seldom meet the students enrolled in community (charter) schools, especially if they're enrolled in an online community-based school," said the bill's sponsor, Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick). "They have no concrete way of knowing if a child still lives in the boundaries of a school district over time."

Auditor of State Dave Yost submitted written testimony in support of the bill to the House Education and Career Readiness Committee.

"Following my office's 2013 school attendance data audit, it became apparent that the current student verification and attendance system has many cracks that must be filled," he wrote. "It creates loopholes and opportunity for error, fraud, and data scrubbing. **House Bill 21** is a common-sense initiative that aims to create a more efficient system for establishing student residency, as well as increasing accountability in school funding."

The bill allows districts to review residency claims and to dispute them through the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. However, charter school boards maintain authority to establish policies outlining how residency is determined and what documents can be used for verification.

**Sub. H.B. 21** has been sent to the Senate for further deliberation.



## Legislative Update: February

Legislation introduced last September by State Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) seeks to address a societal problem far too common among youth: bullying.

**House Bill 360** would create tiered sanctions for harassment, intimidation or bullying by students. For the first offense, students would be subject to an in-school suspension for up to ten days unless the school (or district) determines that an out-of-school suspension is more appropriate.

For the second offense within the same calendar year, students would be subject to an in-school suspension of up to 30 days—again, unless it is determined that an out-of-school suspension is more appropriate to the situation.

For the third offense, students would be subject to suspension or expulsion for up to 182 days.

The bill would "provide a standard general protocol for addressing acts of bullying" while respecting local control, Greenspan said in testimony before the House Education and Career Readiness Committee during a hearing held last fall.



It takes a “firm yet fair approach to addressing and changing the behavior of the bully by providing an appropriate punishment along with corrective measures,” he said.

The legislation specifies that harassment, intimidation and bullying by a student includes acts against administrators, teachers, employees, faculty members, consultants and volunteers, as well as against other students.

The bill would require school boards to establish a community service plan that a student expelled for harassment, intimidation or bullying must complete—developed in consultation with the student and his or her parent/guardian.

Schools would be required to allow students to complete all missed schoolwork, which may include tutoring and academic support. Students would also be permitted to take any required state assessments in the regular school setting, but would be prohibited from participating in extracurricular activities.

With parental permission, suspended or expelled students would be provided counseling services, which would also be offered to victims.

**House Bill 360** includes provisions to provide due process and appeal procedures for students suspended or expelled for harassment, intimidation or bullying that would be essentially the same as those afforded to other suspended or expelled students. Prior to suspension or expulsion, schools (or districts) would be required to provide the student and his or her parents/guardians with written notice of the intention to suspend or expel, and provide

them with an opportunity to appear in person before the superintendent (or equivalent officer or designee) to challenge the reasons for the intended suspension or expulsion and to explain the student’s actions.

“... firm yet fair approach to addressing and changing the behavior of the bully by providing an appropriate punishment along with corrective measures”

—Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake),  
State Representative

The bill also includes a provision requiring that a school’s policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation or bullying include a disciplinary procedure for any student who retaliates against another student for reporting an incident.

As previously reported, State Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering), who chairs the Senate Education Committee, has introduced legislation (**S.B. 246**) to enact the “SAFE Act” to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre-kindergarten through three, and to require public schools to implement a positive behavior intervention and support framework in accordance with state standards.

## Interview with Matt Rado



### **How long have you been at CMSD?**

I have been working as a consultant since the summer of 2016. On January 31, I accepted a full-time position as Director of Charter schools.

### **Where did you work before CMSD?**

I was in school working on my Master of Public Administration until December 2016. Before that, I worked for StudentsFirst Ohio doing advocacy work and grassroots organizing.

### **Are you from Cleveland?**

No, I am originally from Columbus. My Dad's family is from Cleveland, and I still have a lot of family here. My grandparents grew up in Cleveland, my grandmother is a Collinwood High School graduate.

### **Did you have any experience with charter schools prior to taking this role?**

I do. I did organizing work with many charter schools in Cleveland, including some of our sponsored schools. I visited many of the schools, and worked with some of their teachers. I was amazed at their passion and dedication.

### **What are some of the projects you've helped on?**

I first helped the department with staying on top of all of the various compliance items we collect in Epicenter. I have also helped with opening assurances, site visits, and revising our contracts and the organizational framework, among other things. It has been great to be able to help with so many different projects.

### **What are some of your goals for helping the Charter School Office improve?**

First, I wanted to help create more systems and processes for simplifying and organizing our work. Generally, I want to be able to help the department be more proactive and do more to help our schools be successful.

### **Tell us a bit about yourself.**

I have a young daughter and most of my free time is spent with her and my extended family. I had been visiting family in Cleveland since I was little, but it wasn't until I met my wife, who also has family here, that I thought I'd live here.

We love Cleveland, and it has been great working with the district and the schools we sponsor. The changes in the education space since 2012 have been dramatic, and there are so many driven individuals in Cleveland working hard so all children have the opportunities in life they deserve.



## School Profile

# Citizen's Academy Mahatma Gandhi Campus



At the Citizens Academy Mahatma Gandhi Campus, “citizens” is more than part of the name; it’s part of the fabric.

The school, for kindergarten through fifth grade, stresses seven core principles: responsibility, respect, perseverance, honesty, generosity, courage and loyalty. Each month, student is honored as an outstanding citizen.

“We have citizenship development happening every day in this school,” Principal Kimberly Peterlin said.

The naming of the campus for Gandhi, a nonviolent activist recognizes the interests of the local Kamla Bafna Foundation, which provides the school with financial, volunteer and programming support.

Each year, the campus invites families, partners and supporters to an annual diversity celebration, held as close as possible to the anniversary of Gandhi’s birth on Oct. 2, 1869. Oct. 2 is also the International Day of Nonviolence.

Students examine and reflect on different cultures, an experience that includes studying, preparing and sampling each culture’s food.

Teacher Anne-Marie DiFranco works with small groups on enrichment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM. The students receive an hour of instruction in computer coding each week.

“We’re trying to expose our children to it as much as possible,” DiFranco said. “We know the future is going to be in computer coding and engineering.”

The Citizens Academy Mahatma Gandhi Campus, with more than 400 students, is located on Hampden Avenue between East 105th Street and Martin Luther King Drive in Cleveland’s Glenville neighborhood.

The Mahatma Gandhi Campus is located occupies the former Joseph F. Landis School, which Breakthrough Schools purchased from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

The campus is one of three Citizens Academy schools in the Breakthrough charter network.

