

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

July 28, 2017

Around the Square

Members Named to House Education Task Force

Representative Bob Cupp has named nine members to his task force on Education and Poverty. Members include Reps Margy Conditt, Darrell Kick, and Janine Boyd. Additionally, Cuyahoga County ESC Superintendent Bob Mengerink, Lancaster City Schools Career and Technical Education Director Anthony Knickerbocker, Cambridge Education Group President and owner John Stack, Wellston School District Superintendent Karen Boch, BRIGHT New Leaders for Ohio Schools CEO Thomas Maridada II, and KIPP Columbus Executive Director Hannah Powell will serve on the group. The task force held their first meeting yesterday.

State Board of Education Meetings to be Aired

The State Board of Education meetings will soon be broadcasted on the Ohio Channel to stream. Board members recently approved a resolution to have their monthly meetings broadcasted live, and could begin as early as September. The meetings will also be available for playback and may be shown on public access channels. Here is a link to the website: <https://www.ohiochannel.org/?2>

Ohio Performs First Execution Since 2014

The state this week performed its first execution in over three years to Ronald Phillips, a man found guilty of killing a 3 year old girl in 1993. This execution came after two inmates, Mr. Phillips being one, had petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to issue a stay of execution arguing the use of drugs was considered a violation of the Constitution's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. Ultimately, the U.S. Supreme Court sided in favor of the state.

Political News and Notes

Ohio State Fair Tragedy

A ride malfunction at the Ohio State Fair caused one death and several injuries on Wednesday. Tyler Jarrell, 18, was killed after a row of seats on the Fire Ball snapped off. Seven others were transported to the hospital with injuries. In response, Governor John Kasich ordered that all rides were to be shut down pending further inspections. Governor Kasich added this tragedy will not define the Ohio State Fair and it will continue. A full investigation is pending as the Fire Ball passed its extensive safety inspections before the fair began.

Senate Defeats ACA Repeal

The U.S. Senate early this morning defeated a scaled back bill to repeal Obamacare. The final vote for the bill was 49-51 after hours of debate on the floor. Senators John McCain (R-AZ), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Susan Collins (R-ME) voted against the bill. Ohio Senators Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown voted for and against the bill, respectively.

We encourage you to follow BMA (@ByersMinton) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for continued updates throughout the week.