

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

The Pickaway County Educational Service Center will be partnering with the Ohio School Boards Association this year to present the ESC Leadership Academy.



The first of four sessions will be held Wednesday, Feb. 3, at the ESC, 2050 Stoneridge Drive.

The Ohio School Boards Association is a great resource for providing professional development to educators of all stripes, but often the training is held at the association's office in Columbus, just a little north of Worthington.

While that can be doable for board members, when speaking with district leaders about professional development opportunities, the need for training closer to Pickaway County was a common desire.

To that end, Pickaway County ESC decided to work with the school boards association to provide training in Pickaway County.

The Feb. 3 session, Board Member Roles, Responsibilities and Best Practices, will address how board members can

be effective leaders and move from being an involved citizen to that of a responsible elected official.

Policy is something that cannot be taken lightly. Board members need to have knowledge about best practices and an awareness of what's legal and mandated.

Another positive outcome of these sessions should be networking among board members from different districts.

Staff members from the Ohio School Boards Association will lead the session, to take place from 6 to 9 p.m.

This and additional topics were selected by members of the districts that the Pickaway County ESC serves.

Other topics planned are internal and external best practices for communication (March); school law for board members (May); and governing when the toughest decisions need to be



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made (September).

As I'm not aware of any Pickaway County board or staff members taking part in sessions offered in the past, I contacted Tony Long, superintendent at the Southern Ohio ESC, and sought his counsel on the academies.

He said they have been well-received in the districts that the SOESC serves – Adams, Clinton, Fayette and Highland counties.

I look forward to Pickaway County board members and others taking advantage of these training opportunities in 2016.

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