

## *Another new interim superintendent named*

For the second time in just 60 days, the State Board of Education named an interim leader for the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) following State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria's announcement of his plan to retire effective September 24.

Initially approved to serve in the interim role by the board, John Richard announced that he would retire effective October 8.

The State Board, which generally does not meet in August, held a special meeting to consider a recommendation by Board President Laura Kohler and Vice President Charlotte McGuire to name Stephanie Siddens, senior executive director of ODE's Center for Student Supports, as the interim superintendent. The appointment was approved by a vote of ten to two.

The appointment of Siddens does not align with the state agency's succession plan, which Kohler notes is not binding because the board has statutory power to hire the superintendent.

"Stephanie was not next in line on the succession plan, but after we gave things full consideration, she rose to the top in that she's had a long tenure with ODE – she's been there almost 15 years – and she's worked with many board members in her capacity as a committee staff lead," Kohler said in an interview with Gongwer News Service.

A subcommittee of the board will review criteria for a request for proposal to conduct a national search for a candidate to assume the role on a permanent basis. Kohler indicated that the full board will likely review the recommended criteria at its September meeting and that the contract could be awarded by mid-October.

