

# BUILDING & Battling

A quarterly publication of the



Fall 2023 - Vol. 36, Issue 1

All dates are tentative and subject to cancellation or postponement.

## BCSO Soccer/Volleyball Tournament

October 27-28  
TBD

## BCSO Athletic Directors' Mtg

November 2  
Zoom

## BCSO All-Star Soccer/Volleyball Games

November 4  
TBD

## BCSGO Deadline for Spring Disbursement

November 30

## BCSO Annual Business Mtg

December 7  
Mansfield

A full, downloadable 2-year calendar of events is available on our website.

## CONNECT WITH US!



[www.bcsoschools.org](http://www.bcsoschools.org)

## BCSO conducts educators' convention

First in-state convention held in nine years highlighted by PCC's Shoemaker

by Luke Brown, *Convention Organizer*

We are thankful for the Lord's blessing on our time together Sept. 29, 2023. Each main assembly brought a unique challenge from Dr. Troy Shoemaker. He challenged us to continue the tradition of excellence by staying away from progressive type thinking, cultivating talents that exceed expectations, and working hard to create a team of extraordinary examples. We also had wonderful workshop teachers who spoke from

years of experience. Many commented on the unique perspectives their instructors brought to the table.

We also enjoyed a wonderful breakfast and an incredible lunch with the opportunity to fellowship with other BCSO teachers and staff. The BCSO plays a critical part in the education process for our families in

See 'Convention' on pg 2



Pensacola Christian College president, Dr. Troy Shoemaker, presents during a mid-morning workshop at the 2023 Buckeye State Educators' Convention held in Cleveland Baptist Church on Sept. 29, 2023.

"If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds and instill into them just principles, we are then engraving that upon tablets which no time will efface, but will brighten and brighten to all eternity." ~ Daniel Webster

## From 'Convention' on pg 1

Ohio! We must continue the battle against the philosophies of our world that are trying to overtake our children. We are educating the future leaders and teachers that will take our place, and it should be our desire to see them hold to the Word of God and be directed by the Spirit of God!

*~Our appreciation is extended to Luke Brown and the staff of Cleveland Baptist Church and Heritage Christian School for hosting this event!*



Teachers and administrators from various BCSO schools enjoy a delicious lunch at the 2023 Buckeye State Educators' Convention.



## Ohio Legislative Update

# EdChoice expansion hurts BCSO families

## Ohio Senate President Huffman hears BCSO representatives out for solution

by Rob Kurtz, BCSO President

Keith Hamblen (Lima), Josh Lynn (Heath) and Rob Kurtz (Mansfield) met with Senator Mark Romanchuk on Thursday, Sept. 21 to prepare for a meeting with Senate President Matt Huffman. The goal was to share with President Huffman the added difficulty that the new Ed Choice scholarships had placed on "08" schools.

After a forty minute confab with Sen. Romanchuk, we walked to the office of Senate President Huffman. He sat down and allowed us to share our concerns for the next hour. (President Huffman has been dubbed the "voucher king.") We shared that our parents pay taxes, which help local public schools. Our taxes are now also helping *all* schools that accept

these EdChoice scholarships. We requested consideration regarding our families possibly receiving funds into an Education Savings Account (ESA). [Recipients] could then send the money they receive to the school of their choice.

After this meeting, we "debriefed" with Sen Romanchuk. He shared that he feels we have a "green light." He asked us to provide a workable idea that his office could then use to create a bill. This bill could then be introduced in the Senate. We have sent a possible solution to his office.

Please pray that God would provide if He sees fit!



# 2023-2024 BCSO Member Schools

School	City	Administrative Contact
Belpre Christian Academy	Belpre	Eric Fullerton
Bethel Baptist School	West Carrollton	Andrea Shihady
Carroll County Christian Academy	Carrollton	Dave Powell
Chili Crossroads Christian School	Fresno	Neal Dearyan
Cozaddale Baptist Academy	Goshen	Paul Price
Fayette Christian School	Washington Court House	Rick Melvin
Franklin Furnace Christian Academy	Franklin Furnace	Dennis Hankins
Heritage Christian School	Brooklyn	Luke Brown
High Street Christian Academy	Columbus	Chad Mainous
Licking County Christian Academy	Heath	Joshua Lynn
Lima Christian Academy	Lima	Keith Hamblen
Ottawa County Christian Academy	Oak Harbor	Jeremy Bickelhaupt
Temple Christian Academy	Fremont	Rick Ash
Temple Christian Academy	Howard	Kris Brandenburg
Temple Christian School	Mansfield	Jessica Day
Temple Christian School	Dayton	Faye Kincaid
Victory Christian School	Urbana	Levi Armacost
Zanesville Christian School	Zanesville	Paul Shaver

## Are We Fully Trusting God to Provide?

By Jeremy Bickelhaupt,  
Building & Battling editor

Last month, Pastor Keith Hamblen, our BCSO executive director, addressed the need for maintaining our non-chartered, non tax (NCNT) status in an email response to yet another school withdrawing from BCSO for the purpose of seeking a state charter. His explanation was eloquent and timely. You can view it here: *“Why We Are Nonchartered”* ([http://www.bcsoschools.org/uploads/9/7/9/1/97918366/why\\_we\\_are\\_nonchartered.docx](http://www.bcsoschools.org/uploads/9/7/9/1/97918366/why_we_are_nonchartered.docx))

Over the last four years, the BCSO has seen three beloved schools leave our membership in favor of chartering. This is happening mainly due to the fact that these schools have sought more scholarship opportunities through the recent EdChoice expansion. Since BCSO schools were not included in that expansion, more of our families are leaving our ranks in search of that *‘significant financial relief’* that the BCSO has been seeking for more than a decade. While we have made great strides, it seems that the

financial strain of families burdened with inflation and economic hardships are dictating to more of our schools that tuition costs at our NCNT schools is the straw that breaks the camel’s back. They give the ultimatum: “Charter and participate in EdChoice or we will go to a school that offers it.” Certainly, there is great temptation to succumb to such logic. None of our schools want to see a drop in enrollment due to finances. Pastor Hamblen’s response was on point regarding this. He says, *“Should not churches that believe in Christian education provide so that no family ever is turned away because they ‘cannot afford it’?”*

It makes one consider how little faith is exercised the area of our school finances. We desire and pray that the parent churches of our BCSO schools never trust in the government to resolve a financial burden that God—in Whom they *should be* trusting—can more than adequately provide. He not only will meet the needs, but He will do FAR more if we but seek and ask Him. *“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,” (Eph. 3:20).*

# Ohio voters to determine legality of abortion and marijuana use

VOTE **NO** NOW (October 11 through November 7) on Ohio Issues 1 and 2

Submitted by Keith Hamblen, BCSO Executive Director

Reasons to vote no on Issue 1  
([ProtectWomenOhio.com](https://protectwomenohio.com)):

- Denies all legal protections to the unborn (amends state constitution)
- No limits on abortion, all the way through 9 months
- No age or safety rules at abortion clinics
- No guardrails to stop men from pressuring women into abortion
- No mention of the word woman
- No parents allowed

**Reasons to vote no on Issue 2:** legalizes recreational use of Marijuana (changes state law)  
The following argument against Ohio Issue 2 was prepared by Senator Dr. Terry Johnson, Senator Mark Romanchuk, and Representative William Seitz:

(<https://www.10tv.com/article/news/politics/elections/ohio-issue-2-marijuana-legalization-2023-november-election/530-0e02c315-10a9-4a16-b6f3-e7c30808de26>):

Issue 2 is a bad plan that puts profits over people. It legalizes an addiction-for-profit industry at the expense of our families and poses substantial risks to the public health and safety of all Ohioans, especially children and adolescents, given marijuana's high potential for abuse. When casting your NO vote, remember that Issue 2:

- Is meant to make a few greedy investors rich, not to make Ohio better.
- Ensures we will be overrun with marijuana, as California and Colorado have proven.
- Recklessly exposes kids to a mind-altering substance in kid-friendly forms, such as candy and cookies.

- Promotes recreational use of a drug that causes withdrawal, distorted perceptions, respiratory damage, anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, and schizophrenia.
- Increases the likelihood that users will endanger others by driving while under the influence.
- Heightens the risk of workplace injuries and employer liability.
- Enables “home grow,” which will inevitably create a cottage industry of “home growers” dealing marijuana laced with even more dangerous substances.
- Undermines and threatens the existence of our burgeoning medical marijuana program.



These, and other societal costs, far outweigh any taxable benefit, especially at a pitiful 10% tax rate. That is why hospitals, doctors, mental-health professionals, faith leaders, parents, educators, business owners, law enforcement, prosecutors, and policymakers alike strenuously oppose Issue 2. This is simply a move to commercialize marijuana for billions in profit. It's today's version of Big Tobacco. We can't trust this industry. More time and research is needed. A better plan is needed. Let's not rush a decision that we'll later regret. On November 7, don't just say NO. Vote NO on Issue 2.

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The *Building & Battling* newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Buckeye Christian School Organization. Its purpose is to disseminate information pertinent to our member schools in efforts to “build” a good work, as well as to serve as a tool for “battling” to preserve and expand civil freedoms to worship God and to educate our children in the way of the Lord. Articles may be submitted for publication, but they will be subject to editing and approval. All submissions can be sent in MS Word (.doc) or PDF format to: [keithhamblen@gmail.com](mailto:keithhamblen@gmail.com)