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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**ETHICS COMMISSION REQUIRES DISCLOSURES FROM COMMUNITY SCHOOL
GOVERNING AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS**

At its meeting on December 3, 2025, the Ohio Ethics Commission determined that community school governing authority members are public officials whose positions involve a substantial and material exercise of administrative discretion over the formulation of public policy and expenditure of public funds and required them to begin filing annual personal financial disclosure statements with the Commission. A community school is controlled by its governing authority whose board members may be compensated up to \$125 per meeting with a maximum of \$5,000 per year.

Executive Director Paul M. Nick stated, "These governing authority boards are similar to traditional public school district boards of education and spend public funds." He added, "Requiring these board members to file annual public disclosure statements promotes transparency and treats them just like traditional public school board and educational service center board members."

In other business, Mr. Nick announced that Commission Chairman Merom Brachman will be honored next week at the annual meeting in Atlanta of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws ("COGEL") with that nonprofit organization's highest honor, the "COGEL Award," for Mr. Brachman's significant contributions to ethics in government. The Council includes 44 state and several local jurisdictions and Canadian authorities who administer and enforce ethics, campaign finance, elections, lobbying and freedom of information act laws. Mr. Brachman said, "This reflects real coordinate work across generations of Ohio duties and staff efforts related to protecting public processes in the widespread coverage the Council represents."

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