Work of CEC moving forward

State Representatives Cheryl Grossman (R-Grove City) and Tracy Heard (D-Columbus) have introduced House Bill 167 which moves forward the recommendations of Mayor Coleman’s Columbus Education Commission. HB 167 preserves our democratically-elected school board and does not in any way impact our collective bargaining rights. The bill contains several recommendations from the Commission’s final report that require legislative approval:

1. A ballot issue where voters would approve or disapprove the creation of the position of an independent auditor for CCS
2. A ballot issue where voters would approve or disapprove a levy of additional millage for CCS granting the school board the authority to determine which charter schools would share these revenues, if any
3. Authorization for the Mayor and Council of Columbus to sponsor charter schools

In her proponent testimony for HB 167 on Tuesday, May 21, CEA President Rhonda Johnson said, “I am pleased to report that the Columbus Education Association participated in the Commission as a full partner. The Commission included our concerns in its final report and urged action to address these preventable (technology) difficulties.”

Additionally, the CEA Board of Governors approved a resolution in support of HB 167 that was sent on to the Legislative Assembly for endorsement.

Thank you, supporters and retirees

Nearly 600 guests attended the 37th Annual CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet on Saturday, May 18, at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. The event celebrates our retirees and others whose efforts on behalf of the Association and public education have exceeded the call of duty.

Vern Miller received the Outstanding Member Award. Miller is the Senior Faculty Representative of Yorktown MS. In addition to serving on the PAR Panel, Vern has been an OEA and NEA delegate, and served in numerous other capacities, including the bargaining team and the Reach Out and Read Committee. He has been a caring guide to all the students who come through his doors, whether they are poor, have learning disabilities, are disadvantaged or are English-language learners.

Distinguished Service Awards went to Kriston Crombie Stotik, Donna Baker, Beth Masters and Rosie Perry. Kriston serves on the OEA Board of Directors and has worked on numerous committees to advance the Association’s education agenda. Donna, a retiring member, is one of the longest serving board governors, representing CEA in many capacities, including the Curriculum Quality Control Council and delegate to the OEA and NEA Representative Assemblies. Beth, longtime Senior Faculty Representative at West HS, has served on the CEA Board of Governors representing middle school teachers and as an OEA and OEA Representative Assembly delegate. Though Rosie has not served on the Board of Governors, she has been one of the most active members of the Association. As a Faculty Representative in a number of buildings, she has served on many panels, including the Local Professional Development Committee.

We honored Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman with the Friend of Education Award for his tireless support of the Columbus City Schools. In December, Mayor Coleman created the Columbus Education Commission to examine the challenges and opportunities facing children in the Columbus City Schools. Mayor Coleman has been out front supporting the teachers in Columbus, opposing Senate Bill 5, supporting collective bargaining. He has worked tirelessly with us, always making sure that teachers have a seat at the table and that our voices are heard.

The Commission’s twenty-five members received the Innovation Award. These “smartest minds” in education wrestled with tough questions affecting the future of our children. In April, the Commission presented its work to the Mayor. The report includes an implementation plan to make sure our community comes together to help all children succeed.

Each year, the CEA District Governors honor a select group of faculty representatives for their hard work and dedication during the year. This year we salute:

For more than three decades, CEA has honored and supported students with scholarships at the banquet. We congratulate this year’s winners and their CEA-member parents:

Christa McAuliffe Scholarship
Allison Byrer, daughter of Jeanne Byrer, Parsons ES

CEA General Scholarship
Ronnie Dawson, Jr., son of Antoinette Dawson, Fairwood ES

CEA-R Scholarships
Tyler J. Zwahlen and Zachary J. Zwahlen, sons of Debbie Zwahlen, Counselor
Third Grade Guarantee update

On Wednesday, May 15, 2013, the Ohio House unanimously passed Senate Bill 21. The bill makes a number of changes to the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. SB 21 changes the teacher qualifications required to teach third graders who have been retained or are under a reading improvement plan.

In the House version of SB 21, third grade students who have

Additionally, first-year teachers may provide reading guaran-
tee services as long as they meet any of the criteria previously
listed and are assigned a mentor who is qualified to provide read-
ing guarantee services.

The House version of the bill allows school districts that can-
not furnish the number of teachers to satisfy the qualifications to submit a staffing plan to the Ohio Department of Education. ODE may grant extensions of district staffing plans through the 2015–2016 school year.

Due to key differences between the House and Senate ver-
sions of the bill, the Senate will vote whether to accept the House version of the bill or to send the bill to conference committee to work out the differences. The bill also contains an emergency clause so that it will become law immediately after being signed by the governor.

Have a great summer

This was one of the most difficult years in the recent history of Columbus City Schools. Even though morale is at an all-time low, teachers held it together. As our schools captured news headlines, it has been tough to remain positive and keep our focus on our students. But you did it.

We honor you and wish you a wonderful, much-deserved break. As you relax, vacation, spend time with family and continue your professional learning, CEA will be there for you, remaining in touch during the summer.

Make sure we have your personal email address and that the school district has your correct home address. CEA’s summer hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. See you in August.

Special notes

- Staff-reduced teachers should attend a job fair at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 29, or Thursday, May 30, at Northgate. You will receive a notice from HR indicating the day you are to attend the job fair. All certificate/license areas will be posted on both days. Multiple-certificated teachers will only have to attend one day, instead of two. Those teachers whose seniority dates are on or before Aug. 15, 2001, will report on Wednesday, May 29, 4:30 p.m. Those whose seniority dates are Aug. 16, 2001, or later, will report on Thursday, May 30, 4:30 p.m.

- We thank the FRs from the following buildings/units who have held the Stop 1622 Ten-Minute Meetings since the last edition of The CEA Voice: Art, Broadleigh ES, CC Prep. School for Girls, Columbus Spanish Imm. K-8, Eastmoor Academy, Huy ES, Livingston ES, Northland HS, PAR, South HS, Southwood K-6, Valleyview ES, Watkins ES, Whetstone HS and Woodward Park MS.

- Elections of CEA Faculty Representatives should be held at the end of the school year. Call Michele Mays at CEA at 253-4731, if you have questions.

- Background checks: If you were last fingerprinted in 2008 (perma-
nent or eight-year certificate holders), you must complete your background check by Friday, May 31. Go to 270 E. State St. between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. You can also go to Northgate Center on Wednesday, May 29, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. A valid driver’s license or a state-issued ID must be presented and a $40 fee be paid by credit or debit card or money order. Checks will not be accepted.

- Register for the Middle School Summer Institute through CIMS/ PD Planner by Wednesday, May 29. The event is June 3 and 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the OSU Ohio Union. If you have questions, contact Northgate at 365-5039.

- Be sure CEA has your personal, non-CCS email address and your cell phone number if you want to receive text messages regarding bar-
gaining updates. Send your information to telcelca@ceaohio.org.

- OEA and the Columbus Crew are offering a ticket discount to mem-
bers on the Crew’s Educator Appreciation Night, Saturday, June 15. Gates open at 6 p.m. and kickoff is at 7:30 p.m. Before the game, stop by the OEA booth near the entry gates to register for a chance to win Crew merchandise, special on-field access, tickets to a future Crew game and more. Tickets are $10 (regularly $27). If you have questions, call Sam Beall at (614) 447-4189. Go to http://bit.ly/CedCrewEdNight2013 to purchase tickets online. Use special offer code, “teacher.”

Finally, we look forward to sharing our victories and struggles in the coming years.

Thanks, Dr. Harris!