

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

March 3, 2008

School issues in the Primary

Amidst the press and attention of the 2008 Democratic and Republican Presidential Candidates Primary Election on March 4, we encourage our members to support and vote *yes* on these important local levies:



Canal Winchester Local Schools

Vote YES on Issue 25

Provides an additional 8.9 mills to meet current operating expenses

Hillard City Schools

Vote YES on Issue 26

Provides an additional 9.5 mills to meet current operating expenses

Reynoldsburg City Schools

Vote YES on Issue 27

Provides 4.9 mills to construct a new elementary and high school and renovations to existing schools, including a half mill for permanent improvements

Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD)

Vote YES on Issue 29

Provides 3.5 mills (1.65 mills replacement and 1.85 mills increase) for community programs and services to children and adults with special mental and developmental needs

Because many of our members who work in Franklin County may reside and vote in other counties, we also encourage members to support the following:

Olentangy Local Schools

Vote YES on Olentangy LSD Bond Issue and Tax Levy

Provides a 1.8 mill bond to construct and furnish new school facilities as well as renovate, repair, and improve existing facilities and 7.9 mill levy to meet current operating expenses

Pickerington Local Schools

Vote YES on Issue 8

Provides 7.9 mills to meet current operating expenses

Joint meeting results

The Joint Labor-Management meeting held Feb. 11 was quite productive. We focused on four areas:

- **Safety drills:** We are expecting a report this week on how the drills are proceeding in individual schools, followed by development of a new plan for the 2008–2009 school year which meets state mandates.
- **Testing:** CEA President Rhonda Johnson and Superintendent Gene Harris reviewed quarterly assessment dates for the third grading period. The testing window was extended at all levels. At the high-school level, only ninth grade students will take the third quarterly assessments. Tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders are exempt due to the OGT. A sub-

committee will address our testing issues and will report on March 10.

- **Year 4 Schools:** We are jointly to consider some of the solutions to encourage progress at these schools, including examining staff-to-student ratios, program focus, alternative governance vs. reconstitution and taking a closer look at the experience levels of building administrators. We also will review the TAP program's first year at Clinton and Starling middle schools. Teachers at those schools may still opt to staff-reduce themselves this year.

- **Job sharing:** The administration assures us that it is committed to honoring the contract as it pertains to job sharing.

Criminal standards

CEA has received questions about the types of offenses for which a person may be barred from the classroom.

Ohio law distinguishes between major and minor offenses. For instance, major offenses include, among many others, murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault, extortion, drug trafficking, theft in office, child abuse and unlawful sexual conduct with a minor. These acts bar a person from working with children.

A second list includes offenses that, while serious, may be allowed on one's record if that person has served time or met other court-ordered requirements. For example, vehicular homicide and non-aggravated assault fall into this category, as does forgery, insurance fraud, domestic violence and drug possession.

The state also considers whether a crime was committed when a person was younger than 18.

If you have questions about how your past may affect your career, call CEA. We have posted the full guidelines at www.ceaohio.org/newsPage.aspx?artID=306.

We are mandated reporters

One very important duty of educators is to recognize and report suspected abuse. We cannot stress enough the importance of following the law in this area.

Any employee who knows or suspects that a child under age 18, or a child under 21 with physical or developmental disabilities, has suffered or faces the threat of physical or mental abuse must report that suspicion to the Franklin County Children Services or to the police, as well as to the building administrator.

The abuse includes inappropriate conduct between school officials and children.

It doesn't matter whether the abuse may have occurred at school, at home or elsewhere.

You may report abuse in person or by phone, by calling Franklin County Children Services at 229-7000 or dialing 645-4545 to reach Columbus Police.



Making our schools better

CEA wants to acknowledge the new members of Teachers for Better Schools. TBS is our political-action arm; a separate entity from CEA, developed to keep its eye on the political arena. It raises money for political candidates, levy and bond campaigns and other ballot issues affecting Columbus teachers and the school community.

We thank TBS members in CEA District 3: Lonnie Anderson, Donna Baker, Eugene Barrett, Russell Boyce, Mario Calhoun, Charmaine Campbell, Molly Carty, Mary Crowley, Linda Duellman, Laura England, Mary Gardner-Smith, Paula Garfield, Brian Hamilton, Jeffrey Hart, Phil Hayes, Judy Herr, Stephen Hildreth, Natalie James, Abby Linsted, Annalese Lynch, Mary Madachy, Carol Neague, Byrd Prillerman, Nolicka Robinson, Kimberly Roth, Natosha Schafer, Steven Schmidt, Wendy Tatman, Rhonda Tilton, Leanna Williams, Dagmar Wolcott, Marcia Woodfill and Stephanie Zimmerman.

To add your name to the list of TBS members, download the membership form at <http://www.ceaohio.org/docs/content/4-TBS%20Membership%20Form.pdf>.



OEA asleep at the wheel

The American Federation of Teachers recently voted to organize educators in Ohio's charter schools. That means that the state's growing number of independent public schools now can form their own OFT bargaining units.

OEA missed this opportunity. The OEA Representative Assembly voted down a motion last spring to organize charter schools. CEA President Rhonda Johnson and other CEA delegates spoke in favor of the motion, but it was soundly defeated.

AFT now will pick up members while NEA loses members to charter schools. The union already represents 50 charter schools in nine states.

We believe OEA has missed a valuable opportunity to increase its numbers.

AP scores an "A"

CEA is pleased to share that Columbus teachers participating in the Advanced Placement program audit have done well. This year, all 77 of the district's AP teachers passed inspection. A new round of authorizations begins Mar. 4. This rigorous process, created in 2006, is designed to maintain the integrity of the college-level standards that are the hallmark of the AP program.

AP courses are offered at 16 Columbus high schools, and some of our teachers conduct classes in more than one subject. To find out more about teaching an AP course, or about the audit process, contact Joan Baker at 365-6626 or jbaker6935@columbus.k12.oh.us.

Legislative update

Public education is under attack on several fronts at the Ohio Statehouse. CEA is working closely with OEA and other partners in public education to monitor and defeat

some of the following bills currently in committees.

HB 423, if passed, would limit the Ohio stipend for National Board Certification to only those teachers who teach math, science, technology or engineering at a high school, or an educator who teaches in a school in Academic Watch or Emergency.

This bill would also cut into our collective bargaining rights. It eliminates three specific topics from discussion at the bargaining table: teacher wage rate differentials (like Gainsharing and PAS), the length of the school day and the academic calendar. CEA has given opposition testimony to this bill, and many of our members have sent postcards to committee members Tracy Heard and Ted Celeste urging them to oppose this bill.

2008 UNCF campaign

Our annual United Negro College Fund (UNCF) drive will run Feb. 20–Mar. 20. Our goal for 2008 is \$115,000. It is important that we, as teachers, support this annual fund. There is no greater gift than the gift of an education. Your donation to the UNCF can deliver that gift to deserving students. Our local UNCF provides many of our students with the scholarship support needed to attend college. Their assistance makes it possible for many to be the first in their family to attend a college or university.



Please give today. Complete your form and return it to your UNCF coordinator. Individuals donating a minimum of \$100 will be entered into a prize drawing for a \$50 gift card.

When we support our young people, we secure our communities, our nation and our future. "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."[®]

Special notes

- One of our members is in dire need of sick leave to deal with a catastrophic illness. **To donate days** to the **catastrophic sick leave bank**, use the standard sick leave form and designate how many days to be donated to the catastrophic sick leave bank. Contact CEA at 253-4731 or Cathy Tysen at 365-5636 with questions.
- The Ohio State Upward Bound program is seeking academic specialists** for this school year and the upcoming six-week summer session. Specialists provide part-time instruction in English, foreign language, math or science. A bachelor's degree is required in the appropriate field, and a teaching certificate is preferred. Fax résumé and cover letter to Alida Abdullah at 292-4603 or e-mail them to alida.abdullah@admin.ohio-state.edu.
- Ohio State's **College of Education** will again offer a **study trip abroad**, this year to **Spain**. Professor Emeritus M. Eugene Gillion will lead 20 participants on the tour from June 9–22 from Madrid to Barcelona, with an optional extension to Bilbao and San Sebastian from June 22–25. Academic credits are available. The cost is \$4,895 per person. For information, call 451-1518 or e-mail genegilliom@mac.com.
- Sign up for a 10-day trip **June 8–18** to the **Austrian Alps**. Beginning in Munich, side trips include Salzburg, Innsbruck, Salzkammergut and the Grossglockner Pass. Tours, entrance fees, transportation, breakfasts, dinners and hotel are included in the price. Call CEA at 253-4731 for more information.
- Participate in the democratic process. **Voting in the CEA Spring Elections** continues through Mar. 10. Ask your SrFR for a ballot.

Request for CEA Scholarship Application Form

Name of member making request: _____

Send application to (CCS address): _____



A completed scholarship application, along with a transcript and two letters of reference, must be returned to the CEA office by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 9, 2008.