

The CEA Voice

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www.ceaohio.org

Volume XXXIX, No. 22

Columbus Education Association

February 2, 2009

Education tops Governor's agenda

Gov. Ted Strickland revealed in his State of the State address Wednesday his plan for significant reform for Ohio's public schools.

His eight-year phase-in plan includes longer school days and improved academic accountability for charter schools.

Both the Ohio Senate and House must approve the plan. The most challenging aspect they face is Strickland's school funding proposal.



Gov. Strickland

The main feature is a lowered cap on property tax revenues now in place to prevent school districts from realizing additional dollars when property valuations increase. The state would make up the \$750 million lost to schools if this happens. Meanwhile, districts could ask their voters for permission to collect more tax revenue.

Strickland said this proposal would help schools "see their tax revenues grow with increased property values, helping schools to keep up with inflation."

OEA President Patricia Frost-Brooks told TV reporters Strickland's entire plan will require discussion with educators, but the association wants to be on board. The plan, she said, is "well thought out."

"His proposals mean the state will assume more of its rightful share of the cost of public education and mitigate the need for new local tax levies," she said.

Strickland said he wants to increase the state's share of education funding from 55 to 59 percent.

Here are additional highlights of Strickland's plan:

- ▶ Funding for enrichment, creativity and innovation to nurture 21st-century skills
- ▶ Staffing to address achievement gaps and dropout rates
- ▶ Additional school nurses and community outreach teams for every school
- ▶ Elimination of the Ohio Graduation Test in favor of multiple measures
- ▶ Expansion of preschool programs and funding of universal all-day kindergarten
- ▶ Expanded opportunities for teachers to share best practices with their colleagues
- ▶ Phasing in of 20 additional school days
- ▶ Stronger financial and academic accountability measures for public and charter schools, including an annual financial report card from each school district.

Although the governor did not elaborate on funding for his plan, he did say that fees and fines may increase and departmental budgets will need trimming. He has acknowledged that the state could experience a multi-billion-dollar shortfall starting July 1. Strickland said he expects Ohio to receive at least \$3.4 billion in federal stimulus money to help balance its budget.

Master Teachers designated

We are very proud to announce the district's first Master Teacher designees. As defined by the Ohio Department of Education, a Master Teacher demonstrates excellence inside and outside the classroom through consistent leadership and focused collaboration to maximize student learning.



The Master Teacher Program is a way to recognize and honor teachers who go above and beyond district expectations. It creates a resource of teacher leaders to advance the profession and encourages high-quality teachers to remain in the classroom. One hundred thirty-eight (138) teachers have attained the designation of Master Teacher, 114 by virtue of their designation as a National Board Certified Teacher. CEA congratulates the following members:

Keith Adams, Maria Agrelo-Gonzalez, Amy Arnold, Traci Arway, Christine Ault, Terra Baker, Christel Barna, Stephanie Baumgarten, Maree Bednar, Sherrie Berry, Teresa Bombrys, Annamaria Bory-Ackers, Kristin Brant, Karen Brennan-Rhoades, Jacquinette Brown, Sandra Browne, Joan Bucy, Nancy Buttermann, Donald Cain, Yehfen Chin, Staci Church, Belinda Clark, Lisa Clinger, Pamela Condo, Elizabeth Courtney, Mira Cremeans, Kriston Crombie, Julie Crosby, Alan D'Aurora, Julia DeGarmo, Deborah Downey, James Duffield, David Fawcett, Katherine Fedun, John Fox, Tara Fox, Julie Freeman, Teresa Gampp, Jill Grimm, Kristen Groom, Cheryl Gulling, Tahnda Hawkins, Philip Hayes, Tracie Helmbrecht, Laticha Henry, Marcy Heyman, Margilee Hilson, Jillian Hinkson, Lisa Hobson, Jada Jackson, Lori Jackson, Krista Jacob, Donna Jarrett, Dorothy Jones, Elizabeth Keller, Jennifer Kinkela, Kevin Kinney, Martha Klingshirn, Georgia Lang, Kristen Leigh, Lila Levendoski, Valerie Long, Pamela Luft, Beverly Maddox, David Marhofer, Wendy Mattucci, Catherine Maxwell Atwood, Judith McCombs, Janice McDonald, Martha McFerran Dahya, Wyk McGowan, Mark McGuire, Jennifer Meade, Rebecca Meske, Eddy Messick, Kyle Miller, Deborah Mills, Debra Minto, Lata Mohan, Betty Morss, Carol Moss, Elizabeth Motika, Carole Moyer, Carol Neague, Amy Nolan, Amy Novak, Kelly O'Brien, Carene O'Connor, Bradley Oglesby, Georgia O'Hara, Jennifer Ozebek, Wendi Pifer, Jacqueline Pisauero, Joanna Porreca, Charlotte Price, Dena Pyle, Rebecca Rammel, Patricia Ranalli, Kelle Rapp, Jan Reitzel, Rhonda Rice, Karen Richards, Tyree Rivers, Kristin Roth, Jane Roth, Casey Sanders, Mickie Sebenoler, Lisa Seiberling, Mary Shenk, Phyllis Sherman, Carrie Shivers, Karen Shoemaker, Olivia Siegfried, Leslie Sims, Sunita Singh, Micheolle Smith, Pamela Snyder, Mary Strahan, Kelly Susi, Beth Taylor, Julie Thomas, Susan Thompson, Thomas Trang, Sara Vance, James Velo, Christine Warner, Teresa Weidenbusch, Kimberly Weiss, Kathleen Welton, Natalie West, Rochelle Wilkerson, Olympia Williams, Scott Wilson, Constance Workman and Tara Wrighter.

Contract survey for school calendar

CEA and the Board will be setting the school calendar for the next school year. We would be interested in your comments and suggestions for the calendar. This school year, we have had a traditional calendar with a two-week winter break in December and early January and a six-day spring break, including Good Friday and the week after Easter. Please submit your comments or suggestions to Carol Wagner at CEA by calling 253-4731, or e-mailing her at cwagner@ceaohio.org.

Teacher evaluation process

This is the time of year when administrators push to complete their observations for the formal evaluation process. Sections 401.04–08 of the *CEA Master Agreement* and the accompanying syllabus (page 235) spell out the procedures for teacher evaluation.

You may request, but are not required to request, a pre-evaluation conference. (CEA recommends that you make this request.) The primary purpose of a pre-evaluation conference is to discuss procedural matters related to the evaluation process and to allow both the teacher and the evaluator to discuss philosophies and goals.

Administrators may conduct from one to three pre-arranged observations and are permitted to conduct a maximum of three additional, unannounced observations. The total number of unannounced observations cannot exceed the total number of observations arranged in advance. At least one of the classroom observations should be a minimum of 15 minutes in duration. The observations should be conducted openly with the observer visible to the teacher.

Administrators are required to meet with you to discuss the evaluation report, and you are entitled to a copy of all written evaluations or reports; they must be dated and signed by the teacher. This does not mean that you agree with the evaluation. The teacher is also permitted to add comments to any evaluation prior to its placement in a teacher's permanent file.

Know your rights under the *CEA Contract*. Contact CEA if you have a concern about your evaluation. Remember, CEA can challenge a negative review only on the basis of procedural errors. It is imperative that you know and understand the rules under which observations must be conducted.

Thank a school counselor

National School Counseling Week, "School Counselors: Making a Difference," will be celebrated from February 2–6, 2009, to focus attention on the unique contributions of professional school counselors.

School counselors and school counseling programs work to address the needs of all students and enable them to achieve success in school, as well as to become responsible and productive members of our society. School counselors provide many services including: college, academic and personal counseling and guidance; family support; community agency linkages; and intervention collaborations.

Take a moment to thank these licensed Columbus school professionals: 50 high school counselors, 25 middle school counselors and 39 elementary school counselors.

Know the contract: substitute duties

Substitutes help sustain learning in the absence of a teacher. Your building should have on hand information folders to help the subs navigate through the school building and the school day. Be helpful and friendly to substitutes so they will return to your building.

However, we realize there are days when there are not

enough substitutes to fill all of the vacancies. Section 209.04 of your contract addresses the situation that may require you to take extra students when a colleague's class does not have a sub.

In the elementary schools, students are divided among the staff. Elementary teachers are compensated six times three-quarters of the supplemental hourly rate [$6 \times (3/4) \times$ supplemental hourly rate] per day divided equally among the teachers receiving students. You do not get paid for keeping your own students during a scheduled art, music or PE class because you are already being paid for teaching your students during that day.

Middle and high school teachers asked to cover classes during their assigned conference periods shall be paid six times three-quarters of the supplemental hourly rate for each 45-minute period.

If a teacher leaves in the middle of the day and is charged a portion of a sick day, teachers receiving students will receive the supplemental pay for the remaining time in the school day.

When you cover a class or accept students as outlined above, document the date, time, and other details; and make certain that the proper paperwork is sent from the office to the CCS Treasurer's office. If you are not compensated for covering a class, let your administrator know. If you need assistance, contact CEA.

Take advantage of NEA Member Benefits

CEA and NEA Member Benefits business partners are sponsoring a free workshop, *What I Want My Loved Ones To Know: A practical look at life and family preparedness*. Join us Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 4:15 p.m. at the CEA office, 929 E. Broad Street.

You will hear about matters which will be important to you and loved ones in the event of an accident, illness, or death. Discussion includes the importance of having a will; a durable power of attorney for health care; the kinds of medical treatment you may or may not want; life, disability, and long term-care insurance; making sure your loved ones know where to find your important papers; and much more. Call Ezetta Murray at 253-4731 to register. Refreshments will be provided.

Special notes

- CEA Elections:** Thanks to all who have decided to run for CEA governor or OEA/NEA delegate positions. Campaigning will continue through Feb. 13. Voting will take place in all buildings/units from Feb. 17–Mar. 2, and votes will be tabulated on Mar. 3.
- Apply by **Feb. 14** for two open positions on the **OEA Board of Directors: Capital District 1** and an unexpired term for **Capital District 2**. Contact Becky Slaughter at OEA (227-3169) to obtain a declaration form.
- The **Capital District Representative Assembly** meeting date has been **changed to Tuesday, Apr. 28**, from Thursday, Apr. 30. The time and place remains unchanged: 5 p.m. at the STRS Building on the 7th Floor.
- Deadline:** Return the **Spring 2009 Fee Waiver applications to Northgate by Friday, Feb. 6, 5 p.m.** If you are a Priority I or II status, include the proper documentation with your fee waiver application. **Your priority status will change without the proper documentation.**
- Due to the cancellation of school on Wednesday, Jan. 28, the **LPDC** was unable to meet. Their **next meeting** will occur on **Wednesday, Feb. 11**. All IPDPs and CEU requests submitted in late December and January will be reviewed at that meeting. If you have an emergency situation connected to renewing a license expiring in 2009, e-mail Dean Fowls at dfowls@columbus.k12.oh.us.
- Blue Jacket Tickets** are available from the CEA office for the following date: **Feb. 3, St. Louis (2)**. Call CEA at 253-4731 to purchase tickets.