

The Voice

Rhonda Johnson, President

www.ceaohio.org

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NEA: Obama's vision welcomed

With the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, President Obama has made the largest investment of federal funds in the history of public education. More than \$130 billion will be spent to improve the state of our educational system in the next two years.

In his recent "Cradle to Career" speech to the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, President Obama expounded on his education plans revealed in his address to the Joint Session of Congress.



Obama's plan calls for proposals the National Education Association has championed, including improved professional development, mentoring new and less effective teachers, requiring universal Pre-K and reforming *No Child Left Behind*.

President Obama's call for financially rewarding teachers for improved student achievement does not call for federally-mandated pay tied to student test scores. In fact, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan supports school-wide bonuses to avoid teachers competing against each other. Both Secretary Duncan and President Obama have said that performance pay programs will be developed with teachers, not imposed on them.

"We believe President Obama's five-pillar plan—which encompasses universal Pre-K to higher education and everything in between—gets us closer toward the goal of great public schools for every student," said NEA President Dennis Van Roekel. "We look forward to working with President Obama and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to transform public education to prepare students to compete in a global economy."

School Nurses

Governor Strickland's education plan in House Bill 1 calls for the use of Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) instead of ODE Licensed School Nurses (Registered Nurses) in Ohio's schools. The CEA Board of Governors unanimously passed a resolution on Mar. 26 in support of the continued utilization of ODE licensed school nurses to meet the healthcare needs of the students of CCS. The resolution will be voted on by the Legislative Assembly on Apr. 2.



Our licensed school nurses have helped CCS to increase student achievement by providing for the emotional, mental and physical well-being of our students. In addition to providing care to staff in the building, they also help con-

nect our students' families with needed healthcare resources. ODE requires school nurses to have a minimum of a four-year college degree and additional graduate-level coursework to obtain a license. By contrast, LPNs have one year of post-high school education and no ODE license.

The certification of school nurses enables them to practice independently, a vital component of meeting the diverse medical demands of our school setting. School nurses are able to conduct mandatory staff trainings on topics such as the Heimlich maneuver, blood-borne pathogens, CPR, childhood abuse and first aid. School nurses lead schools in emergency/disaster management plans and create Individual Health Plans and Emergency Action Plans for students with serious or chronic medical conditions. An LPN cannot practice independently, conduct training nor create needed medical plans for students on their own. LPNs are required by law to work under the supervision of an RN.

"Imagine if we replaced most of our classroom teachers with instructional assistants," said CEA President Rhonda Johnson, "and in a downtown cubicle, we had one teacher to 'supervise' the instructional assistants. Our students would not receive high-quality instruction. Our students will not receive high-quality medical care if LPNs are allowed to replace licensed school nurses."

Contact your State Representative to demonstrate the importance of RNs to help safeguard the well-being of the students of CCS. Members may locate their State Representative by going to www.house.state.oh.us/.

Participate in The CEA Blog *Speak Out*, and share how your licensed school nurse has helped care for your students. Go to <http://blog.ceaohio.org/wordpress/index.php/2009/03/25/speak-out-support-the-registered-nurses-of-ccs/>.

Reach Out and Read wraps up

A cart of books donated to the school library, goodie bags for every student, a performance by the Northland High School Jazz Band and a host of other great surprises were in store for the students at Parsons ES. March 13 marked the Nationwide Children's Hospital's Reach Out and Read's Celebration. OEA Vice President Bill Leibensperger had students recite a pledge to commit to read, and WBNS-10TV's Angela Pace read to the students. CEA President Rhonda Johnson was in attendance to witness the event co-sponsored by CEA. This event wrapped up CEA's Reach Out and Read (ROR) Community Book Drive.



ROR Committee Members: Robin Lucas, Vern Miller, Tracey Johnson and Faye Love

As a result of the generosity of the membership, CEA collected approximately 3,200

books valued at more than \$20,500. With more books coming in daily, this is an increase over last year's donations.

CEA, Nationwide Children's Hospital and the community applaud and thank everyone for their generosity, especially during these difficult economic times.

Special thanks go to Alexa Reck and Barnes & Noble for their generous donation and support of this year's campaign. Thanks go to Rick Eckler of Northland HS and the jazz band for providing the entertainment at the celebration. Thanks go to CEA-R for conducting their own book drive for ROR. We would also like to thank CEA's ROR committee members Chair Tracey Johnson (CEA Office), Faye Love (Linden ES), Robin Lucas (Winterset ES) and Vern Miller (Yorktown MS) for their assistance.

Our collective efforts will help make it possible for the children in our community to start school ready to learn.

5th grade trip to Freedom Center

For the second year, the district is sponsoring the fifth-grade field trip to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati. All fifth-grade students are expected to participate.

The trip is a wonderful opportunity for our students, some of whom have never been outside Columbus. Parents and teachers will accompany students on the trip to see the exhibit, "The Coming of the Civil War." This tour meets Ohio history standards and benchmarks for Grade 5.

Teachers are asked to prepare students for the trip by using the pre-visit activity packet provided by the Curriculum Department. Teachers are also asked to serve as chaperones and to help recruit parents to serve as chaperones. Several travel-day options are being provided this year to allow smaller groups to see the exhibit for longer periods.

Working with the administration, CEA has agreed that the field trip does amount to an extended day and is beyond the normal teacher workday for those involved. Teachers who choose to go on the trip may receive flex time for the extra hours, for instance, arriving to work later or leaving earlier on a particular day. Teachers must coordinate the flex time with their building administrators.

Bargaining update

The members of the CEA Bargaining Team met with the Board's team at Ft. Hayes MEC on Sat., Mar. 21. A mediator from the State Employment Relations Board helped to facilitate the all-day meeting.

Under the Enhanced Conventional Bargaining (ECB) model, both teams present their bargaining issues to the other side. Each side is allowed to ask questions that help them to better understand the other side's issues. No positions on the issues are taken at this point in the bargaining process. Both sides exchanged their economic and non-economic issues.

The CEA Bargaining Team is in the process of developing the Association's interests on the Board's issues. Read *The CEA Voice* and your e-mail for negotiations updates. If CEA does not have your non-CCS e-mail address, send it to bhern@ceaohio.org.

Students train for advocacy

Ohio Youth Voices is sponsoring a conference on Wednesday, Apr. 1, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at East High School. The conference will cultivate student peer leadership on a number of school issues to be presented to state policymakers. Students will present petitions to state lawmakers in mid-April and testify about items on the Ohio Youth Agenda, including changes to the OGT, dropout prevention and im-

plementation of a full arts and music curriculum.

Students will prepare to talk to prospective high school teachers currently enrolled in college about how to connect to the backgrounds and cultures of the students they will teach. For more information, call Michael Charney, Ohio Youth Voices Director, at (216) 548-4059.

Proposed texts on view

The Columbus School Board will vote May 5 on textbook adoptions for social studies at all levels and for high school and middle school science. The Board will vote Apr. 7 on books for health and for career/technical education.

You may view the health and career books through today until 2 p.m. at these locations:

- ▶ Lower-level hallway at CCS central offices, 270 E. State St.
- ▶ CCS Professional Library, Schools Distribution Center, 737 E. Hudson St.

You may view the rest of the books 9 a.m.–2 p.m. weekdays Apr. 1–30 at:

- ▶ Lower-level hallway at CCS central offices, 270 E. State St.
- ▶ Beechcroft High School, 61 Beechcroft Rd.
- ▶ Eastmoor Academy, 417 S. Weyant Ave.
- ▶ Marion-Franklin High School, 1265 Koebel Rd.
- ▶ West High School, 179 S. Powell Ave.

Article 211: Round 2 begins

Postings for Round 2 should be online Wednesday, Apr. 1. Round 1 went smoothly, but we received some complaints of alleged violations of the 211 process.

It was reported that one principal tried to hold a teacher to a three-year commitment that does not exist. Another inquired about a teacher's health, a violation of HIPAA laws. A third principal offered a job to an employee before the posting process closed.

If you are aware of other violations, call CEA so we don't experience these types of problems in Round 2.

Remember, outside candidates cannot apply for positions unless they have letters of commitment (LOC) from HR. Laid-off teachers cannot participate unless they have been recalled.

NEA Member Benefits seminar

CEA and NEA Member Benefits business partners are sponsoring a free workshop, "Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire." Join us Tuesday, Mar. 31, at 4:15 p.m. at the CEA Office, 929 E. Broad Street. Identity theft, credit fraud and consumer scams are increasingly common events. In fact, one in four people in the U.S. will fall victim. If it happens to you, what are the first things you would do? If you don't know, you need to attend this session.

Hear about tips to protect yourself against identity theft and fraud, as well as steps to take to minimize the damage if you should become a victim. Refreshments will be provided. Call Ezetta Murray at 253-4731 to register.

Special notes

- ❑ **Alternative interview panels** have been approved for: **Indian Springs ES** and **Ohio Ave. ES**. If we missed listing your school, contact Rhonda Johnson so she can approve your alternative interview panel.
- ❑ **Certificated teachers** now may **apply online** for **summer school positions** at all levels, OGT tutoring and summer bridge. The **deadline is Thursday, Apr. 9, at 4:30 p.m.** Visit www.columbus.k12.oh.us and click on *Staff*. For questions, call 365-5010.