

# The Voice

Rhonda Johnson, President

[www.ceaohio.org](http://www.ceaohio.org)

Volume XXXIX, No. 36

Columbus Education Association

May 18, 2009

## Association members rally at the Schott

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan hasn't been in the job long. But he already is making the rounds assuring teachers and families that education is important to the President and to Congress, and that federal stimulus dollars will aid efforts to improve public education.



Education Secretary Arne Duncan with Sen. Sherrod Brown and Gov. Ted Strickland at education rally at the Schottenstein Center.

Duncan appeared May 9 on the lawn of the Schottenstein Center at Ohio State at a rally urging public support of Gov. Ted Strickland's education plan, House Bill 1. Speakers addressed a crowd of several hundred teachers and education supporters, including many OEA members from throughout the state, about Ohio's economic imperative to fund education, particularly in high-needs rural and urban districts.

Duncan, the former CEO of the Chicago Public Schools, did not endorse or address elements of Strickland's plan, saying later that is not his aim. But he told the crowd, "Public education is the civil rights issue of our generation."

Duncan spoke of helping more students attend college; of using data systems to track student performance and help schools; rewarding excellent teachers and principals and sharing best practices; and of standardizing requirements across states. He emphasized that unions must be part of the reform process.

Speakers at the rally included C.J. Prentiss, Director of Ohio's special initiative aimed at young African-American men; Crane Plastics CEO Tammy Crane; Ohio Teacher of the Year Jennifer Walker; CCS Superintendent Gene Harris; and OSU President E. Gordon Gee. They praised Strickland's efforts.

The rally included an emotional speech by Lamar Turner, an East HS student, one of five sons of a single mother, about the impacts mentoring and academic support have made on his life. Nathan DeRolph, the former Perry County student whose name is on the original Ohio school funding lawsuit, spoke of the needs he still sees in rural schools.

Strickland's plan will rely in large part on federal stimulus money. Duncan told the crowd that already \$10 billion has gone out for education programs, including \$5 billion for early childhood access and \$70 billion for K-12 initiatives.

Strickland told the crowd that the state plans to fund 61 percent of the education budget in the next biennium and reduce the tax burden on homeowners. The Ohio Senate is currently debating the proposal's components.

## OEA RA recap

Nearly 90 members from the Columbus Education Association represented Capital District at the Ohio Education Association Representative Assembly (OEA RA) on May 8-9. The OEA RA is the top governing body of the state association, and is comprised of more than 1,300 delegates elected by local education associations throughout the state.



Delegates to the RA were addressed by Governor Ted Strickland, speaking on behalf of his education plan for Ohio. "There is no excuse for inaction," stated Strickland, referencing the upcoming Senate vote on substitute H.B. 1. "Thirty-six states have cut their education funding, but not Ohio, because we've made education the top priority."

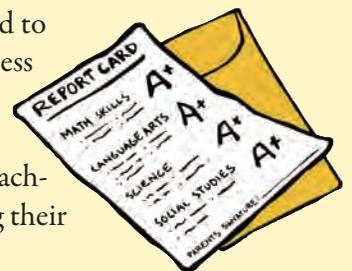
The Representative Assembly later passed a resolution of support for Substitute House Bill 1. This resolution directs OEA Officers, Board of Directors and staff to use the association's full capacity for advocacy to promote and secure passage of this important legislation.

In addition, the Capital District contributed more than \$6,800 to the OEA Fund For Children and Public Education. Capital was recognized as the top contributor of the 10 districts that comprise OEA.

## Access elementary grade card at home

In order to improve CCS elementary teachers' ability to access eSIS Standards Based Report Cards from home, district departments have responded to member concerns to provide access to the system.

The following requirements are being provided to support teachers' home access to eSIS utilizing their personal computers:



- 1 Operating System: Must be Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 2000 SP1 or PowerMac G4/G5
- 2 Web Browser: Must be Internet Explorer 5, 6 or 7
- 3 Computer memory: Must have at least 128Mb of RAM
- 4 Central Processing Unit (CPU): Must be at least 300 MHz

A guide to installing eSIS on home computers can be downloaded at [www.columbus.k12.oh.us/tlc](http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/tlc). Additionally, members were sent an e-mail on May 15 containing a detailed, step-by-step procedure to install eSIS on their home computers.

If you have questions about installing eSIS, contact the Help Desk at 365-8425, Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

## Change isn't easy for K, 6, 9

Students entering middle school, and those becoming freshmen in high school, often become anxious as they enter new environments with more rules, expectations and social groups. Kindergarten students, too, often become tense as they leave home for a full day with a teacher and peers they may never have met.

Many schools offer orientation and transition activities to make new students feel welcomed and connected to their new environments. This fall, the district will provide additional support for students entering kindergarten and grades six and nine district wide.

Elementary schools will provide kindergarten orientations during the first three days of the new school year, offering either individual parent/student sessions or group meetings of eight or nine students on each of the three days.

Sixth- and ninth-grade students will get to meet their new teachers, learn their new schedules and find out about new programs at special orientation activities set up by their new schools.

The district will provide transportation, breakfast and lunch for all students and extended time for teachers. We hope those of you working in these grade levels will work closely with your principal and with parents to provide a comforting and welcoming experience for these students. This should help alleviate stress, help improve student behavior and keep students focused on learning and achievement.

## Save a Teacher, Save a Dollar—classified ads

Have a few items to sell? Do you have a landscaping service, paint, install carpeting or build decks as a side business? Are you a business consultant for Avon, Mary Kay or Watkins products? If so, we have a deal for you!

CEA Economic Services Committee is designing a link on the CEA Web site that will feature free classified ads for any CEA/CEA-R member or their spouse or partner. To take part in this economic service, you will need to fill out a form and send it in to CEA. The forms are not quite ready yet but will be soon.

So get your creative juices flowing; and write an ad for your business, service or any item you want to sell. Ads for items to sell will be up on a month-by-month basis or until you let us know the item has been sold. Ads for businesses or services you will provide can be left up for an entire school year or until you tell us to take the ad off the Web site.

*Save a Teacher, Save a Dollar* is coming soon. Continue to look for more information in *The Voice*. Remember, this is a benefit for you at no charge.

## Textbook adoptions

The district is moving to adopt business/career/technical, foreign language and middle school and high school reading language arts textbooks and materials. The first step in this process is to nominate teachers to serve on each of the respective committees. Teachers will be nominated and selected by Aug. 14 and will serve on the selection committees from October through February.

Section 504.01 of the Board/CEA Agreement outlines the process for the selection of committee members: The principal and ABC shall conduct an election of one teacher nominee for the following selection areas. A special ABC meeting may have to be called for this purpose.

Teachers nominated should be currently teaching in the following subject areas and levels:

- High School Business Courses, Career Center Courses, and Career Center Technical Courses

- French, Spanish, Latin, German, Italian or Japanese

- Grade 6–8 Reading Language Arts or

- Grade 9–12 Reading Language Arts

Teacher selections should be reported on the nomination form and sent via school mail to: Rhonda Johnson, CEA Office, no later than Friday, May 29.

## TAM/PAM online grade book

There seems to be some confusion and misrepresentation of the Association's position on online grade books. The Association is not opposed to using technology to communicate better with parents. We do not oppose teachers' use of technology to compute and analyze students' grades. However, we do not support implementation of a district-wide system unless it is collectively bargained. We do support individual schools' requests to the Reform Panel to pilot the district-supported online grade book (TAM/PAM).

The following e-mail message from CEA President Rhonda Johnson was sent to Instructional Information Services Director Paul Lucas to explain our position:

Paul,

I am writing in response to the meetings you have scheduled regarding the TAM/PAM implementation.

Let me begin by stating in no uncertain terms that CEA has not agreed to mandatory implementation of TAM/PAM for any school or for any individual bargaining unit member.

You may hold meetings with anyone who wants to attend. However, the purpose of the meeting should be for demonstrating the TAM/PAM. In order for TAM/PAM [*sic*] to be piloted (implemented) in any school, the staff must vote to do so. The vote must be conducted by the CEA Senior Faculty Representative. Once the staff votes to pilot (implement) TAM/PAM, only those staff members who volunteer to use TAM/PAM may be expected to do so. System-wide implementation of the TAM/PAM is a mandatory subject of bargaining and should have been brought to the table by the administration/board.

If the above information represents a misunderstanding on my part, please let me know.

Thank you,  
Rhonda Johnson, President  
Columbus Education Association

If you have any questions regarding the online grade book pilot or how to access the Reform Panel, please call the CEA office at 253-4731.

## Special notes

- Make your reservation for the **CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet, Friday, May 29**, honoring retirees, Faculty Representatives, Association colleagues and friends. Contact **Judy Nelson** at CEA at 253-4731.
- The **UNCF Campaign runs through May 28**. Donated dollars provide students with scholarship support. Give \$100 or more and you will be entered to win a \$50 gift certificate. Call **Ezetta Murray** at 253-4731 for more information.
- Teachers interested in taking their professional growth and accomplishment to the next level should plan to attend an orientation session to learn about the **National Board Certification process** and qualify for financial support from the district or the State of Ohio. **The last session this school year is on May 19, 4:30-7 p.m.** at Northgate Center. Register on PD Planner to attend.
- Bargaining update**—Members of the CEA Core Negotiations Team joined the Board's Negotiations Team for the third session on May 12–13. Both sides continued dialogue on each other's proposals begun nearly five weeks ago. The next session is scheduled for May 22.
- Join the PAR office in celebrating **Gail Heffner-Charles'** 37-year career with CCS at Abuelo's Restaurant in Easton, **Friday, June 5, from 3–5:30 p.m.**