

The Voice

Rhonda Johnson, President

www.ceahio.org

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Columbus Education Association

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This area of
The Voice
has been
intentionally
left blank because
it contains a
political endorsement.

School closings looming

By now, members are aware that a number of district schools will be closed at the end of the 2009–2010 school year. Over the past eight years, enrollment in CCS has dropped by more than 10,000 students. The district's bond and operating levy was passed in the November 2008 General Election. One of the promises CCS made to help ensure its passage was that six buildings would be closed by June 2011.

Recently, Supt. Harris released a preliminary list of schools under consideration for closure. They include: Beery MS, Buckeye MS, Clinton MS, Indianola MS, Medina MS, Eastmoor MS, Johnson Park MS, Sherwood MS,

Franklin Alternative MS, Monroe MS, Deshler ES, Douglas ES, Fair ES, Heyl ES, Literature Based@Hubbard ES, Moler ES and Parkmoor ES.

This list is only preliminary—it is not final. Further discussion and analysis of the preliminary list will be undertaken by the CCS External Oversight Committee for Student Reassignment and Consolidation (EOCSRC). The EOCSRC consists of a number of city financial institutions, business and community leaders and also includes CEA President Rhonda Johnson.

After the discussion and analysis of schools on the preliminary list, community meetings in November will be held for district residents' public comments. Dr. Harris will formally recommend to the Board of Education in December which schools should be closed. The Board is expected to vote before the end of the calendar year.

"School closings are tumultuous and painful for everyone involved," stated CEA President Rhonda Johnson, "but CEA will fully protect the contractual rights of members throughout this process."

Contract language regarding previous school closings and consolidations can be found in the *Master Agreement* (p.152).

Gainsharing Service Plans

A Gainsharing Service Plan is an agreement between a teacher on special assignment, a member not assigned to a specific site or a member assigned to multiple buildings and the principal and staff of a school building. To be eligible for Gainsharing funds, a member must complete a Service Plan and submit the plan to the school for approval. A member's plan may include working with a small group of students before or after school on a weekly basis, working with a teacher on a special project or working with the school on student attendance. The plan should relate to the ASIP goals and extend beyond regular job responsibilities. Once the principal and SrFR signs the plan, the member should send the completed form to Cathy Tysen, CCS Office of Labor Relations.

Teachers who are assigned to multiple school buildings and are at those buildings at least one school day per week, can choose to align with one of those buildings by filling out a Gainsharing Service Plan form. If that building receives Gainsharing, the teacher would receive 100 percent of the award.

Teachers who are assigned to multiple buildings and do not fill out the form, will be awarded a percentage of whatever your work locations receive. For example, if a nurse works at School A for three days and School B for two days, the nurse would receive 60 percent Gainsharing for School A and 40 percent for School B.

The Gainsharing Service Plan form is available from the Labor Relations Office (365-5636), on the CCS Intranet and on the CEA Web site at <http://bit.ly/2LsXw3>. The deadline is Friday, Nov. 6.

Thank you for giving

When this *Voice* went to press, the following schools had turned in contributions to assist the community as part of this

year's United Way fund drive. CEA would like to thank: Academic Acceleration Academy, Alpine ES, Arlington



Park ES, Binns ES, Cassady ES, Clearbrook MS, Clinton ES, Clinton MS, Colerain ES, CSIA K-8, Como ES, Deshler ES, Devonshire ES, East HS, Eastmoor MS, École Kenwood K-8, Fairmoor ES, Forest Park ES, Gables ES, Heyl ES, Hilltonia MS, Hudson St. Warehouse, Leawood ES, Liberty ES, Lindbergh ES, Linden-McKinley HS, Lit. Based @Hubbard ES, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, North Linden ES, Northland HS, Oakmont ES, Olde Orchard ES, OT/PT, Psychologists, Salem ES, Shepard Center, Sherwood MS, Sullivant ES, Trevitt ES, Valley Forge ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Watkins ES and Winterset ES

Because of your contributions, families have access to vital services ensuring them a better quality of life.

Capital Day awe-inspiring

On Friday, Oct. 16, more than 1,100 Columbus educators gathered at the Hyatt Regency for an inspiring program of professional learning. The event provided the opportunity to connect with old friends, engage with new acquaintances and increase understanding of teaching and learning in a professional environment rivaling any national conference. Capital District President Tai Hayden, CEA President Rhonda Johnson and Superintendent Gene Harris greeted the crowd to set the stage for Capital Day's important role in teachers' ongoing professional development.

Quoting Greg Mild, "The staff development office heard your cries of 'these kids are driving me crazy' and brought clinical neuropsychologist Dr. Paul Nussbaum as our first keynote." Dr. Nussbaum challenged each participant to re-envision schools as brain health centers that have extraordinary power to impact students to impact society for the next 70 years. Teachers virtually prevent Alzheimer's disease in the way they structure their classrooms to stimulate imagination and inspire creativity, as well as expose new and old information in novel, complex and personalized ways.

Two learning sessions continued our district's focus on *Relationships, Relevance, and Rigor* by bringing local and nationally known speakers to share their knowledge for application in our schools. The illustrious list included Jeff Cabot, Roger Corey, Fran Frazier, Kim Geddie, Ed Golden, Lee Hall, Renee Martin, Tyrone Olverson, Carol Robinson, Angie Wellman, James White, Raymond Winbush and members of our own ESL department. Specific, practical and applicable knowledge occurred in each session as educators shared their stories and experiences across grade-levels and schools in self-selected sessions.

After a delicious lunch provided by CEA, Dr. Adolph Brown, III got everyone's attention and taught us that there are 4 R's: *Rigor, Relevance, Relationships and Real Talk*. Real talk is something we need to do more of in our schools. More is caught than taught; behavior is either learned or allowed; instead of happiness, aim for fulfillment; personalized instruction is differentiated instruction. We should include all students in our wheelbarrow to

carry them into their futures. Dr. Brown reminded us not to let anyone steal your dance—your passion.

Throughout the day, a variety of vendors were on-site to share their products. Free flu shots were provided until the supply ran out. At the end of the day, door prizes were awarded to the following lucky winners: **Laptop/Printer Bundle:** Brittany Herb, Woodward Park MS; **iPod:** Katherine Gamble, Eakin ES; **Gift Cards:** Naida Cephas, Marion-Franklin HS; Elizabeth Williams, West HS; Alicia Fair-Foust, Wedgewood MS; Nicole Goodson, Duxberry Park ES; Carolyn Jarvi, Linden Pre-K-6; Jeannette Johnson, Stewart ES; Constance Benner, Colerain ES; Lillie Lay, 6th Street Annex; Alan Stephens, Neil Ave; **Gift Bags:** Crystal Adams, Deshler ES; Clifton Gregory, Linden-McKinley HS; **Gas Card:** Laura Boyer, Neil Ave. Ctr.; **Books:** Zachary Riggs, New Hire; Paula Vanfossen-Brown, Neil Ave. Ctr.; **Word Card Set:** Tina Williams, Shepard Service Ctr.; **Workbook:** Maureen Coleman, Shepard Service Ctr.

Insurance enrollment process stressing

The enrollment period for CCS benefits ends Nov. 6. This year, everyone must re-enroll to be eligible for benefits. This is an uncomfortable process for many people. Each person must meet with an enrollment counselor, and some of these appointments are not going so well.

Please share your experiences, good and bad with CEA. Send your stories to tellcea@ceaohio.org. We will share members' concerns with the administration. Comments should be very specific. Provide names and give dates.

To recap, here's the process:

- All eligible employees who want medical coverage must re-enroll in the Core Benefits program that packages medical, dental and vision coverage.
- Enrollment will be in-person with an enrollment counselor at your school or work location. You must meet with the counselor even if you plan to waive coverage. If you are having difficulties scheduling a conference at a school site, call 365-6475 to schedule a time at CEC.
- If you are making changes such as adding dependents to your plan, bring a copy of the first page of your most recent Form 1040 tax return, marriage certificates, birth certificates, adoption award letters, child-support orders and domestic-partner affidavits.
- Several new voluntary benefits begin this school year: universal life insurance with long-term care benefits, short-term disability insurance, accident insurance, critical illness insurance and pet insurance.

For questions, call 365-6475.

Special notes

- ❑ **CEA Members Scholarship application deadline: Saturday, Oct. 31.** Receive \$750 in tuition assistance for each eligible dependent who is a college senior. For details, call Cora Miller at 253-4731.
- ❑ **Legal Services Comprehensive Program enrollment closes Oct. 31.** Enroll for extensive coverage and reduced rates for matters not limited to the basic plan which include real estate, wills and estates, domestic relations, consumer protection, personal injury, bankruptcy and traffic violations. Contact the Cloppert Law firm at 461-4455.
- ❑ **CEA-R will visit the Anthony Thomas Chocolate Factory** on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 10:30 a.m. Meet at 1777 Arlingate Lane. Lunch follows at Salvi's Bistro, 1323 St. James Lutheran Lane. To sign up, call **Marilyn Allen** at (614) 299-4841 by Oct. 30.

Job-Sharing Request

If you are looking for a job-share partner, fill out the form below and return it to the CEA office. A list will be printed and mailed to each person who submits the form to assist him or her in finding a partner for job sharing. Even if you submitted your name last year, **fill out a new form this year**. Please return this form to **Carol Wagner** at CEA by **Friday, Nov. 6**.

Name: _____

Present Assignment: _____

Certification Area(s): _____

Teaching Preference for Next Year: _____

School: _____ Phone: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____

Mobile Phone: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____