

The Voice

www.ceaohio.org

Volume XL, No. 25

Columbus Education Association

February 22, 2010

Early dismissal? Maybe for some...

Bad weather is causing all sorts of distress in our school district. The reason is that when the weather is bad, schools are often dismissed early. CEA believes canceling school altogether on those days would be better.



The reason is that elementary schools have a different schedule than middle and high schools. When early dismissal is called, the older students end up being bused home first. By the time some buses return to retrieve the younger students, it is normal dismissal time.

The result? Elementary teachers, who comprise the majority of our work force, don't get out early. They have no chance to beat the bad weather by getting on the roads earlier. It would be simpler—and fairer—to cancel school when the weather is bad.

CEA is not in charge of calamity-day decisions, and we know that the administration does not want students to miss school. But we also see how inefficient and inequitable this system is. We will work with the administration to alleviate the inequities this issue presents. To assist CEA in resolving this issue with the administration, share your thoughts on the CEA Blog's Early Dismissal Speakout at <http://bit.ly/cJAEV1>.

Staff reduction notifications today

Teachers who are being staff-reduced from their current buildings or positions should be notified by the administration by today, Feb. 22. Contract language should be followed and enforced as stated in contract Article 211.03.

Teachers who received their assignments from the 2008 Job Fair, or were assigned by HR, are automatically staff-reduced. Teachers who were reorganized in Oct. 2009 will also be staff-reduced.

Administration should not take reorganizations as opportunities to make teachers leave their buildings by assigning them to areas where they would be less successful. Professionalism and academic needs should be the goals of any assignment or reassignment.

Want a different 211 panel? Send in your list now

Now is the time to assemble your alternative interview panel for the 211 process and fax (253-0465) the list to CEA President Rhonda Johnson for approval.

Article 211 of our contract describes who should be on the interview panel: the principal, the Senior Faculty Representative, one of the elected members of the ABC and two people who represent the parent/community.

If a school or unit desires an alternative panel, the request must be made prior to the first round of postings, now scheduled for Friday, Mar. 5. Approved requests will be printed in *The Voice*.

State candidate recommendations

The Ohio Education Association Fund for Children and Public Education has announced its first round of recommendations for the November 2010 statewide elections:

- For Governor, Ted Strickland
- For Secretary of State, Maryellen O'Shaughnessy
- For State Treasurer, Kevin Boyce
- For State Auditor, David Pepper



Gov. Ted Strickland

"These candidates have demonstrated their commitment to public education and a vision to ensure a better future for Ohio's children," said OEA President Patricia Frost-Brooks.

Gov. Strickland has been a champion of public education in Ohio and nationwide. His advocacy for federal stimulus funds for public schools and colleges was crucial in the effort to provide \$100 billion in federal aid to public education nationwide. He used federal stimulus funds to preserve school funding, despite drastic shortfalls in Ohio's revenues. He also collaborated closely with OEA and the Ohio House of Representatives on House Bill 1, which lays out a vision for overhauling Ohio's school funding system and transforming K-12 education to help students meet the challenges of citizenship and career success in the 21st century.



Maryellen O'Shaughnessy



Treasurer Kevin Boyce



David Pepper

More candidates will be announced in the coming months.

Keep a tight grip on your phone

If you leave your cell phone lying on your desk, in an unlocked drawer, or in any area with public access, you may return to find it missing.

We have had reports of an increasing number of cell phone thefts from district buildings. Don't leave your phone or personal valuables within easy reach. There are people waiting and watching for you to walk away so they can take them.



Here are some general anti-theft tips:

- Keep your phones, purses, bags, digital media devices or cameras with you, or lock them in storage

See PHONE page 2

We continue to work out grievances

CEA works hard to protect your rights and maintain the integrity of the negotiated contract. While we advise our members to try working out problems mutually first, we know this isn't always possible. Each month, we will inform you of the grievances CEA is working on for you. This month's grievances are listed below:

Building/Unit Administrator	Statement of Grievance	Relief Requested	Disposition
CCS Administration	The CEA/Board Agreement was violated when administration developed a K-1 split.	That the Board/Administration immediately hire a teacher/adjust numbers to make all classes in the building compliant with the kindergarten or 1-5 categories as required by the contract.	Based on the information presented at the 2nd step grievance hearing there was no violation of Art. 211.03. This decision was based on the language in Article 301, class size - Administrative Policy on class size, Effective Aug. 1, 1997, number (1) there can be variations to class size because of different grade level enrollment. In lieu of the above, the relief requested is denied.
Parkmoor ES Stacy Harris-MacCarthy	Adm. failed to provide teachers with their daily ten- (10) to fifteen-(15) break.	Adm. develop a schedule allowing teachers to receive their daily ten-(10) to fifteen-(15) break.	Step II Hearing Pending
Maize ES Renea Williams	Adm. failed to give all reasonable support and assistance to teachers with respect to the maintenance of control and discipline in the classroom and within the building that is conducive to learning and provides support to teachers that is legal and consistent with the <i>Guide to Positive Student Behavior</i> and the PEAK Program.	Adm. provide all reasonable support and assistance to teachers with respect to the maintenance of control and discipline in the classroom and within the building, utilizing a plan that includes the <i>Guide to Positive Student Behavior</i> and the PEAK Program; that the adm. provide an atmosphere within the school building that is conducive to learning; that all School Form 190s be returned to teacher in a timely manner, reviewing individual student's behavior to determine when discipline should be progressive, and following through on assigned discipline to make sure it is fairly and consistently enforced.	Step I Hearing Pending

PHONE from page 1

areas where others cannot gain access (or consider leaving them at home).

- Don't keep personal information (such as social security numbers or pin numbers) in your phone.
- Don't leave valuables visible in your car.

CEA members whose job-related personal property has been lost, stolen, vandalized or damaged due to fire or natural disaster can apply for up to \$100 in reimbursement from the CEA Lost Materials Fund. For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/cgE53z>.

There is no "phone a friend" during the OAA

These days there are so many ways to cheat on tests using technology. Chief among them: cell phones. Cell phones have Internet connections and texting functions that allow swift research and communication.

A poll last spring by Common Sense Media found that more than a third of the teenagers with cell phones admit to using the devices to find an answer for a test: 26 percent said they store information on a phone so they can look at it during a test; 25 percent text friends about answers during an exam; 17 percent take pictures of the test to send to friends; and 20 percent use their phones to search the Internet during an exam.

This isn't the TV show, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," which lets contestants use phone a friend for answers. Make sure your students don't phone a friend to win their big prize, the OAA.

Review the rules with your students

The Ohio Department of Education has issued rules prohibiting the use of any reference materials during state testing. Only pencils are permitted. Electronic devices are expressly prohibited "including cell phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), cameras, MP3, iPod or CD music players and non-OGT calculators."

The Columbus School Board also has a policy that states: "During periods of testing and other student evaluations, teachers may request that students remove all devices from their possession, either by returning the devices to lockers or placing them outside the direct possession of the student. Any use of an electronic communications device during testing will be considered cheating and will be addressed accordingly."

These devices are not to be in the students' possession during the test. They must be placed in the students' lockers

or collected by the test administrator before the test begins.

If an undetected device in the student's possession rings, buzzes, beeps, vibrates or makes any other sound or signal, that device must be confiscated and can be returned only to the student's parent.

Solve the financial mystery

April is National Financial Literacy Month. To honor the occasion, several organizations, including the Ohio Jumpstart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, have created a contest. Form a team with your students and map out a plan for some fictional people who are having trouble budgeting their money. Visit www.ohioliteracynetwork.org for details and prize information. The deadline is Mar. 7.

On Mar. 27, the coalition will present the Ohio Family Financial Fair. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Columbus Downtown HS, 364 S. Fourth St. Learn how to budget, manage money, use credit, save and more. Ask the financial experts your own questions about credit, banking, cash management and housing costs. Family-friendly games will be presented as well.

Special notes

- ❑ **CEA voting starts today (Feb. 22) through Mar. 8.** CEA members will be voting for CEA President; CEA Vice President; 2010 NEA delegates; and 2010-11 OEA delegates. Governors for Districts 2, 7, 9 and 10 are unopposed. Ballots will be picked up by the Elections Committee on Mar. 9. Ask your Faculty Representative for your ballot.
- ❑ Congratulations to **Rebecca Lance** (Graduation Coach at the Columbus Global Academy). She is this year's recipient of the **2010 AFL-CIO Girl Scout Award** which will be presented at the **51st Annual George Meany Awards Banquet on Thursday, Mar. 25.**
- ❑ The **professional staff survey** should be in buildings now. FRs should return them to Kingswood by **Feb. 26.**
- ❑ **Article 211 interview training** will take place on **Mar. 3** at **Northgate**. Call CEA with questions.
- ❑ **Friday, May 7, at 5 p.m.** is the **deadline** for applications for **CEA scholarships**. Two scholarships are available: the \$1,500 Christa McAuliffe Scholarship awarded to an education student and the \$1,000 CEA General Scholarship. Both are renewable for up to four years but at a reduced level from the first-year award. Go to <http://bit.ly/98fROO> to download an application.