

The Voice

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Columbus Education Association

March 21, 2011

Governor delivers budget

On Mar. 15, Gov. John Kasich delivered his \$55.5 billion, two-year budget plan. The plan claims to increase aid for public education. The reality, according to the Ohio Education Association, is, “it slashes funding to K–12 public education by 11.5 percent, from \$11.5 billion in the current year to \$10.2 billion next year, ratcheting down to \$9.7 billion in fiscal 2013.”

Ohio Education Association President Patricia Frost-Brooks commented: “Now we see the sleight of hand. The cut in funding for K–12 next year will mean a real 5-percent decrease in funding for K–12 public schools overall, counting state, local and federal sources. This plan takes \$3.1 billion from local school districts over two years in order to balance the budget while holding charter schools financially harmless.

“Our students are going to lose access to new textbooks, safe facilities and highly-qualified teachers in billions of dollars of public school cuts,” said Frost-Brooks.

On Tuesday, Ohio’s state education Superintendent Deborah Delisle, learning that Kasich intends to replace her, tearfully resigned at an Ohio Board of Education meeting. Her resignation is effective Apr. 30.

The Columbus Dispatch quoted Delisle telling the board that she was asked “to support the governor’s budget and remain ambivalent about it. I said I hadn’t seen it. ... I perceived (the comments) as bribery or a threat.”

Kasich calls his budget “The Jobs Budget.” Its overall goal is to close an \$8 billion gap by forcing governments to be more like private businesses and find new ways to share resources and to reduce overhead. Under the plan, state funding to local governments would decrease by 25 percent per year and state colleges and universities would be limited to 3.5 percent tuition increases.

Kasich is increasing school aid slightly by \$170 million for K–12 schools and \$62 million for higher education. But schools already lost \$875 million in federal stimulus money. So the net effect is a budget decrease.

The education budget:

- Doubles the number of private school vouchers to 28,000 and raises the cap on charter schools
- Cuts funding for the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program from \$5 million to zero. Columbus has benefited greatly from this funding
- Speeds up the state’s gradual removal of local business taxes without any replacement funds for districts
- Increases aid for private schools by about 3 percent
- Eliminates 88 percent of the nearly \$70 million for gifted education. The only gifted funds preserved will be for services offered by county Educational Service Centers

- Cuts \$13.3 million from the drug-free schools program and \$200,000 from violence prevention and school safety programs
- Provides bonuses for teachers whose students achieve faster than expected

Kasich said the budget contains “massive reforms” to save money. Media reports quote Robert Sommers, director of the Governor’s Office of 21st Century Education, as saying, “In Ohio, spending has increased while achievement has remained flat.”

Kasich was quoted: “If you are a failing school, we are going to deal with you. We could pull ourselves out of this ditch if we start moving on this.”

Frost-Brooks declared this new budget as a “punishment” to 90 percent of students who attend traditional public schools. “It will mean larger class sizes, less individual attention, fewer courses in foreign languages and the arts and less opportunity to participate in advanced placement courses,” she said.

“We hoped the Governor would focus on the essentials, funding our public schools so they can provide the full and rigorous education that our students deserve. We know that resources are limited, so let’s spend them on funding and improving the schools that 90 percent of Ohio’s students attend.”

To see the actual budget, visit <http://governor.ohio.gov>.

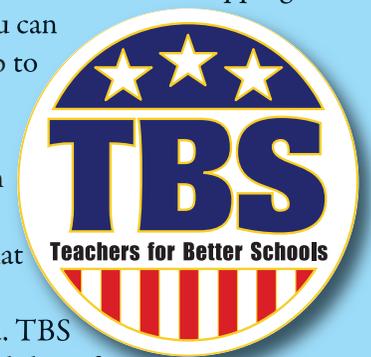
You CAN fight back

With your bargaining rights on the state chopping block, there IS something you can do right now. You can sign up to join Teachers for Better Schools (TBS).

TBS is the political action arm of CEA. It is a separate political action committee that advocates for the benefit of teachers in the political arena. TBS screens and recommends candidates for local, state and national political offices. This endorsement process is highly respected. TBS raises money for political candidates, levy and bond campaigns and other ballot issues affecting Columbus teachers and the school community.

CEA does not use any dues money to promote individual candidates or issues. Instead, CEA members can contribute by payroll deduction. Please consider supporting this important and powerful organization.

Right now, TBS is raising money for the potential petition drive against S.B. 5. The more TBS support we have, the more effectively this committee can advocate for you. Ask your Senior Faculty Representative for a TBS Membership Form, or go to <http://bit.ly/fWiKPY> to download a form. **Take action now!**



211 process on hold

Due to state budget cuts to education and the identification of four more Priority Schools, the 211 assignments and transfer process has been delayed. Round 1 postings will open on May 2.

There will be advance postings and interviews for Priority Schools (Alum Crest HS, Champion MS, Columbus Global Academy, Linden-McKinley STEM Academy, Southmoor MS, Weinland Park ES and West HS). The Priority Round is a separate round that will be conducted prior to Round 1.

We appreciate your tolerance in the very difficult times we are facing. Hopefully, by rescheduling the 211 process, HR will be able to make the best staffing decisions possible. If you have questions about the Article 211 process, please contact Human Resources at 365-5755 or CEA at 253-4731.

Here is the timeline:

Wednesday, Apr. 26—Advance Postings for Priority Schools OPEN

Tuesday, Apr. 27—Advance interviews for Priority Schools OPEN

Monday, May 2—Round 1 Postings OPEN

Tuesday, May 3—Round 1 Interviews OPEN

Thursday, May 5—Round 1 and Advance Postings CLOSE

Monday, May 9—Round 1 and Advance Postings Interviews CLOSE

Tuesday, May 17—Round 2 Postings OPEN

Wednesday, May 18—Round 2 Interviews OPEN

Friday, May 20—Round 2 Postings CLOSE

Monday, May 23—Round 2 Interviews CLOSE

Congratulations to the winners

The votes are in and we congratulate our new and re-elected CEA Governors and OEA and NEA delegates. Thank you for your willingness to serve your fellow educators in a number of capacities. OEA delegates will attend the fall and spring OEA Representative Assemblies. NEA delegates will travel to the NEA Representative Assembly in Chicago this summer. Thanks to everyone who participated in the elections process.

CEA Governors (three-year term beginning Aug. 1, 2011): Diana Welsh, District 1 (Dominion MS); Dwayne Zimmerman, District 4 (Linden-McKinley STEM Academy); Kevin Jackson, District 5 (Champion MS); Ann Aeschbury, District 10 (Elem. Art); and Christy Maser, Middle School At-Large (Johnson Park MS).

NEA Delegates (in order of vote total): Dean Fowls (1,290), Greg Mild (1,222), Ezetta Murray (544), Tracey Johnson (469), Bob Hern (422), Robin Jeffries (400), Judy Wright (313), Carole Moyer (298), Vern Miller (294), Jo Annette Byas Marston, (237), Kristy Leigh (219), Dale Rucker (212), Bev Carter (211), J. Sanchez (203), Claudia Eschelbach (199) and Karen Andermills (197).

State delegates are John Coneglio (180), Rosie Perry (176), Margilee Hilson (171) and Susan McCoy (164).

The first five alternates are Izetta Thomas (147), Kenya Davis (144), Cindy Love (143), Anne Aeschbury (135) and Maggie Burnes (133).

OEA Delegates/Alternates* (in order of vote total): Dean Fowls, Greg Mild, Ezetta Murray, Robin Jeffries, Tracey Johnson, Bob Hern, Judy Wright, Vern Miller, Carole Moyer, Kristy Leigh, Jo Annette Byas Marston, Dale Rucker, Bev Carter, Karen Andermills, Rosie Perry, J. Sanchez, Ann Aeschbury, Kenya Davis, Cindy Love, Claudia Eschelbach, Tyree Rivers, John Coneglio, Margilee Hilson, Deborah Starr, Susan McCoy, Izetta Thomas, Maggie Burnes, Rita Hinz, Deborah Huffman-Mirib, Michelle Stasa-Coleman,

Gerry Curran, Kassie Hurley-Hook, Jeannette Johnson, Vivian King, Beth Masters, Kriston Crombie, Nicholas Brandt, Jenny Plemel, Kathryn Righter, Susie Wright, Susan Guisinger, Seneca Bing, Cathy Williams, Jean Powers, Brenda Chandler, Kevin Jackson, Tracie Helmbrecht, Michelle Stone, Deborah McCoy, Al Hernandez, Charlene Gomer, Andy Merritt, Patricia Hickman, Georgia O'Hara, Gary Metzenbacher, Chad Wilkins, Eric Stone, Emily Foster, Cheryl Gulling, Beth Stevenson, K. Ayo Boykin, Keila Prost, Cynthia Williams, Paula Hughes, Mathew Yuhasz, Victoria Evans, Tonya Temple, Jeanette Kuschill, Jackie Levakis, Sean Billingslea, Christy Van Aman, Rio Green, Amy Glowark, Scott Searing, Paul Lausch, Michael Barnes, Amy Morris, Michele West, Melanie Garvin, Jeramie Carter, Edward Temple, Ann Bousseadra, Alyce Stoops, Thearesa Coursey-Conrad, Teresa Bombrys, John Vincent, Amy Crossin, Ortega Jackson, Cheryl Cooper, P. Smith (CAECS), Mikasa Barton, Margrett Sims, Lanell Wade, Kirk Jackson, Shirley Welshans, Linda Askin, Wendy Cligrow, Laurie Koller, Patricia Morris, Babette Jones, Te'Lario Watkins, Mel Butler, Anna Bennett, Samina Sitabkhan, Patricia Milligan and Dannette Williams.

**Based on membership numbers, CEA was allocated 94 delegates last year. Candidates will be given a confirmation of their status later this spring.*

New CEA election dates

One of the candidates for CEA Minority At-Large Governor made a formal complaint to the Elections Committee that another candidate campaigned outside the published campaign period. The Elections Committee determined that this violation could have affected the outcome of the election. As a result, the election for CEA Minority At-Large Governor must be done again. The schedule to elect a CEA Minority Governor At-Large will be as follows: Campaigning, Monday, Mar. 14–Friday, Mar. 25; Voting, Tuesday, Mar. 29–Monday, Apr. 11; Tally Day, Tuesday, Apr. 12. In the event of a run-off election for Minority Governor At-Large, the dates are as follows: Campaigning, Monday, May 2–Friday, May 6; Voting, Tuesday, May 10–Monday, May 23, Tally Day, Tuesday, May 24.

Special notes

- ❑ **Senior FRs** must submit requests for **alternative interview panels** to the CEA President **prior to interviewing** by fax (253-5052). **Easthaven ES's** alternative panel has been approved since the last edition of *The Voice*.
- ❑ The **deadline** for applications for **CEA scholarships** is **Friday, May 6, at 5 p.m.** 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. CEA members can go to <http://bit.ly/eSj3rJ> to download the application form.
- ❑ Applications for the **Teacher Dream Grants** must be submitted online to the CCS Development Office by **Friday, Mar. 25, at 4 p.m.** To access the online application go to <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/dreamgrant>. For further information, contact the Development Office at 365-8733.
- ❑ If you have a musical instrument not being used, **share the gift of music** by **donating your instrument** to the **CCS Unified Arts Department**. They have many students district wide that are in need of musical instruments. For more information, contact **Linda Wright**, at Northgate Center at 365-5024.
- ❑ **Donate your old vehicle** to help educate the automotive students at Ft. Hayes. The vehicles the students work on are worn out. Please contact **Bill Caspole** at 365-6681 ext. 3234 or wcaspole8934@columbus.k12.oh.us.
- ❑ **Master Teacher application** information is now available online at: http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/staffdev/master_teacher.html.