

# The CEA Voice

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Volume XLI, No. 30

Columbus Education Association

March 28, 2011

## S.B. 5: Our next steps

Many people are talking about a referendum on Senate Bill 5. Though the bill to decimate our collective bargaining process has not yet passed the Ohio House, nor has it become law, that day could be coming fast. Many people want to start mobilizing opponents to sign petitions to get the issue on the state ballot NOW.

If we do this successfully, we can file a referendum for the state ballot, asking voters to decide whether or not this bill should become law.

What does this mean for us? We have to get started mobilizing our supporters now. Backers of the referendum must file a petition with signatures from 6 percent of the number of Ohioans who voted in the 2010 governor's election. That's at least 231,148 valid signatures from at least 44 of Ohio's 88 counties. The process will begin as soon as the governor signs the bill or allows it to become law without his signature. At that point, we'll have 90 days to collect the signatures.

Why now? While it's likely the bill will pass the Ohio House, all parties involved know that S.B. 5 must pass by Apr. 6 for any valid referendum petition to be on the November 2011 ballot. Otherwise, it would appear on the November 2012 ballot. We believe that the GOP would rather see this on the ballot in 2011 than in 2012, during a presidential election.

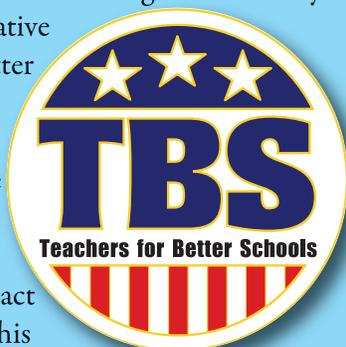
If the bill passes by Apr. 6, here are the critical referendum dates:

- ◆ Petition deadline: July 5
- ◆ Signature validity evaluation by county Boards of Election: July 26
- ◆ Date to file supplemental signatures: Aug. 5
- ◆ Deadline for the Secretary of State to determine signature validity: Sept. 4

In the meantime, keep working to kill this bill. Join Teachers for Better Schools (TBS). Attend rallies and meetings. Write your local papers. Tell your friends. Contact your legislators. Use the Educator Connector phone line at 1-888-907-7309 and go to <http://ow.ly/3WtWY> to sign up to become an OEA ACE (Advocates for Children and Education).

## Fighting back: TBS

Be sure to attend the 10-minute meeting conducted by your Senior Faculty Representative to learn about Teachers for Better Schools (TBS). During this meeting, your FR will provide forms and offer you the chance to join TBS. You will learn how YOU can stay informed and help CEA make a real impact on state policy—especially at this critical time.



It's extremely important to join now. Senate Bill 5 will limit our right to collectively bargain on terms, wages and conditions of employment. It will take away our right to strike and will give the board of education the last say in negotiations. We expect the issue of collective bargaining to go to the ballot, and this will be a very expensive campaign.

Teachers for Better Schools (TBS) is our political-action arm, a separate entity from CEA developed to keep its eye on the political arena. TBS funds are used to promote ballot issues, political candidates, levy and bond campaigns and other issues affecting Columbus teachers and the school community. Remember, CEA does not use dues money to promote individual candidates. Join TBS today to help us fight S.B. 5.

## Corrected Article 211 information

In the Mar. 21 edition of *The Voice*, information about the Priority Schools and postings was incorrectly reported.

Four more Priority Schools have been identified: Fairwood ES, Heyl ES/Lincoln Park ES (to be merged) and South HS. Vacancies at these schools, as well as vacancies at Alum Crest HS, Champion MS, Columbus Global Academy, Linden-McKinley STEM Academy, Southmoor MS, Weinland Park ES and West HS, will be posted on Wednesday, Apr. 26. These Advance Postings for Priority Schools will be part of the Round 1. There will not be a separate Priority Round as indicated on the previous 211 Planning Calendar.

If you have questions about the Article 211 process, please contact Human Resources at 365-5755 or the CEA office at 253-4731.

Here is the timeline:

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

## LA attendance biggest ever

Congratulations! We've set a record for attendance at our CEA Legislative Assembly (LA).

Attending the LA is one of our most important opportunities to make a difference. It's our chance to stay informed and make sure our voices are heard. At these meetings our elected faculty representatives, CEA officers and Board of Governors set our direction. They receive and share updates on governmental affairs and school board discussions. They formulate endorsements of election candidates and ballot issues.

We thank our Faculty Representatives and everyone who attended the last assembly held Mar. 3. The following buildings/units attended: 6th St. Annex, A.G. Bell Program, AAA, Alpine ES, Alum Crest HS, Arlington Park ES, Art, Arts Impact MS, Avalon ES, Avondale ES, Beechcroft HS, Berwick K-8, Binns ES, Briggs HS, Broadleigh ES, Brookhaven HS, Buckeye MS, Burroughs ES, CEA Office, Cedarwood ES, Centennial HS, Champion MS, Clinton ES, Colerain ES, Cols. Africentric EC ES, Columbus Africentric EC SS, Columbus City Prep. School for Boys, Columbus City Prep. School for Girls, Columbus Downtown HS, Columbus Global Academy, Columbus Spanish Immersion K-8, Como ES, Devonshire ES, Dominion MS, Duxberry Park ES, East Columbus ES, East HS, East Linden ES, Easthaven ES, Eastmoor Academy, École Kenwood K-8, Fairmoor ES, Fairwood ES, Fifth Ave. K-8, Forest Park ES, Ft. Hayes CC, Ft. Hayes MEC HS, Georgian Heights ES, Gifted & Talented, Guidance Counselors, Hamilton K-6, Heyl ES, Hilltonia MS, Hudson Comm. Ed. Ctr., Hudson St. Warehouse, Huy ES, Independence HS, Indian Springs ES, Indianola K-8, Innis ES, I-PASS @ Mifflin MS, Juvenile Detention Ctr., Kingswood Center, Leawood ES, Liberty ES, Lincoln Park ES, Lindbergh ES, Linden K-6, Linden-McKinley 7-12, Livingston ES, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Maybury ES, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Mifflin MS, Moler ES, Monroe MS, Music, North Linden ES, Northgate Center, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, NPSS Tutors, Nurses, Oakland Park ES, Oakmont ES, Ohio Avenue ES, Olde Orchard ES, OT/PT, PAR, Parkmoor ES, Parsons ES, Psychologists, Ridgeview MS, Salem ES, Scottwood ES, Shady Lane ES, Shepard Center, Sherwood MS, Siebert ES, South HS, South Mifflin K-6, Southmoor MS, Southwood ES, Speech & Language, Starling MS, Stewart ES, Sullivant ES, Trevitt ES, Tutors, Valley Forge ES, Valleyview ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Watkins ES, Wedgewood MS, Weinland Park ES, West Broad ES, West HS, West Mound ES, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Windsor K-6, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES, Woodward Park MS, Work Study and Yorktown MS.

## Intergenerational mentoring

Retired teachers have a wealth of knowledge. Why not help the next generation? Become an OEA-R Intergenerational Mentor.

The Intergenerational Mentoring Program is a collaborative project between the Ohio Education Association-Retired (OEA-R) and the Ohio Student Education Association (OSEA) with the full support and cooperation of the Ohio Education Association (OEA), the National Education Association (NEA) and NEA-Retired.

The goal is to provide mentorship to OSEA students through their student teaching experience and the first year in the classroom. You will act as a sounding board and provide support in a non-evaluative context.

Approximately one in five teachers leaves the profession during the first three years. Members of both the OEA-R and

the OSEA are concerned about these statistics and are dedicated to supporting the pre-professional to set the stage for success.

To get involved, call 1-800-282-1500, ext. 3099.

## Is your principal harassing you?

As many of you prepare to interview for new building assignments, we want you to keep your eyes out for supervisory behavior that seems unduly harsh. We are aware of instances when administrators harass employees to get them to transfer out of their buildings or to resign.

For instance, a teacher may have been reassigned to a different grade than he or she has taught before—and then may be subjected to rigorous, intrusive and constant classroom observations. Or a teacher may find himself or herself reassigned to a room in a distant part of a building that requires more travel time and find that the schedule doesn't accommodate it.

A recent issue of *Phi Delta Kappan* journal examined the issue, noting the various reasons this harassing behavior develops, for instance:

- ▶ Administrators do not know the established procedures in place for dealing with employment concerns.
- ▶ Administrators lack the knowledge necessary to hire the teachers best suited to their positions. We also know many principals simply don't understand how to properly evaluate their teachers.
- ▶ The constant change of command. Some buildings experience such constant administrative turnover that principals have little time to know and understand the staff and their jobs.

Of course, none of these reasons are excuses. If you feel you are being unfairly scrutinized, please let CEA know immediately. We are there to advise and represent you. Our contract is a powerful tool.

## Special notes

- ❑ The **Capital District** is offering **scholarships** to members who are interested in attending the **OEA Leadership Academy** to be held **Monday, Aug. 1–Wednesday, Aug. 3**. If you are interested, go to <http://bit.ly/hmfDgB> to complete a scholarship application form. The **deadline** for submitting the scholarship application form is **Thursday, Apr. 14**.
- ❑ The final date of **notice of intent to retire** for teachers assigned to the recently identified priority schools (**Fairwood ES, Heyl ES, Lincoln Park ES** and **South HS**) has been **extended from Feb. 1 to Mar. 31, 2011**. This means that bargaining unit members in those schools are still eligible for **enhanced severance pay**.
- ❑ **Senior FRs** must submit requests by fax (253-5052) for **alternative interview panels** to the CEA President **prior to interviewing**. These are the buildings/units that have been approved since the last edition of *The Voice*: **Columbus City Prep. School for Boys** and **Shepard Ctr. (Early Childhood)**.
- ❑ The **deadline** for applications for **CEA scholarships for graduating high school seniors** 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.
- ❑ **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](mailto:wcaspole8934@columbus.k12.oh.us).