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/3WwY 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.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Apr. 26</td>
<td>Advance Postings for Priority Schools OPEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Apr. 27</td>
<td>Advance interviews for Priority Schools OPEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 2</td>
<td>Round 1 Postings OPEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 3</td>
<td>Round 1 Interviews OPEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 5</td>
<td>Round 1 and Advance Postings CLOSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 9</td>
<td>Round 1 and Advance Postings Interviews CLOSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 17</td>
<td>Round 2 Postings OPEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 18</td>
<td>Round 2 Interviews OPEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 20</td>
<td>Round 2 Postings CLOSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 23</td>
<td>Round 2 Interviews CLOSE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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 opportuni- ties 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 government- al affairs and school board discussions. They formulate endorsements of election candidates and ballot issues.


Intergenerational mentoring

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

The Intergenerational Mentoring Program is a collabora- tive project between the Ohio Education Association-Re- tired (OEA-R) and the Ohio Student Education Association (OSEA) with the full support and cooperation of the Ohio Education Association (OEA), the National Education Asso- ciation (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 pro- vide 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 dedi- cated 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 as- signments, 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 differ- ent grade than he or she has taught before—and then may be subjected to rigorous, intrusive and constant classroom obser- vations. 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 de- velops, for instance:

- Administrators do not know the established proce- dures in place for dealing with employment con- cerns.
- 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 ex- perience 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 im- mediately. We are there to advise and represent you. Our con- tract 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/bqjDgB to complete a scholarship ap- plication form. The deadline for submitting the scholarship application form is Thursday, Apr. 14.
- The final date of notice of intent to retire for teachers as- signed to the recently identified priority schools (Fairwood ES, Heyl ES, Lincoln Park ES and South HS) has been ex- tended from Feb. 1 to Mar. 31, 2011. This means that bar- gainung unit members in those schools are still eligible for enhanced severance pay.
- Senior FRs must submit requests by fax (253-5052) for alter- native interview panels to the CEA President prior to inter- viewing. 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 Child- hood).
- 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 applica- tion form.
- Donate your old vehicle to help educate the automotive stu- dents 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.

Printed in-house