

The CEA Voice

www.ceaohio.org

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Columbus Education Association

May 23, 2011

TBS endorsements

Teachers for Better Schools (TBS) is getting an early start to the endorsement process.

This year, CEA is endorsing some candidates in the spring instead of the fall. We want to help candidates early on in the campaign period. Much is at stake.

The TBS endorsement process is highly regarded by elected officials and candidates. Candidates and voters value our opinions, and they trust what we say and follow our lead at the ballot box.

The TBS Screening Committee vetted candidates using an elaborate questionnaire. Additionally, candidates for the School Board sat for interviews. The committee recommendations were provided to the CEA Board of Governors and will be voted on by faculty representatives at the CEA Legislative Assembly on May 26.

The recommendations are as follows:

For Columbus City School District Board of Education

- Gary Baker (write-in)
- W. Shawna Gibbs
- Carol Perkins
- Bryan Steward

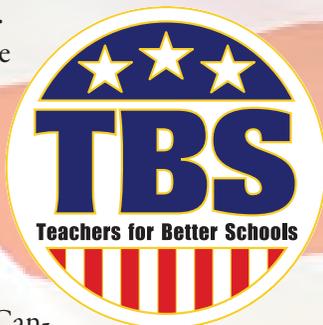
For Mayor, City of Columbus

- Michael B. Coleman

For Members of City Council, City of Columbus

- Hearcel F. Craig
- Andrew J. Ginther
- Zach M. Klein
- Michelle M. Mills

You can be part of this process. You can join TBS. Dues are voluntary. Membership is powerful. Call CEA at 253-4731. We can answer all your questions about joining TBS and about our endorsement process.



munity leaders. Many students who have believed college to be an unachievable goal are now attending and graduating with distinction from institutions of higher learning throughout the United States.

Support their dreams today. The district's campaign ends Thursday, May 26. You may participate and spread out your payments through payroll deduction. All contributions and forms should be sent to the CEA office. For more information, call Ezetta Murray at 253-4731.

District creating couch potatoes

The Board of Education recently voted to lay off nine members of the CEA Bargaining Unit—many fewer than we expected. Attrition and the recently negotiated contract mitigated severe cuts to our unit; and we applaud this, except for the casualties.

We note a few hundred in particular: a 31-year teaching veteran—and a school building full of children whose health now is at stake.

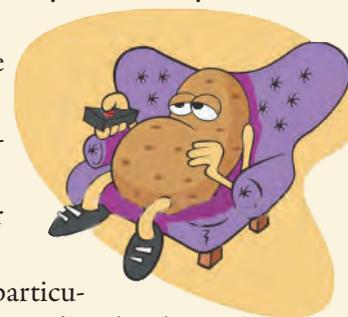
It happened under the radar. A middle-school principal in an alternative school in the King-Lincoln District decided punishment was in order for the building's physical education teacher who would not follow directives in blind obedience. This phys. ed. teacher had been hired by a former administrator—a highly regarded educational manager who went on to become an executive director.

So the principal waved the administrative wand and presto: There will be no physical education classes offered next year. Results? The teacher no longer has a position at the school. A physical education teacher at another school gets laid off. The children get no exercise.

CCS curriculum supervisors and the HR department have given their blessings for this cost-saving measure. Really? Is this a school district, or is this Wall Street? What is the real cost? Both teachers have made a life-long commitment to CCS and the students we serve. The district has invested millions of dollars in these employees and is now throwing this investment away.

But the students are the real victims. These students in their most critical years of adolescent development will lose three years of vital physical education necessary for their well being. How many times have we heard First Lady Michelle Obama talk about the need for physical activity and health education for our students? We all know that obesity and poor diet are prevalent among our CCS families. These children clearly are at risk.

We thought this district subscribed to the gold standard for our students. We thought our administrators wanted for our students what we all want for our own families. Could it be that this principal does not value physical education for his own children?



UNCF: Give them the key

Imagine being a very smart student watching other very smart students packing up to head to college. You can't go. You don't have enough money. No one in your family has gone to college.

Now imagine that someone comes to your aid. You get a scholarship, an internship or financial assistance. Your world changes forever. It's not a dream. It's called the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). You can be the person who helps a student achieve life dreams through this respected and effective organization.

UNCF administers 400 scholarship and internship programs so that students from low- and moderate-income families can afford college tuition, books and room and board. It serves as a national advocate for the importance of minority higher education by representing the public policy interests of its students and member colleges.

The UNCF has made a real difference in the lives of many CCS graduates, current staff members and local com-

Grievances remain

CEA continues to work hard to resolve all of your grievances. Most of the time, principals and staff can work out their contractual differences without resorting to the grievance process. Unfortunately, without a ray of hope, there are some building administrators who speak in hyperbole, obfuscating important issues by manufacturing allegations against staff members.

Building/Unit/Administrator	Statement of Grievance	Relief Requested	Disposition
Sherwood MS Ray Caruthers	Adm. failed to inform grievant that there had been parent concerns that had been lodged against the teacher. Not having that information did not allow grievant to resolve the concern of the complaining party.	That the Board/Administration immediately initiate the process of resolving the customer (parent) complaints that have been documented by the principal to date in accordance with the CEA/ Board Agreement.	Step 2 hearing—Based on the information presented there is no evidence to support the teacher's grievance that she was unaware of the complaints lodged against her by parents. Therefore, the relief requested is denied. Nevertheless, the principal agrees to work with staff to make sure that any and/all complaints that arise would be done in [a] mutually cooperative manner and brought to a successful resolution.
Indian Springs Lisa Adams	The principal reorganized a kindergarten teacher to first grade.	That the teacher be reinstated to kindergarten; that no reprisals be taken against the teacher as a result of the filing of this grievance and that a letter of apology be written to the teacher with a copy sent to CEA	Step 1 hearing pending

Know your governor

The CEA Constitution and Bylaws designate the Board of Governors (BOG) as the Association's executive arm. This week's *Voice* features Philip Hayes, High School Governor At-Large.

Philip is a social studies teacher at Brookhaven HS. He has been involved in various CEA committees and is currently a member of the Elections Committee.

Hayes was first elected to the position in the fall of 2006. Unlike other CEA Governors, Hayes does not have his own district. According to the Bylaws of the Legislative Assembly, at least three Governors must come from each of the three main levels of teaching...elementary, middle and high school. When that number drops below three, elections will be conducted to bring the number to at least three from each level.



Philip Hayes

Underground Railroad: All aboard!

The Center for Cultural Advancement is hosting an Ohio Humanities Council Institute for Teachers entitled "River of Slavery, River of Freedom" this summer on the University of Rio Grande campus in Southeastern Ohio. The institute will focus on the role Ohio played in the Underground Railroad before the Civil War.

Geared for history or social studies teachers, 3–6 semester hours of graduate workshop credit are possible.

There are scholarship opportunities available for 20 people. Teachers are encouraged to apply as teams of two.

Here is basic information you may want to know about the course:

- First two weeks are online with a discussion forum
- Third week is on campus with lectures, performers and two field trips
- Three credit hours for the first three weeks
- Begins June 6, 2011
- Teachers will be on campus June 20–24, 2011
- The additional three credit hours will run online until Aug. 5, 2011

For more information, go to www.rio.edu/river.

Get your red Solidarity T-shirts

We now have red CEA Solidarity T-shirts for sale at the CEA office. The shirts are \$6 each and are available in a variety of sizes from S to XXXL. If you are looking for something red to wear on Thursdays, this is the shirt you need. We encourage FRs or designees to take orders at the building and pick up shirts for their schools. We will accept cash only, and exact change is appreciated. Remember, wear red every Thursday to remind us of the day the governor signed S.B. 5 into law.

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

Poor communication skills can interfere with children's ability to understand and participate in classroom instruction and impair their relationship with teachers and other children. Good communication is important for speaking, thinking, writing, reading and learning. We salute the 61 speech-language pathologists in Columbus City Schools that help students with their communication disorders.

New Egypt trip for 2012

Due to the civil unrest in Egypt this year, it was necessary to cancel our planned trip to the region. We have your feedback. We know that Egypt is still your first choice, with a preferred substitute trip to Greece and Turkey. We will let you know what's feasible and what the new cost will be. We should have this information by Jan. 1. Expect a price increase of 3 to 5 percent.

We ask that each interested person provide a \$100 deposit to Bexley Travel to hold seats for the trip. There will be 25 seats available for the trip on a first-come, first-served basis. If you wish to pay additional money for the trip, you can do so gradually.

In the event the trip to Egypt is cancelled by April 6, 2012, your deposit will be returned to you, minus \$25 for administrative fees. The other option would be to transfer your deposit to the backup trip to Greece and Turkey. The final date for complete payment will be announced later.

Special notes

- ❑ There will be a **retirement party** for **Brunetta Garrard** (Speech Pathologist) at **The Meeting Place** on **Saturday, June 11**, from **7–11 p.m.** **RSVP** to Jo Annette Byas-Marston at **323-9699** by June 1. The cost is \$30 per person.
- ❑ If you received a petition from CEA for the repeal of S.B. 5, **you must return the packet to CEA by May 31. Do not return the packet to OEA.** If you have questions or if you need additional petitions, call **Tracey Johnson** at **253-4731** or email her at **tjohnson@ceaohio.org**.
- ❑ Make a donation to the **Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank**. To donate to a specific person, enter your name at the top of the CCS "Report of Employee Absence" form. In the "Comments" section add the words, "Catastrophic Sick Leave Donation," and write in the name of the intended recipient. **Renée Burke (Ross)** (Fairwood ES) has an immediate need. If you are going to make a general sick leave donation, fill out the form with "Catastrophic Sick Leave Donation" in the "Comments" section. Be sure that you and your principal or supervisor have signed the form.
- ❑ **All terms of Faculty Representatives expire at the end of the 2010–11 school year.** Every building/unit must hold an election. Certification forms must be returned to CEA by **Tuesday, May 31.**