

The CEA Voice

www.ceaohio.org

Volume XLII, No. 30

Columbus Education Association

March 26, 2012

The Cleveland Plan: The fight is on

We all want to improve our schools. But the plan by Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson reeks of union busting. In fact, Governor Kasich has mentioned the Cleveland Plan as a model that could be used in urban districts across Ohio. He “begged” the State Board of Education to support it. He prayed in his church for its enactment.

The plan includes creation and assimilation of additional charter schools, closing or reconstitution of failing schools and flexible business practices that would give administrators the authority to override policies mutually negotiated over many years.

Gov. Kasich asked the State Board of Education to support the Cleveland Plan. We don't know what the official language will look like, but it won't be good. The plan will:

- › Allow the Cleveland district to share money with charter schools
- › Create a new teacher evaluation system that considers additional factors and weakens seniority
- › Start the collective bargaining agreement from scratch
- › Allow administrators more flexibility and independence to deal with staffing and financial matters, including determining contract duration, terms and non-renewal criteria

CEA President Rhonda Johnson told NBC 4, “All this is a sampling of Senate Bill 5. I think the way to go about changing schools and changing the culture is working with the teachers' union and with the teachers in the school district, not working against them.”

Melissa Cropper, President of the Ohio Federation of Teachers, told the station: “This whole idea of a fresh start contract where you just throw away the existing contract and start with whatever the administration hands to you, and say accept this or don't, that's Senate Bill 5 all over again.”

Cropper has said teachers want to collaborate to improve Cleveland schools, but they have been shut out, even though the Cleveland Teachers Union has been collaborating with the Cleveland schools on peer review and teacher mentoring, has deferred \$25 million in pay increases and has supported the transfer of teachers and the reconstituting of schools.

Cleveland teachers already have great ideas for improving student achievement. For instance, their New Generation School would place intense focus on reading and math in third and fourth grades.

Teachers want to see their students succeed, but big business in Cleveland is holding students hostage, hoping to force teachers to do what they want or force the district into receivership, in order to take away teachers' rights.

We need your help to fight back. Tell legislative leaders not to pass this SB 5-like plan. Instead, urge the mayor to sit down and talk with teachers, listen to their ideas about how to improve student achievement and collaborate on new ideas. Go to www.legislature.state.oh.us/search.cfm to contact your state legislators.

CEA officers elected

Congratulations to Phil Hayes, who was elected Vice President of CEA, effective June 1. Phil, a teacher at Brookhaven HS, helped lead the campaign in opposition of SB 5. Phil is a member of the Board of Governors and CEA's Electronic Outreach Coordinator, blogging and “Facebooking” on important issues.



Phil Hayes

We also congratulate Rhonda Johnson, who was re-elected as CEA President without opposition. Rhonda will begin her fifth term as President on June 1. She has worked tirelessly for the Association for more than 25 years.



Rhonda Johnson

Here are the other winners: Carla Davis, elected to serve the unexpired term as Governor of District 2; Donna Baker and Teri Mullins, re-elected without opposition as Governors of District 3 and 6, respectively; and J. Sanchez and Deborah McCoy, elected High School Governors At-Large.

We will conduct a run-off election between Izzetta Thomas and Deb Starr for the Elementary Governor At-Large position. Formal campaigning will be Mar. 19–Apr. 16; voting, Mar. 26–Apr. 16; and tallying of votes by the Elections Committee, Tuesday, Apr. 17.

Members of our board serve three-year terms, developing and implementing Association programs and policies. Members of the CEA Board of Governors are automatic delegates to the NEA, OEA and Capital Representative Assemblies.

NEA delegates going to Washington

We congratulate members who were elected to serve as delegates to the 2012 NEA Representative Assembly (RA), representing more than 3 million members. The RA will be in Washington, D.C., June 30–July 5, where more than 9,000 delegates will spend four days debating the vital issues that impact public education and deciding on NEA policies and activities for the year ahead. The NEA delegates representing CEA are (in order of vote total): Greg Mild (1858), Dean Fowls (1656), Sally Oldham (1344), Tracey Johnson (1174), Ezzetta Murray (937), Bob Hern (782), Izzetta Thomas (554), Judy Wright (531), Kristy Leigh (493), Rosie Perry (407), Dale Rucker (404), Deborah Starr (396), J. Sanchez (373) and John Coneglio (373).

State delegates are: Bev Carter (322), Karen Andermills (322), Jeannette Johnson (307) and Cindy Love (297).

The first 10 alternates are: Jennifer Meade (287), Susan McCoy (268), Kenya Davis (268), Claudia Eschelbach (267), Deborah McCoy (258), Rita Hinz (247), Traci Arway (247), Vivian King (243), Faye Love (243) and Daria DeNoia (225).

Get ready, OEA delegates

The OEA Representative Assembly is the supreme governing body of the Association. The fall meeting, held in early December, convenes to adopt the legislative program. The spring meeting is held to evaluate the legislative program, act on new business, resolutions and elect officers. Congratulations to the following members elected to be delegates and alternates to the 2012–13 OEA Representative Assemblies (in order of vote total):* Gregory Mild, Tracey Johnson, Bob Hern, Ezetta Murray, Judy Wright, Kristy Leigh, Izetta Thomas, Verne Miller, John Coneglio, Rosie Perry, Dale Rucker, Deb Starr, Karen Andermills, Kenya Davis, Cindy Love, Bev Carter, Susan McCoy, Tiffini Pannell, Jennifer Meade, Beth Masters, Nicholas Brandt, Jo Annette Byas-Marston, Jeannette Johnson, Angela Stokes, Daria DeNoia, Faye Love, Rita Hinz, Carol Dixon, Kriston Crombie, Stephanie Zimmerman, Traci Arway, Susie Wright, Gary Metzbacher, Eric Stone, Gerry Curran, Megan Hinz, Angel Dyer, Claudia Eschelbach, Michelle Stasa-Coleman, Ortega Jackson, Paula Garfield, Joan Baker, Patricia Morris, Jodie Fissel, Susan Craig, Shiela Evans, James Lafferty, Ann Ventling, Hal Howard, Joan Powers, Daryl Curry, Vanda Hughes, Jenny Plemel, Tracie Helmbrecht, Alan Schmiedebusch, Cheryl Cooper, Andy Merritt, Paula Tome, Terri Slaughter, Brent Krelko, Kassie Hurley-Hook, Seneca Bing, Marty Flood, Jr., Amy Morris, Melanie Garvin, Lisa R. Straughter, Christine Weatherholtz, Jill Grimm, Chad Wilkins, Maree Bednar, Rita Graham, Vicki Hatfield, Michele West, Abby Vaile, Summer Wiles, Alyce Stoops, Kimberly Moore, Cheryl Gulling, Christine A. McMahon, Edward Pulsifer III, J. Kristen Reed, Beth Stevenson, Charlene Gomer, Rhonda Troutman, Christine Ray, Renea Hushour, Susan Guisinger, Ashley Kay, Norma Stepp, Kay Cornell, D. Keith Adams, K. Ayo Boykin, Beth Gasior, Diane Mueller, Withenia Moore-Williams, Mikasa Barton, Kona Kirkbride, Lanell Wade, Carolyn Lake, Annalese Lynch, Amanda Blake, Robin Munsey-Vance, Jakia Waller Glenn, Kamala Bean, Dawn Stark, Jennifer Angelcyk, Catherine Chaney, P. Smith, Amber Helfrey, Dana A. Kemmerling, Jackie Levakis, Michael Hicks, Melinda Tucker-Gundling, Linda Sirosky-Sabdo, Amy Glowark, Kimberly Allbaugh Ogilbee, James M. Slone, Shannon Clemons, Jeannette Kuschill, Bashiel H. Smith, Johnna R. Hass-Evans, Laurie Koller and Angela Rybicki.

* Based on membership numbers, CEA was allocated 91 this school year. Candidates will be given a confirmation of their status in the fall when CEA receives the new allocation of delegates.

Article 211 opportunity

As we enter Rounds 1 and 2 of the Article 211 process, consider applying for a job at a Priority School (School Improvement Grant school). These schools offer:

- * Challenging and rewarding experiences
- * Performance-based incentives of up to \$2,500 (separate from Gainsharing)
- * Intensive high-quality, job-embedded professional development
- * Additional instructional and socio-emotional supports for students
- * Formative assessment data systems for monitoring student performance
- * Opportunities to attend national conferences
- * STEM opportunities at Linden-McKinley HS and West HS

Priority Schools for the 2012–2013 school year are: Alum Crest HS, Columbus Global Academy, Champion MS, Fairwood ES, Lincoln Park ES, Linden-McKinley HS, South HS, Weinland Park ES and West HS.

Support UNCF

It is not too late to donate to the UNCF-Columbus City Schools scholarship fund, but the clock is ticking. Please take a few moments and donate \$10, \$20 or whatever amount you can so that we can support our students as they reach for their educational goals.

As we have shared in past communications, those that donate at least \$50 will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card. Take your chances on our raffle and change a child's life today, "because a mind is a terrible thing to waste!"



Celebrate with us

Friendship abounds. Conversation is plentiful. Touching moments are the main attraction. Join us for the CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet, Friday, May 18, at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. Social hour starts at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. The cost is \$30 per ticket, with tables of 10 at a cost of \$300. There is no charge for retirees, Senior Faculty Representatives and other honorees. The deadline for making reservations is Wednesday, May 2.

This is CEA President Rhonda Johnson's favorite annual event. Every year, we recognize the CEA Friend of Education, Innovator in Education, Distinguished Service Awardee, Outstanding Faculty Representatives and a CEA Outstanding Member. We also award scholarships to children of CEA members.

Make your reservations by calling CEA at 253-4731.

Special notes

- ❑ Senior FRs must submit requests by fax (253-0465) 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: Adult & Community Ed.*, **Broadleigh ES, Columbus City Prep. School for Boys, Columbus International HS, Gifted & Talented, Mifflin MS, Moler ES, Northland HS, Northgate Center, Scottwood ES, Special Needs Pre-School, Transition Coordinator (Work Study), Watkins ES, Westgate ES and Windsor Academy ES.**
- ❑ The **CEA Spring Run-Off Election** will be held according to the following schedule: Formal campaigning, March 19–Apr. 16; voting, Mar. 26–Apr. 16; and tallying of votes by the Elections Committee, Tuesday, Apr. 17.
- ❑ The application **deadline for CEA scholarships for graduating high school seniors is Wednesday, May 2, 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. Go to <http://bit.ly/eSj3rJ> to download the application form.
- ❑ The **online teacher application for Summer School 2012** is now available. This application is **open only to CCS certificated full-time teachers**. Contact the **Office of Supplemental Services** at **365-5010** with any questions. Go to: <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/summer-school> to download an application. The **deadline to apply is Monday, Apr. 16.**
- ❑ Make sure no one has to choose between getting well and having a paycheck. **Donate days to the Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank.** Use a sick leave form to make your donation. Be sure that you sign the form.