

# The CEA Voice

Volume XLIII, No. 26

Columbus Education Association

February 25, 2013

## Board begins to consider cuts

CCS Supt. Gene Harris broached the subject of budget cuts in a presentation to the Board of Education at the Tuesday, Feb. 19, meeting. Despite projections that say the district will stay in the black until the end of next school year, the board is responding to the treasurer's October 2012 call to cut \$25 million from next year's budget to pad the district's bottom line. Uncertainties surrounding how much CCS will actually receive from a new education funding formula over the next two years further complicate the district's finances.

Dr. Harris' brief presentation included a general overview of what she termed "Reduction Considerations." The areas, initiatives or departments that could be affected include: mothballing closed schools, departmental reductions in custodial services, human resources and information technology staff, removing a period in the day at the MS and HS levels, transportation, reducing financial services in the treasurer's office, VCAP, library media, credit flex, unified arts, ROTC, TOSAs, student support services, athletics and non-school based administrators.

When asked by a board member what was being considered for reductions, Dr. Harris responded, "Everything is on the table." She did indicate her desire to shield the classroom from as much of the reductions as possible. The superintendent also stated that focusing on learning and efficiency during the budget process could result in expansion of district-provided Pre-K, adding reading specialists in elementary schools and eliminating splits at the elementary level.

In May, the board will receive the proposed budget. A vote is expected on Tuesday, June 18. Keep reading *The CEA Voice* for important budget-related updates.

hood: Exceptional Needs Specialist; Valarie Cummings (Ridgeview MS), Early Adolescence: English Language Arts; Daria DeNoia (Maybury ES), Early Childhood through Young Adulthood: Exceptional Needs Specialist; Kathie Fedun (Maize ES), Middle Childhood: Generalist (Renewed); Lisa Floyd-Jefferson (Brookhaven HS), Adolescence and Young Adulthood: Mathematics; Kelly Haas (Burroughs HS), Early Childhood: Generalist; Ruth Hall (Lincoln Park ES), Early and Middle Childhood: Music; Laura Heald (Winterset ES), Early and Middle Childhood: Literacy, Reading-Language Arts; Rita Hinz (Beechcroft HS), Early Childhood through Young Adulthood: Exceptional Needs Specialist; Krista Jacob (Centennial HS), Adolescence and Young Adulthood: Mathematics (Renewed); Annalese Lynch (Columbus Spanish Immersion/Columbus Global Academy), Early and Middle Childhood: English as a New Language; Wyk McGowan (Eastmoor Academy HS), Adolescence and Young Adulthood: English Language Arts (Renewed); Johari Mitchell (Hamilton PreK-6), Early and Middle Childhood: Literacy, Reading-Language Arts; Karen Purdum (Burroughs ES), Early Childhood: Generalist; and Sarah Rhoads (Yorktown MS) Early and Middle Childhood: Literacy, Reading-Language Arts.

## Building the plane as they fly it

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is building the plane as they fly it. The credentialing requirements for teachers impacted by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee are a nightmare. Their regulations are not only excessively stringent but are also constantly changing. It seems as if before the ink is dry on the last update, new information is published by ODE or state legislators, making yet another change to the law.

Currently, teachers of third-grade students who will be retained or placed on reading improvement and monitoring plans in the 2013-2014 school year must have spent the past three years engaged in the instruction of reading and have one additional credential listed below. (Last week's edition of *The CEA Voice* incorrectly listed the three-year rule as an option instead of a requirement.)

- A reading endorsement on his or her teacher's license and a passing score on the endorsement's required test
- A master's degree with a major in reading (the word "reading" must appear in the degree or on his or her transcript as the major area of study)
- A rating of "above value-added" for the previous three years
- A credential earned from a list of scientifically research-based reading instruction programs\* (slated



## New National Board Certified Teachers

National Board Certification is an advanced teaching credential, serving as both a catalyst for profound professional growth and as a mechanism for recognizing and rewarding the impact accomplished teachers have in improving student learning. Research is consistently positive about the impact of National Board Certification on teacher practice, professional development and areas of school improvement critical to raising student achievement. As part of the certification process, candidates complete ten assessments that are reviewed by trained teachers in their certification areas. Due to the district's outstanding support program, CCS has a total of 125 working National Board Certified Teachers. Once certified, these teachers continue to grow professionally and are recognized across the district, state, and nation for their accomplishments.

CEA congratulates the district's new National Board Certified Teachers: Yeh-fen Chin (Columbus International HS), Early and Middle Childhood: Music (Renewed); Julie Crosby (Fifth Avenue K-8), Early Childhood through Young Adult-



for release by ODE in the spring of 2013)

Senate Bill 21, introduced Feb. 12, seeks to remove the three-year rule, but teachers would still be required to have one of the previously mentioned qualifications.

Because of the third-grade reading guarantee's unrealistic staffing requirements for next school year, we expect that CCS will submit an alternate staffing plan to ODE by the June 30 deadline. This option is just a one-year, one-time fix.

Perhaps then the plane will finally be fully built. Until then, keep reading *The CEA Voice* for updates on the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and SB 21.

## Oh, the places you may *not* go

Dr. Seuss' birthday is March 2. We think this is a good time to clue you in about the Article 211 process using Seuss' time-tested rhyming structure.

*We hope you like where you are*

*Because you won't be going very far.*

*Article 211 is so, so late,*

*No need for you to anticipate.*

*Human Resources cannot decide*

*In which school or building you will reside.*

*So pack your boxes just in case,*

*You get a chance for another place.*

*We hope by May that you will know*

*When and where you will go.*



## Vote for CCS

NBC4 is giving central Ohio schools money, and you can choose where it goes. The station's *Make A Difference* school grant program will award three schools \$10,000 each during this school year. This grant will help provide resources to academic and extracurricular school programs that give kids the opportunity to grow and develop. Get online! You can vote once every day through Mar. 7. The top six vote getters will advance to the final round with a panel of five judges.

Here's how you can cast your votes:

Go to [www.NBC4MakeADifference.com](http://www.NBC4MakeADifference.com)

1. Click on the "vote" tab

2. Search for the "school name"

*or*

Search for NBC4 on Facebook to cast your vote

1. Click on the *Make a Difference* logo

2. Click on the "vote" tab

3. Search for the "school name"

The following Columbus schools are competing: Alum Crest HS, Beechcroft HS, Champion MS, Colerain ES, CAHS, Columbus City Preparatory School for Boys, Columbus International HS, Eastmoor Academy HS, Hilltonia MS, Monroe MS, Northland HS, Sullivant ES and Whetstone HS.

Winners will be announced on May 16.

## Teacher stay survey

The Race to the Top Great Teachers Great Leaders committee is reviewing what factors keep teachers in our district. This is a very important topic. Your input to the process is vital as we look to make recommendations on future decisions to support our district.

Take a few moments to share your thoughts by responding to the following link: <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/eval/HR/general.htm>.

The survey is very brief and will take only a few minutes to complete. The survey closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 1.

The committee appreciates your willingness to participate and looks forward to learning your perspective. If you have questions, contact Stacy Pettit, HR Manager, at 365-6680.

## UNCF: 100 for 100

If there's one way to help our students succeed, it's with higher education; and the United Negro College Fund helps disadvantaged students find the financial resources to attend.

You can help by supporting our UNCF campaign. Our goal is 100 percent participation to raise \$100,000, or "100 for 100."

We urge you to contribute at least \$5 per pay. There are many in our community who have received UNCF scholarship support. It has changed their lives. Sit down with your FR and your principal and hear some of these stories of impact. This is a campaign we all support. Be sure to make your pledge by Friday, Mar. 1.



## LA attendance

When the CEA Legislative Assembly (LA) met Feb. 7 to talk about the issues facing our teachers, the room felt emptier. Some faculty representatives were not present because of parent conferences. Parent conferences or other meetings that involve the majority of the staff should not be scheduled on the first Thursday of the month. Section 109.10 of the *CEA Master Agreement* spells out the rights of FRs to attend union meetings. The following is a list of buildings/units represented at the last LA:

A.G. Bell Program, Alpine ES, Alum Crest HS, Art, Avondale ES, Briggs HS, Broadleigh ES, Brookhaven HS, Buckeye MS, CEA, CAHS, Cassidy ES, Champion MS, Clinton ES, Columbus Africentric EC SS, Columbus City Prep. School for Girls, Columbus Downtown HS, Dana ES, Devonshire ES, Dominion MS, Eakin ES, East Columbus ES, East HS, East Linden ES, Eastmoor Academy HS, École Kenwood K-8, Fairwood ES K-6, Fifth Ave. K-8, Forest Park ES, Ft. Hayes Arts & Academic HS, Gifted & Talented, Guidance Counselors, Highland ES, Hilltonia MS, Hudson Comm. Ed. Ctr., Hudson St. Warehouse, Independence HS, Indian Springs ES, Indianola K-8, Juvenile Detention Ctr., Liberty ES, Lindbergh ES, Linden STEM Academy K-6, Linden-McKinley STEM 7-12, Livingston ES K-6, Marion-Franklin HS, Maybury ES, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Moler ES K-6, Music, Neil Avenue Center, Northgate Center, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, Nurses, Oakmont ES, Olde Orchard ES, OT/PT, Psychologists, Ridgeview MS, Salem ES, Shady Lane ES, Sherwood MS, South Mifflin STEM Academy K-6, Southwood ES K-6, Speech & Language, Starling MS, Sullivant ES, Tutors, Valley Forge ES, Wedgewood MS, West HS, West Broad ES, West Mound ES, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Windsor STEM Academy K-6, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES, Woodward Park MS and Yorktown MS.

## Special notes

- Campaigning and voting for **2013-14 OEA delegates** and **2013 NEA delegates** ends **Mar. 4**. Votes will be **tabulated** on **Mar. 5**. Call CEA at 253-4731 with questions.
- Vote for Ezetta Murray**, CEA staff consultant, and **Barb Flu-Allen**, of CEA-R, who are running for the Education First Credit Union board. **Voting ends on Feb. 28**. They are the only two teachers on the ballot. You should have received your ballot in your December statement. Join us in supporting these two candidates.
- We need your contact information**. Make sure CEA has your personal, non-CCS email address. We need it to be able to send you information about bargaining. Additionally, CEA will be conducting this year's professional staff survey electronically. Send your information to [telleca@ceaohio.org](mailto:telleca@ceaohio.org).
- Mayor Michael Coleman** and **City Council President Andrew Ginther** created the Columbus Education Commission to examine the challenges and opportunities facing all children living within the CCS District. Let your voice be heard at the **Columbus Education Commission's teacher forum** from **4:30-6 p.m. on Feb. 28** at East HS. The commission wants to hear your good ideas for improving education in our schools.