

The CEA Voice

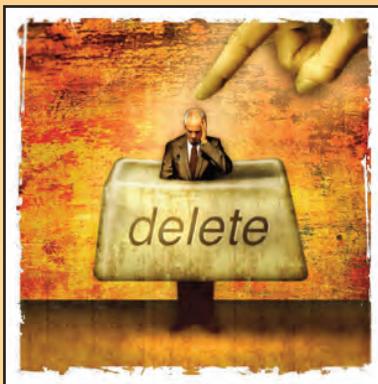
Volume XLIII, No. 28

Columbus Education Association

March 11, 2013

The layoffs are coming

Supt. Harris has proposed to the Board of Education cuts amounting to \$25 million eliminating more than 300 positions, curtailing services and discontinuing some programs. The Board will discuss the proposal and may vote on these recommendations at a special meeting on Monday, Mar. 11.



One of the recommendations is to reduce a class period in middle and high schools. This means a seven-period day starting next school year. Is this the best the administration can do? When they implemented this strategy seven years ago, it had a devastating effect on the academic program and minimized opportunities for our students.

A seven-period day limits availability of space in schedules, hinders students from academic excellence and reduces the teaching force, especially in elective areas. A student's plan to attend a career center may be out of reach. Students may not meet requirements to get in to some colleges and universities requiring more than the minimum that would be offered in our high schools.

In middle schools, the best part of the day for many students is participation in unified arts. Research shows that an increase in physical activity and participation in the arts result in improved academic performance. We can expect a rise in discipline referrals and a decline in student attendance and achievement when these programs are cut.

We understand that reductions need to be made. However, the administration's goal of not impacting the classroom is far from met. The CEA and OAPSE units have been hit particularly hard. From 2008–2012, CEA lost 26 percent of its bargaining unit, with OAPSE losing 19 percent. During that same period, there has been a mere 3 percent reduction in central office administrative positions.

Currently, there are 108 central office administrators. What do all these administrators do? Are their jobs more important than, say, a kindergarten teacher's? You decide. We call on 270 East State Street to cut themselves as deeply as they intend to cut us.

Cutting the middle and high school day by a period is not the only cut the superintendent is proposing, but this certainly would be the single largest cut in the budget. *History tells us these cuts are not the only ones that will affect CEA bargaining unit positions this spring.* We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

To view the recommended budget reductions, go to <http://bit.ly/ccs14cuts>.

Reach Out and Read: Preparing our children for success

Monday, Mar. 4, was the kick-off of CEA's Annual Reach Out and Read Community Book Drive. Reach Out and Read (ROAR) is a pediatric literacy program sponsored by Nation-



wide Children's Hospital that puts books in the hands of children during their well-child visits. With the advent of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and the implementation of the Common Core Standards, it is imperative that our children enter our classrooms ready to learn.

Your support of ROAR means supporting children living in poverty who face the highest risk of academic failure. ROAR's mission is to prepare central Ohio's youngest children to succeed in school by partnering with doctors to prescribe books and to encourage families to read together. Nearly 90 percent of the patients who benefit from ROAR are Columbus City Schools students.

Since 2007, CEA members have donated more than 17,000 books valued at \$115,000. This year's goal is to exceed last year's campaign collection of more than 2,000 books. Support our campaign by donating two new books appropriate for children ages 6 months to 5 years old. Your FR should have a designated place to drop off books.

CEA's campaign runs through Mar. 28. When the campaign concludes, there will be a drawing for a Kindle Fire. To be eligible for the drawing, donate at least three new books to the campaign. Give your books to your FR or to the building campaign chairperson, and ask for a prize entry form. You will receive one entry form for every three books donated. The more you give, the more chances you have to win. Complete the form and send it to Tracey Johnson at the CEA office by Thursday, Apr. 11. The drawing will take place on Friday, Apr. 12.

Thank you for doing your part to help our students enter our classrooms ready to learn. For more information regarding the Reach Out and Read campaign, contact Tracey Johnson at CEA (253-4731) or email her at tjohnson@ceaohio.org.

OGT: Big Brother is watching

The Ohio Graduation Test will be administered Mar. 11–24. Please make sure you follow CCS board policy and all required state testing procedures. If you don't, you could lose your teaching license. The main rule violations are:

- Possessing or distributing unauthorized copies or original test materials



- Releasing or reproducing any test materials
- Providing or receiving answers, clues or hints from students before or during the testing period
- Assisting a student with the test or altering a student's response
- Permitting the use of unauthorized reference materials or devices
- Leaving testing materials unsecured
- Failing to account for all the materials
- Allowing unsupervised students to leave the testing room
- Failing to report any of these violations

Irregularities resulting in an investigation include:

- Plagiarism
- Excessive wrong-to-right erasures
- Improbable test-score gains
- Observed or reported inappropriate collaboration
- Discovery of missing test materials

If you have any questions, make sure you contact the CCS Testing Department at 365-5785.

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 Izzetta Thomas, Elementary School Governor At-Large.

Izzetta is a special needs Pre-K teacher at Easthaven ES. She has been involved in various CEA committees, including the Minority Involvement Program Committee. She is often called on by OEA and CEA to speak on behalf of the Association and to advocate for urban education issues.

Izzetta was elected in the spring of 2012 to fulfill the CEA Constitution & Bylaws requirement that three members of the CEA Board of Governors be elementary classroom teachers. The constitution requires that an At-Large election be held whenever there are fewer than three classroom teachers from elementary, middle or high school levels.



Izzetta Thomas

Next year's school calendar

CEA and the administration have agreed on the traditional school calendar for the 2013–2014 school year. We thank our members for completing the CEA calendar survey. Their answers help shape the schedule every year.

The significant dates are as follows:

- Teachers report, Aug. 19, 2013
- Capital Day, Oct. 18, 2013
- Winter break, Dec. 21, 2013–Jan. 5, 2014 (inclusive)
- Spring break Apr. 14–21, 2014 (inclusive)
- Last day for students, May 29, 2014
- Last day for teachers, May 30, 2014

Go to http://bit.ly/CEA13_14Cal to view the complete traditional school calendar.

Third grade reading guarantee relief

The Ohio Third Grade Reading Guarantee is very stressing to members in elementary schools. They're worried about whether or not they'll obtain the credentials they need to be in compliance with the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Each time elementary teachers access ODE's website, get a flier from a local college or university or attend a PD session, their stress levels spike. It's even worse when they hear inaccurate information from the CCS Reading Department.

If you will be teaching third grade students who have been retained or are on a reading improvement plan in the 2013–2014 school year, here's how the Third Grade Reading Guarantee will impact your employment status: IT WON'T.

The Third Grade Reading Guarantee allows school districts that cannot meet the law's requirements next year to submit a staffing plan to ODE. This staffing plan requires school districts to explain the methodology they will use to staff their schools next year and the supports they will provide their teachers. It's like a "pass" on the Third Grade Reading Guarantee for the 2013–2014 school year; but it's just for one year, at least for now. We do expect CCS to submit such a staffing plan to ODE by the required deadline of June 30.

Keep in mind one absolute constant—the requirements for the Third Grade Guarantee have changed several times since the law was first passed. They will change again, and when they do, CEA will let you know. We promise. But remember, next school year you get a pass.

How has your year been?

This year's staff survey is going green and will be administered online. You'll be able to rate your work location on its climate, student behavior, administrator-teacher relationships and other important categories. This year, members will have the opportunity to provide open-ended, anonymous responses about their work locations.

An email containing the link to the survey was sent to members' non-CCS email addresses on Friday, Mar. 1. The survey will close on Sunday, Mar. 17, at 11:59 p.m. If you did not get the email message, or if CEA does not have your current non-CCS email address, send it to tellcea@ceaohio.org to participate in the survey. You will be able to access this survey from home or from work.

The survey results for each work location will be published on CEA's website. A hard copy of the open-ended responses will be provided to the respective Senior FR for each school/building.

When you complete the survey, you will automatically be entered in to a drawing to win a new iPad (with Retina Display, 3G capability and 16 Gb of memory) or one of twenty gas cards worth \$25 each.

UNCF update

CEA has received UNCF donations from the following buildings/units: Alpine ES, Alum Crest HS, AIMS, Avalon ES, Briggs HS, Burroughs ES, Champion MS, Columbus Education Association, Columbus Education Association-Retired, Columbus Education Center, Columbus Global Academy, Columbus Administrators Association, CAHS, Columbus International HS, Easthaven ES, Eastmoor Academy HS, Gables ES, Georgian Heights ES, Innis ES, Johnson Park MS, Livingston ES, Leawood ES, Linden-McKinley STEM 7–12, Northtowne ES, Shadylane ES, Sherwood MS, Sullivant ES, School Leadership Development, Valley Forge ES, Watkins ES, Wedgewood MS, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES and Yorktown MS.

Special notes

- ❑ **Save the date** for one of our best-loved events. **The CEA Awards & Retirement Dinner** is **Saturday, May 18**, at the **Hilton Columbus Downtown, 401 N. High Street**. Social hour is at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. There is no cost for retirees, honorees and Senior Faculty Representatives to attend this event.
- ❑ The **CEA Summer Trip** to Europe has been **canceled**.