

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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Mayor speaks to CEA Legislative Assembly

On Thursday, Mar. 7, Mayor Michael Coleman spoke candidly and at length about the role of the Columbus Education Commission, as well as his vision for the future of Columbus City Schools.



Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman addressing the CEA Legislative Assembly

In the 14 years that he's been in office, Mayor Coleman has always participated in the Columbus education arena, though until now, his involvement has been on the periphery. Coleman told FRs point blank—he doesn't want to take over the district, nor does he want to go after our collective bargaining rights. The Mayor believes in collective bargaining and was the first public official to come out against Senate Bill 5. He did acknowledge that, as a school district, we face serious challenges.

Eric Fingerhut, Executive Director of the mayor's commission, outlined the serious challenges facing CCS. The State Auditor's ongoing investigation of data scrubbing may result in revisions to the district's recently released state report card. These revisions may plunge the district into "Academic Distress," which would trigger a takeover of CCS by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). A five-member panel would be put in place by ODE, effectively ending "local control" of the district. Fingerhut noted that the Cleveland Municipal School District may be able to avoid state control due to the changes that already have been made through its academic plan.

Coleman and Fingerhut spent nearly thirty minutes answering multiple questions from the Faculty Representatives present.

"There is no magic formula," said Mayor Coleman in his closing remarks, "nor is there an easy answer. However, it's time to bring help to the community from the community."

Staff survey window extended

You still have time to complete the CEA Staff Survey and be registered to win an iPad or a \$25 gas card.

CEA has extended the window to complete the staff survey to 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Apr. 7. CEA needs all members to complete the online survey so that all of us will have an accurate picture of the professional climate in your building. You will be able to view the responses made by your colleagues on the CEA website. This information will be useful to you as you consider applying for positions during the 211 process.

If you have not received an email with the link to the survey, send a message from your non-CCS email address to tellcea@ceaohio.org. Include your name and school/unit.

Chop the school day? Harris says "no"

After much hoopla and a continuing understanding of what Gov. Kasich proposes to offer schools next year, Supt. Gene Harris is recommending that we retain the eight-period day in middle and high schools. We thank her because these types of cuts would devastate the academic program, especially the middle school unified arts program and high school electives. Experts in medicine, psychology and education concur: Physical activity and participation in the arts improves academic performance.

We realize this means that changes are coming to the Article 211 calendar. Human Resources will not be able to post positions by the contractual deadline of the first work day in April. Even though this is inconvenient for our bargaining unit, it is a small price to pay when jobs are restored. CEA will agree to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to change some of the dates in the Article 211 calendar. These are the new dates proposed:

April 11–15: Staff members are notified of administrative reductions

Apr. 11: 211 training for district offices, 8–10 a.m.; and Regions I and II elementary and middle schools, 1–3 p.m.; Northgate

Apr. 12: 211 training for high schools, 8–10 a.m.; and Regions III, IV and V elementary and middle schools, 1–3 p.m.; Northgate

Apr. 19–24: Round 1 postings

Apr. 25–30: Round 1 interviews

May 10–14: Round 2 postings

May 15–20: Round 2 interviews

May 29–30: Job fairs

CEC addresses the whole child

An optimally healthy child performs better in school, and science backs the data. Schools are in a unique position to unite all the resources necessary for optimal health. This includes sports and the arts. Columbus children need more of all these activities.

At the Columbus Education Commission (CEC) meeting on March 6, specialists in nutrition, the arts and physical education shared what they know about childhood health and development. Speaking to the commission on this subject were Dr. Robert Murray of OSU's College of Education and Human Ecology; Kim Jordan, director of the Eldon Ward YMCA; Jackie Calderone, founding partner of Transit Arts; Milton Ruffin, principal of Ft. Hayes MEC; and Dionne Custer Edwards, a writer and arts educator from the Wexner Center for the Arts.

Here are the key points from the presentations:

- ✕ On the state report cards, Columbus ranked 824 of 832 districts for value-added student progress.
- ✕ One in five children across the country does not get

enough to eat. Many poor families supplement their diet with cheap, high-calorie, nutritionally shallow food. Many of CCS' overweight students are undernourished and unfit.

✎ Brain research shows that physical activity, including play and organized sports, helps develop a child's brain. Physical activity is connected to the ability to think, plan and reason.

✎ A pilot program in CCS that removed junk food and all soda helped diabetic children significantly reduce their BMI and improve their school performance. One student asked our superintendent when Doritos would return to vending machines. Her answer: "Never."

✎ Arts programs and enriching after-school activities encourage students to explore their passions, develop creative-thinking skills and to lead them toward greater success in school and life.

Columbus has a large and growing number of English Language Learners (ELL) students. We need to help their parents become involved more effectively in their children's educations. Commission member Elizabeth Martinez, Vice President of Programs for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio; and Abdinur Mohamud of the Ohio Department of Education, educational consultant and Title III state coordinator with the Lau Resource Center for English as a Second Language, presented information about this growing segment of the Columbus community.

The commission also reviewed suggestions from Columbus residents during recent community forums, including more parental involvement, higher expectations, access to appropriate technology tools, more accountability, holistic approaches to teaching, teaching parents how to help their children, linkage between community and school programs, consistent and alternative discipline approaches, business involvement and volunteers, especially seniors.

The commission meets next on Mar. 21. It will issue a draft of its recommendations by Apr. 26. To read more, visit www.reimaginecolumbuseducation.org.

The best prescription: a book

We started our annual Reach Out and Read (ROAR) campaign on Mar. 4. This Nationwide Children's Hospital program puts books in the hands of children during their well-child visits.



Bring in your books. They should be appropriate for children 6 months to 5 years old. Let's collect more than 19,000 books and beat last year's record. When you bring a book, you are helping poor children who face the highest risk of academic failure. Nearly ninety percent of the patients who benefit from ROAR are our students.

CEA's campaign runs through Mar. 28. Donate three books and get a chance to win a Kindle Fire. Give your books to your FR or to the building campaign chairperson, and ask for a prize entry form (one for every three books). Send forms to Tracey Johnson at the CEA office by Thursday, Apr. 11. For more information, contact Tracey at CEA (253-4731) or at tjohnson@ceaohio.org.

CCS/OSU Outreach courses for summer semester

The CCS/OSU Outreach courses for summer semester 2013 will be open for online pre-registration through Mar. 24. Available courses are:

- ♦ Part I—Preparing for the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSSM): A New Classroom Culture (Grades 8–12)
- ♦ Part II—Preparing for the Common Core State Standards for

Mathematics (CCSSM): Implementation (Grades 8–High School)

- ♦ Reading Endorsement: Advanced Children's Literature (EDUTL 7317)
- ♦ Reading Endorsement: Advanced Study in the Teaching of Reading (EDUTL 7427)
- ♦ Reading Endorsement: Phonics (TBA)
- ♦ Special Education: Communication Skills for Children with Moderate to Intensive Needs (EDUPAES 5722)
- ♦ Special Education: Delivering Effective Services to Enhance Inclusion of Students with Special Needs (EDUPAES 5769)
- ♦ TESOL & Reading Endorsement: Language Arts in the Bilingual/Multicultural Classroom (EDUTL 5610)
- ♦ TESOL: Second Language Acquisition (EDUTL 5620)

Each course has an enrollment limit of 20 students. For more information about these classes and to pre-register, go to <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/osu>, click on "Summer 2013 Courses," then read through the two information pages to get to the list of courses.

Congratulations NEA delegates

Congratulations to the delegates elected to represent the CEA at the 2013 NEA Representative Assembly in Atlanta. The following members will serve as local delegates and are listed in order of vote total: Greg Mild, Tracey Johnson, Ezetta Murray, Bob Hern, Courtney Johnson, Rosie Perry, Dale Rucker, Daria DeNoia, Paula Garfield, Jeannette Johnson and Karen Andermills.

State delegates are: Traci L. Arway, Claudia Eschelbach, Kriston Crombie Stotik and Rita Hinz.

The first five alternates are: Kenya Davis, Angel Dyer, Jo Annette Byas Marston, Gerry Curran and Megan Hinz.

The members of the CEA Board of Governors are automatic delegates by virtue of office. They are CEA President Rhonda Johnson, Vice President Phil Hayes and Governors Ann Aeschbury, Donna Baker, Lori Cannon, John Coneglio, Carla Davis, Tai Hayden, Kevin Jackson, Cindy Jamison, Robin Jeffries, Cindy Love, Christy Maser, Teri Mullins, J. Sanchez, Izetta Thomas, Diana Welsh and Dwayne Zimmerman.

CEA thanks our members for participating in the CEA elections process. Our delegates will be our voice in setting policy at the national level.

UNCF coming on strong

When you give to the United Negro College Fund, you help our students afford college. UNCF has given hundreds of CCS students opportunities they would have otherwise missed. It's powerful; it's because of you. We thank the buildings/units that have completed their campaigns: Arlington Park ES, South Mifflin STEM Academy, Cedarwood ES @ Stockbridge, Como ES, East Columbus ES, Fifth Ave. International K–8, Hudson Distribution Ctr., Independence HS, Liberty ES, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Northgate Staff Development Ctr., Walnut Ridge HS, West HS and Woodward Park MS.



Calendar corrections

The dates for winter and spring breaks were inaccurately reported in *The CEA Voice* last week. We apologize for the error. The corrected dates for winter break and spring break are as shown in italics. The key 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.