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Meeting facilitator Eric Fingerhut talked briefly about
the aim of the commission’s work, and its hope that recom-
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missions have met in Columbus during the past 40 years,
with many of their reports simply gathering dust afterward.
Commission member Rev. Otha Gilyard said: “We’re here.
We can’t stay here. I don’t want to be part of a group that’s
not going to do anything.”

CEC members asked questions about the balance be-	ween community and state control of schools. Lois Carson,
President of Local 150 of the Ohio Association of Public
School Employees, asked fellow members of the commission
to read a new OAPSE/AFSME report entitled, “Corporate
America and Takeovers of Public School Districts” to in-
form their thinking on governance. She stressed the need for
community awareness and involvement in education.

The commission will next meet on Apr. 10 to begin
shaping recommendations. A draft report is expected to be
presented at the Apr. 26 meeting. To find out more, visit
www.reimaginercolumbuseducation.org.

Where’s my reading guarantee?
Research points to the need for strengthened Pre-
Kindergarten preparation. Only 40 per-
cent of Columbus students now reach
reading proficiency by third grade.
The CCS Pre-Kindergarten Expan-
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off on a body of work supporting need
for a stronger program that engages par-
ts, seeks community partnership
and ensures appropriate class
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proper instruction. CCS
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awards for its Pre-K
program, but the program is not large enough.
Mayor Coleman’s Columbus Education Commission,
on which CEA sits, is likely to recommend an expansion of
quality Pre-Kindergarten services for Columbus children.
The mayor has said that Columbus must aspire to provide
access to quality preschool for every four-year old, regard-
less of income. The district can’t do it alone, and the city
can’t do it alone. We need private sector, nonprofits and
faith-based organizations, along with state and federal gov-

erm: He described how he gives principals the power and
responsibility to ensure kids learn—who in turn give their
teachers the authority to address achievement issues. The
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A number of speakers talked about what’s already going
on locally in the private sector to help young people. It in-
cluded Steve Campbell of Mayor Coleman’s office; Assis-
tant Superintendent Anthony Smith of Cincinnati schools;
and CEC member Janet Jackson, CEO of United Way of
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Article 211 is here. Finally.

We finally have a calendar. Take note of these dates. Remember that we told the school board we would push back the dates in exchange for their reserving our middle- and high-school class periods.

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 Center, Room G
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 Center, Room G
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

The superintendent intends to move ahead now and increase up to 18 the number of Pre-Kindergarten units for next school year, placing them in the schools with the greatest need. Funding for these new units will come from re-allocated Title I dollars. Adding Pre-K units would mean decreasing the number of Title I teachers allocated to serve grades K–5. As of yet, the administration has not presented a reorganization plan, but the shuffling could mean 36 fewer teaching positions to serve those grades.

We believe we have a more immediate need for teachers at the elementary level to make sure students meet the requirements for the Third Grade Guarantee—and beyond. More attention at Pre-K will help future students; however, it won’t help our current K–3 classes. It won’t lower class size, and it won’t help reduce splits. There is a proposal to add reading specialists at the elementary level, but you would likely see only one of these teachers assigned to your building. We did not have any other information about Title I teaching positions when this issue of The Voice went to press, but we will keep you informed.

We have received a list of services from Medical Mutual of Ohio (MMO) that are subject to the deductible. Those services include, but are not limited to, maternity, inpatient services, allergy testing and treatment, diagnostic labs, x-rays, medical tests, home health care, oral surgery, outpatient surgery, chemotherapy, dialysis, therapy done in a facility (physical, speech and occupational), radiation therapy, abortions, acupuncture, ambulance, durable medical equipment, private duty nursing and services billed with an office visit.

Services not subject to a deductible are: emergency room charge, office visit (the office visit procedure code), urgent care, therapy done in the office (physical, speech and occupational), preventive services, hospice, organ transplant, immunizations, diabetic education and training.

If you have a question about a service not mentioned here, please contact MMO Customer Service (800-382-5729) or the CCS Benefits Department (365-6475).

Alternative assessment training mania

Scores of teachers have received notices from their principals that they have been scheduled for disciplinary hearings because they failed to attend training for administering alternative assessments for special needs students. The principals were reluctant, but they complied and held the hearings with their teachers and their CEA representatives. The directive for holding the hearings came from the director of educational services and resources who required alternative assessment training for all special education teachers.

CEA has filed a class-action grievance. Here is what the state requires: All special education teachers who administer alternative assessments must attend the training. All second readers for alternative assessments must attend the training. Teachers who do not administer alternative assessments do not have to attend the training. For example, pre-school special needs teachers who will never give an alternative assessment do not have to attend the training.

CEA understands what the state is mandating. However, this is clearly a case of misinformation and power gone awry.

Special notes

The following buildings/units completed their United Negro College Fund campaign since the last issue of The CEA Voice: Berwick K–8, Broadleigh ES, Columbus City Prep. School for Boys, Columbus City Prep. School for Girls, Dominion MS, Eastgate ES, Linden STEM Academy K–6, Northland HS, Oakmont ES and Southwood ES.

Apply for the Columbus Area Writing Project Summer Institute today. To download an application, go to http://cawp.ehe.osu.edu/summer-programs/summer-institute. You also may contact Melissa Wilson, Program Manager, at: mwilson@ehe.osu.edu or Robin Holland, Co-Director, at rholl10554@aol.com.

The CEA Reach Out and Read Book Drive wrapped up on Mar. 28. FRs can still drop off their books to CEA at 929 E. Broad Street, Apr. 8–12 between the hours of 9 a.m.–5 p.m. All entry forms for the Kindle Fire must be submitted to Tracey Johnson no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, Apr. 11. Thank you for your support of this worthy cause.

2012 dues deductions for CEA members: Full Dues, Plan A (21 Pays) $824.33, Plan B (26 Pays) $825.83. If you switched from Plan A to B: $765.83 or went from Plan B to A: $884.33. Half Dues are $460.42 and Quarter Dues are $250.71.