

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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Auditor's report

The report is out. The news isn't good, but we can now relax. Now that we have State Auditor Dave Yost's findings, we can move on with the real work—helping students learn and fulfilling the school district's mission to ensure that "each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community." We want you to know that CEA purposely did not speak out during the investigation because it was not our fight. Teachers did nothing wrong. The report is proof.

During his press conference Yost told the news media, "Teachers were the real heroes in all of this." More than 200 of you were interviewed during the investigation. Yost characterized teachers as candid and willing to talk to investigators. He said that these systemic problems leading to data fixing were not a teacher problem; they were an administrator problem.

The report focuses on the 2010–11 school year, when more than 7,095 student grade changes were made by someone other than the classroom teacher. Thirty percent (2,709) were changes from "failing" to "passing." Investigators sampled 200 of these "F" to "D" changes and found that 85.3 percent (167) of them could not be supported by relevant documentation.

What happens next? Four principals are likely to lose their jobs. One of them changed data more than six hundred times. Yost is recommending at least one administrator be referred for criminal prosecution. Superintendent Dan Good pledged to improve systems and increase data security, saying, "We have begun to address nearly all of the recommendations," including adding and strengthening protocols for updating grades, student withdrawals, attendance and enrollment. We now also have a new attendance policy and supervisor. He said, "Please consider that the most important collective focus we can have as a community is to align our respective strengths and help our children achieve their potential."

We thank our attorney, Bob Sauter, who represented teachers during their interviews, and to CEA Vice President Phil Hayes for being CEA's lead during the process. We add that the audit examined other areas of our district operations, including Gainsharing, which involves performance-based bonuses for teachers and administrators based on success of students at individual buildings. None of your bonuses were tied to any wrongdoing.

CEA will keep you up to date as more information becomes available. If you have questions, please contact CEA at 253-4731.

To read the Auditor of State's report, go to https://ohioauditor.gov/auditsearch/Reports/2014/Columbus_CSD_10-11_Special_Franklin.pdf.



Help our students succeed

The focus of this year's CEA book drive will be on our students. Why?

Nearly 58 percent of our third-grade students could be retained if they do not meet the state standard on the third-grade reading OAA.

The school district has responded to this crisis by implementing changes in the elementary schedule, offering a professional development portal for teachers and sponsoring the Third Grade Literacy Academy. CEA is joining the efforts by redirecting our annual book drive to put a new book in the hands of every third grader in our schools.

The CEA book drive kicks off Monday, Feb. 3, and ends on Friday, Feb. 28. Please support our campaign by donating at least two new books appropriate for third-grade students. A suggested book list has been given to your FR.

When the campaign concludes, there will be a drawing for an iPad Mini. To be eligible for the drawing, donate at least three new books to the campaign. Give your books to your FR or building campaign chairperson and ask for an entry form. You should receive an entry for every three books you donate. The more you donate, the more chances you have of winning. After you complete the form, send it to Tracey Johnson at the CEA office no later than Thursday, Mar. 6. The drawing will take place Friday, Mar. 7.

For more information, call Tracey Johnson at CEA (253-4731), or send her an email at tjohnson@ceaohio.org.

Your heart matters

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women. It's time to fight back. Let's Go Red. During the month of February, wear this strong color



to express our solidarity to beat this often silent killer. Feb. 7 is National Wear Red Day. Show your color!

Ways to Go Red

Your Heart Score: Think you are eating right and getting enough exercise? It takes five minutes to make sure. Take the My Life Check and find out where you stand. You can also take the Go Red Heart CheckUp to get more tailored advice and information to improve your heart health.

Live Healthy: Learn new ways to prevent heart disease with heart-healthy recipes, exercises and more on Go Red



For Women. Our team of cardiologists, medical and fitness experts and nutritionists offers their advice to women like you for living a healthy lifestyle.

Know the Signs of a Heart Attack: Watch Go Red For Women's "Just a Little Heart Attack" video, starring and directed by Elizabeth Banks, to learn how to identify a heart attack. Learn more about the symptoms of a heart attack and stroke on Go Red.

Start Walking: Get moving and start walking by starting or joining a walking club with friends or coworkers with the help of the American Heart Association. Sign up, get resources and even coordinate your group online.

Wear Red: Brighten your wardrobe and support women fighting heart disease by wearing red and explaining what Going Red means. You can also get a free Go Red For Women Red Dress Pin on the Go Red website.

Host a Wear Red Day Event: At work, school or your club, you can host a Wear Red Day event. The planning guide, posters and flyers will help you create a great event.

Go Red Online: Turn your Twitter or Facebook profile picture red using our Red Dress image.

TOSA: Teacher on Security Assignment

Dec. 14, 2013, marked the one-year anniversary of the tragic shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School, which took the lives of twenty students and six school staff members.

Less than a week after the shootings, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine quickly and publicly suggested that Ohio schools could avoid a similar tragedy by making sure at least one staff member was armed at all times. It seems as if the Ohio House of Representatives was listening.

Recently, the Ohio House passed HB 8 by a largely partisan margin of 63–29. The law would exclude from collective bargaining the development and implementation of a protocol for the designation of school employees who may carry concealed weapons. If this bill passes, the acronym TOSA could mean, "Teacher on Security Assignment."

Additionally, the bill would allow school boards to enter into executive session to designate which employees may carry concealed handguns and prohibit the disclosure of those names. The bill also requires the Ohio Attorney General to adopt a training curriculum, but falls short of mandating that local school boards utilize the curriculum.

This bill does nothing to address the inequalities of school funding, deterioration of the mental health safety net, widespread availability of assault weapons or high-capacity clips. Instead, this bill gives school districts the power to create their own armed security forces and draft teachers into arms. We went to college to be teachers—not police officers.

Delegates at the OEA Fall 2013 Representative Assembly voted overwhelmingly to adopt a new legislative policy stating that teachers and other school employees should not be asked to serve a dual role as educators and school safety personnel armed with weapons. We are adamantly opposed to the legislation and are working with interested parties to stop HB 8 in the Ohio Senate.

Tell your state senator to vote "no" on HB 8. Go to <http://www.legislature.state.oh.us> to find your legislator.

College funds available

Your high school senior may be eligible to receive a CEA Scholarship.

Scholarship amounts range from \$500–\$1,500. The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, Apr. 25. Scholarship applications are available on the CEA website. For more information, contact Judy Nelson at 253-4731.

Our candidates want your vote

Get ready to cast your ballot. Here is the list of candidates (in random order) who want to represent you. Our election is Mar. 4:

President Tracey D. Johnson **Vice President** Phil Hayes
Beth Stevenson Dewey Chaffin

District 1 Governor (no opposition) Diana Welsh
District 4 Governor (no opposition) Courtney Johnson
District 5 Governor (no opposition) Kevin Jackson
District 10 Governor (no opposition) Ann Aeschbury

NEA Local Delegates (The number of delegates to be elected has yet to be determined by NEA.)

Lori A. Jackson, Dale Rucker, Greg Mild, Faye Love, Carol M. Dixon, Ezetta Murray, Angel Dyer, Phil Hayes, Ruth H. Colwell-Ennis, Gerry Curran, Tracie L. Helmbrecht, Melanie Garvin, Jeannette Johnson, Shamelle Warfield, Alan Schmiedebusch, Bob Hern, Tayana Jones-Patterson, Paula J. Garfield, Angela Stokes, Catherine Cincione, Megan Hinz, Claudia Eschelbach, Marty Flood, Jr., Jenny Plemel, Traci L. Arway, Julie Didlick, Susan Guisinger, Kristy Leigh, Amanda Blake, Jennifer Angelcyk, Courtney Johnson, Marlena Holt, Julie A. Meyer, Kriston Crombie Stotik, Rita Hinz, Bev Carter, Lisa R. Straughter, Atanya Brown, Kimberly A. Jones, Thomas W. Gibson, Deliana Soto, Kimberly Allbaugh Ogilbee, Jo Annette Byas-Marston, James Keller, Andrew Merritt, Kari Pietrangelo-Yates, Lovelee Lawanda Kirk, Amy Morris, Cheryl I. Cooper, Aaron Moore, Tracey D. Johnson, Gary Metzenbacher, Rodney W. Grist, Judy L. Wright, Eric L. Stone, Michelle Stasa Coleman, Kenya Davis, Daria DeNoia, D. Keith Adams and Jeanette Kuschill

All members who filed for candidacy for the position of OEA Delegate have been declared delegates or alternates for the 2014–2015 Representative Assembly. Members of the CEA Board of Governors serve as OEA and NEA delegates by virtue of office.

Correction: The Jan. 27 *Voice* article, "Calendar survey results," lists the beginning of the 2014–2015 school year as Monday, Aug. 16. The date should have read Monday, Aug. 18, 2014. We apologize for the error.

Special notes

- ❑ The **deadline to apply for a continuing contract** is **Mar. 1**. Section 401.16 of the *CEA Master Agreement* explains more about the process. Contact **Nancy Young, Teacher Certification/Licensure** at 365-5658, with questions.
- ❑ **Fee waiver applications for Summer 2014** will be in mailboxes on **Monday, Feb. 3**. Completed applications are due back to Northgate by **Friday, Feb. 14, at 5 p.m.** If you have **Priority I** or **Priority II** status, include the proper documentation. **Your priority status will change to Priority III without proper documentation.** Documentation is required with each fee waiver process. Call **Norma Oldham** at Northgate, 365-8993, if you have any questions.
- ❑ The **declaration period** to run for an Association office has ended. The **formal campaign period** began **Jan. 28** and ends on **Mar. 3**. (Faculty Representatives are asked to distribute and post campaign materials from candidates.) **Voting** is **Feb. 18–Mar. 3**. **Votes will be tabulated** on **Mar. 4**. Call CEA Elections Committee Chairperson **Michele Mays** at 253-4731 with questions.
- ❑ **2013 dues deductions** for CEA members: **Full Dues, Plan A** (21 Pays) **\$833.16**, **Plan B** (26 Pays) **\$834.43**. **If you switched from: Plan A to B: \$775.98** or went from **Plan B to A: \$891.61**. **Half Dues** are **\$460.83** and **Quarter Dues** are **\$271.32**.
- ❑ The Joint Evaluation Panel has extended the deadline for SLO submission through **Feb. 14**.