

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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Article 211 Round 2: Follow the rules

Round 2 interviews begin May 13 and conclude May 16. Priority schools may have more time to interview because of the number of vacancies.

Changing your panel composition

The interview process is serious business. We must all follow the rules we mutually negotiated. Our contract states (Section 211.01 D) that the interview/selection panel will consist of the principal, the Senior Faculty Representative, one elected member of the Association Building Council (ABC) and two parents/members of the school community.

If a building would like to have different panel members, the Senior FR must fax a request for this change to the CEA president. The request should include the names/positions of the desired members of the interview panel.

FRs must make this request PRIOR to Round 2 (May 12). During Round 1, some buildings failed to make the request. They put their vacancies at risk of being reposted in Round 2.

Review the materials as necessary, and be sure to train (retrain) all members of the interview/section panel.

Candidate eligibility

Only certain candidates are eligible to apply for positions. Principals, faculty representatives and candidates should check the eligibility list, which can be found at <http://bit.ly/Rnd2EligibleList>. Interview panels should not interview ineligible candidates and then expect their selections to be upheld by HR/CEA.

Remember, teachers who interviewed and were selected for positions for the 2012–2013 and the 2013–2014 schools years still are working under their signed three-year commitment. These teachers may apply only for “career opportunity” positions or vacancies at Priority Schools. The deadline has passed for self-staff reduction. Only teachers who have regular (full-time) contracts are eligible to apply at this time.

The “411” on EOY

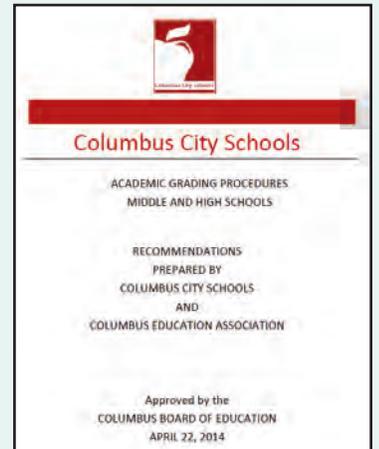
CEA and the administration have agreed that teachers will not administer certain end-of-year (EOY) tests for the 2013–2014 school year. These tests include DIBELS at the elementary grade levels and SRI at the middle and high school levels. These tests are on the state vendor-approved list. Giving the EOY would affect the student growth portion of your evaluation.

However, elementary teachers will need to provide a reading level for the fourth-quarter report cards. Teachers may use any leveling system (Fountas & Pinnell, DRA, Dominic, STAR, mClass–TRC only, etc.) and any text-level correlation chart they so choose. Middle and high school teachers should administer the district-created final exams.

Board approves new grading procedures

The Board of Education recently approved new grading procedures for middle and high schools for the 2014–2015 school year. A committee of teachers, principals, administrators and Columbus Education Association members looked at: philosophy, as well as recommendations, with respect to determination of grades; grading measures; interim grades; grading scale; calculating final grade; course drops; course additions; graduating senior failing grades; incomplete grades; repeat courses; state end-of-course exams; student withdrawal; test preparation coursework; transfer grades; and graduation class’ valedictorian and salutatorian.

The group’s final recommendation that was approved at the Apr. 22 Board of Education meeting can be found at <http://bit.ly/HSMSGrading>.



Teacher Talk

Our radio host, Sue Misiak, is leaving our WCBE show “Teacher Talk” this month, moving to Colorado to be closer to her daughter. Her last show is scheduled to be June 17. We will miss her. Sue, a retired West HS teacher, has been the show’s host for 27 years, informing listeners on 90.5 FM of important local, state and national education topics, beginning with her own interview by CEA President John Grossman in 1987.



Sue Misiak

We want to invite you to continue to listen. The show airs on the first and third Tuesday of each month, except during July. A new host will take the microphone in August.

In the meantime, these shows remain on the schedule:

- May 20: Interview with Tracey Johnson and Phil Hayes
- June 3: Superintendent Dan Good on the state of the schools
- June 17: Rhonda Johnson interviews Sue Misiak about her years hosting the show

Go to <http://wcbe.org/programs/teacher-talk> to listen to Sue’s most recent “Teacher Talk” shows.



Know your Governor

Izetta Thomas is part of a long chain of union membership.

“My grandparents and father have all been union members. My mother always encouraged me to be a voice, not only for myself, but for others. As the eldest of eight, I had a lot of practice!” she said.

Now in her 10th year with CCS, she has learned a lot about educator needs. She taught special-needs preschool and now is a PAR consultant. The Columbus native and member of the 100th graduating class of East HS has been an eager CEA student.



Izetta Thomas

“At Deshler, I was able to see examples of great leadership in our building,” she said. “I was approached by one of our kindergarten teachers and by District Governor Tai Hayden about becoming more involved.”

“I became alternate FR in 2009 while teaching at Deshler ES and an OEA/NEA delegate in 2010. Then I became Senior Faculty Representative at Easthaven ES in 2011. I am currently serving as the Elementary Governor-at-Large.”

“Senate Bill 5 had to have been the most significant experience during my involvement. If I’d never known the definition of solidarity before, I learned it inside and out that year. The fight and the victory still fuel my advocacy. In such a critical, and somewhat horrific time, seeing members across the state and even the nation come together is still one of the most beautiful pictures that I have in my heart.”

Thomas’ goal is to help elementary teachers find their voices in district affairs. “I want to assist our Pre-K and special-needs preschool teachers who often have felt left behind,” she said. “Early childhood is critical to students’ education; and, now that more people understand this, I hope that our early childhood educators’ long-standing needs can be met.”

It’s poetic—and Izetta would know. She competes in poetry slams and is a member of the women’s poetry collective, The Secrets of Oshun. In 2013, Thomas was the featured slam poet at the Columbus Arts Festival. She also performed in Phi Delta Kappá’s “Educators Got Talent” showcase.

Be an NEA Master and earn \$15K

Finding lessons and strategies that are suitable for the Common Core can be a challenge. But a new website, CC.BetterLesson, was built entirely for the Common Core and hosts lessons written by master teachers from across the country. The site is now adding a new set of science strategies and needs teachers to help develop them.

Each selected teacher receives a \$15,000 stipend. The application deadline is May 16. Here are the criteria:

- Experienced Educators: NEA members with at least three years of teaching experience, certified in current grade level and subject, teaching a K–12 science course in 2014–2015
- Curriculum Developers: Leverage experience with the Next Gen and CCSS to share a year’s worth of lessons
- Inspiring Writers: Reflect critically about their teaching methods; write clear, inspiring lessons for a teacher audience with a strong, first-person voice; have experience editing and revising
- Tech Savvy Pioneers: Engage in this virtual, highly collaborative project and integrate instructional technology to drive student learning

Go to <https://betterlesson.recruiterbox.com/jobs/21025/> to download the application.

LA attendance

We thank the representatives who attended the May 1 CEA Legislative Assembly (LA). The LA consists of Faculty Representatives, Governors and CEA officers. Meeting attendance is important to ensure effective representation. The assembly meets monthly during the school year in this parliament-like session to vote on matters of great importance to our association. The next LA is Thursday, May 22, and is the last LA of this school year. We will adopt the 2014–2015 CEA Budget and vote on changes to the CEA Constitution & Bylaws. All CEA members are welcome to attend.

The following buildings and units were represented May 1:

Alpine ES, Art, Avalon ES, Avondale ES, Beechcroft HS, Berwick K–8, Binns ES, Broadleigh ES, Brookhaven HS, CAHS, Cassady ES, CEA, Cedarwood ES, Centennial HS, Champion MS, Clinton ES, Colerain ES, Columbus Africentric EC ES, Columbus City Prep. School for Boys, Columbus City Prep. School for Girls, Columbus Downtown HS, Columbus International HS 7–12, Columbus Scioto 6–12, Como ES, Devonshire ES, Dominion MS, Duxberry Park ES, Eakin ES, East Columbus ES, East HS, East Linden ES, Eastgate ES, École Kenwood K–6, Fairmoor ES, Fairwood K–6, Forest Park ES, Ft. Hayes Arts & Academic HS, Ft. Hayes CC, Georgian Heights ES, Gifted & Talented, Guidance Counselors, Highland ES, Hilltonia MS, Hudson St. Warehouse, Huy ES/A.G. Bell Program, Indianola Informal K–8, Leawood ES, Liberty ES, Lincoln Park K–6, Lindbergh ES, Linden STEM Acad. K–6, Linden-McKinley STEM 7–12, Livingston K–6, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Moler K–6, Music, Neil Avenue Center, Northgate Center, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, Nurses, Oakland Park ES, Oakmont ES, Olde Orchard ES, PAR, Parsons K–6, Psychologists, Salem ES, Scottwood ES, Shady Lane ES, Sherwood MS, South HS 7–12, Special Ed. Transition Coordinators, Speech & Language, Starling K–8, Valley Forge ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Wedgewood MS, Weinland Park ES, West Broad ES, West HS, West Mound ES, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Windsor STEM Acad. K–6, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES and Woodward Park MS

Say "Au revoir"

Join us from 4–8 p.m., Friday, May 30, at the Boat House Restaurant at Confluence Park to say farewell to CEA President Rhonda Johnson. We will serve heavy hors d’oeuvres with a cash bar. The cost is \$15. Make your check payable to Tom Busher, and send it to the CEA office.



Rhonda is retiring after 36 years with CCS and CEA. We will still see her making her mark in the community as she becomes Education Director for the City of Columbus.

Rhonda invites all of you to come and enjoy her retirement celebration: “I would love to see everyone on my very last day of school!”

Special notes

- ❑ If you’re having a **retirement celebration**, send the information to bhern@ceaohio.org by **Tuesday, May 20**. CEA will post it in the “Special notes” section of *The CEA Voice* (four-line limit).
- ❑ **Mary Collins is retiring** after 42 years! Join us on **June 6, 6 p.m.** at **JA Biztown**, 68 E. Second Ave. (formerly Second Ave. ES). The dinner and gift are included for \$25. **RSVP** and make checks payable to **Marsha Kipfer**. Contact her at onu97@yahoo.com or **886-6924**.
- ❑ We still have tickets available for the **CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet**. Call CEA (253-4731) to make your reservation. The event will be held on **Saturday, May 17**, at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. **Social hour** will begin at **6 p.m.**, and **dinner** will be served at **7 p.m.** If you are a retiree, please attend this banquet. It is being held in your honor. **This event is free to retirees, Senior Faculty Representatives and honorees.**
- ❑ The following **alternative interview panels** have been approved: Beechcroft HS and Eastgate ES.
- ❑ **We need your contact information.** Make sure CEA has your personal, non-CCS email address so that we can communicate with you this summer. Send your information to tellcea@ceaohio.org.