

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

October 9, 2017

Governor Not Available to Meet

In the October 2, 2017 CEA Voice, we informed you of CEA President Tracey D. Johnson's request to meet with the Governor to discuss school funding in the state of Ohio. The initial response from the Governor's office was that they were trying to find a time when he was available



to meet. On September 27, 2017 President Johnson received the following email response:

Ms. Johnson, thank you for your request to meet with the Governor to discuss school funding. While we cannot make it work with his schedule at this time, as Assistant Policy Director who works on Education, I am happy to coordinate a meeting with myself and others who work on school funding. Can you suggest a few times that work for you the week of October 9th? I will see what we can make work for our team.

Best,
Jana Fornario
Assistant Policy Director
Office of the Governor

Although disappointed that there would not be a direct meeting with Governor Kasich, dates and times were sent in order to set up a meeting with Jana Fornario to discuss school funding in Ohio and its impact on Columbus City Schools.

We cannot continue to fund schools in the way that we do in the State of Ohio. It's been twenty years since school funding was deemed unconstitutional in the state of Ohio but we have yet to fix the problem. CEA President Tracey D. Johnson will continue to advocate on behalf of students, our school district and the CEA membership for a fair funding model for our schools. We will keep you informed of the outcome of these meetings.

United Way

United Way of Central Ohio is the flagship organization supporting community needs in many key areas. The Association pledged its support Oct. 5 with a



campaign kickoff at the Columbus Downtown HS that included both CEA Faculty Representatives and CCS Administration. United Way is committed, through the work of its many member agencies, to improving opportunities for education, safe neighborhoods, and access

to job training and health care. The goal is broad, lasting change that will make life better for all of us. When you give to the organization, you empower so many other organizations that help our students and their families.

One of United Way's chief goals is reduce the effects of poverty. Even though unemployment has decreased, many families are still struggling. United Way looked at data to determine the root causes of these hardships in our community. Your donation helps to promote and improve public policies that can help break these barriers. These funds help United Way with its crucial work leading to investments in high-need neighborhoods where revitalization is critical, and where expanded resources will assist many agencies working toward this goal. United Way already has helped improve kindergarten readiness, removed barriers to health care, encouraged good nutrition and fitness, helped our neighbors prepare for disasters and emergencies, created safer neighborhoods and provided safe and decent housing for many more of our neighbors.

When you receive your materials, please take a moment to review them, then think of your students and give generously.

Calendar survey results

The survey results for the 2018-2019 school year are complete. We want to thank the 1,988 CEA members for participating. We will present your preferences to the joint CEA/ CCS calendar committee. Per state law, the school board must hold a public hearing at least 30 days before



adopting the calendar. Here are your preferences:

- Teachers report Monday, Aug. 20, 2018
- Winter break, Dec. 24, 2018–Jan. 6, 2019 (inclusive)
- Spring break Apr. 19–26 (inclusive)
- Last day for students May 30, 2019
- Last day for teachers May 31, 2019

A breakdown of the survey responses is given below:

Begin and end of the 2018–2019 school year
Monday, Aug. 20, to Friday, May 31 66.6%
Monday, Aug. 27, to Friday, June 7 27.4%
Thursday, Aug. 16 to Wednesday, May 29 11.8%

Begin and end of the 2018–2019 winter break
Monday, Dec. 24, to Sunday, Jan. 6 59.7%
Thursday, Dec. 20 to Wednesday, Jan. 2 40.24%

Begin and end of the 2018–2019 spring break
Monday, Mar. 11, to Monday, Mar 18 18.9%
Friday, Apr. 19, to Friday, Apr. 26 54.4%
Friday, Apr. 12, to Friday, Apr. 19 26.6%

Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment for your medical benefits will begin Oct. 10 and end Oct. 31. Everyone must reenroll even if you are not making any changes. Look for emails and information mailed to your home from the CCS Employee Benefits Office. Also, see the Oct. 2 Voice for information on how to enroll.

All benefit-eligible employees must take one of the following actions:

- Reconfirm current elections (even if you only elect the board sponsored life insurance/dental/vision)
- Elect benefits or make changes (add or delete dependents, update beneficiary information, etc.)
- Waive Coverage

Employee Self Service (ESS) will be used for the 2018 enrollment process. Benefit choices made during Open Enrollment are effective January 1, 2018. Please make sure that you are able to log on to ESS prior to the start of Open Enrollment. ESS will not be available for benefits review (if newly hired) or enrollment until October 10, 2017.

Save the Dates

Your Association is working hard to provide the CEA membership with many opportunities to learn about and engage in the work of the Association. Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events sponsored by CEA:

- **Bargaining Workshops:** November 2, February 7, March 7, and April 25
- **CEA Town Halls:** December 13 and May 9
- **Meet the Candidates Forums:** February 13 & 15

All events are scheduled from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. with the locations to be determined. CEUs will be offered for the Bargaining Workshop sessions.

All events are open to the membership.

Thinking About Retiring?

Staff members planning on retiring at some point in the 2017-18 school year can be exempted from the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES). Ohio Substitute House Bill 365 states: “A board of education may elect to not conduct an evaluation of a teacher who has submitted notice of retirement and that notice has been accepted by the board not later than December 1 in the school year in which the evaluation is otherwise scheduled to be conducted.”

Members who would like to exercise this option must submit their notice of retirement by November 3, 2017, to Human Resources. Go to <http://bit.ly/ccsretireresign> to download a copy of the retirement/resignation notification form, or feel free to draft your own. Your Association recommends hand delivering your notice of retirement and obtaining a time-stamped copy. If you have further questions regarding the option not to conduct the evaluation due to retirement, contact Mira Wright at (614)365-8307. If you have general retirement questions not related to the evaluation process, go to

<http://bit.ly/2xZHbNf>.

CEA Pre-Paid Legal Services Plan OEA/NEA Attorney Referral Program

At Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter and Washburn, we have dedicated ourselves to teachers in and out of the classroom. Our experienced personal injury, divorce, dissolution, criminal, probate and real estate attorneys are available to you at moderate rates which are lower than we normally charge our private clients.

Contact us today and allow our experience to work for you.

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Social and Economic Justice Committee

On Tuesday, September 26, The Social and Economic Justice Committee (SEJC) kicked off a professional development series with Suzanne Roberts of Unifying Solutions. Suzanne lead an insightful session titled “Safe Conversations about Race.” Each participant received .2 CEUs for the session. The next session will be lead by Mr. James White of Performance Consulting Services. James is known for his humorous, yet real world and impactful, informative training style. He has conducted training and consulting in over 34 school districts throughout the United States of America.

Please register in CIMS and plan to join us on Tuesday, October 24, at The Ohio Education Association (OEA), 225 E. Broad St, 4:30-6:30. Refreshments will be served.

Open Computer Labs for SLO Revisions

For CEA members evaluated on the teacher rubric should have submitted two student learning objectives (SLOs_ for the student growth measure requirement of your evaluation. Initial submission of student learning objectives (SLOs) was due on September 29, 2107. For members needing to revise their SLO(s), consider visiting Huy/A.G. Bell ES or Berwick K-8 on Wednesday, October 18 from 4:30-6:30 PM. Computer labs at both buildings will be available to members to access and work on revisions. Members of the joint evaluation team will be in attendance to assist with any questions. To reserve your space, sign up for a SLO revision work session on CiMS.

LPDC Training Sessions

The Columbus Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) will be hosting face-to-face training sessions for becoming a CIMS Facilitator. If you were trained in person last school year, you do not need to attend a face-to-face session again this year, and will only need to complete a “refresher” module and the updated Facilitator Agreement (check your email for the links).

For those who are new, CIMS is the district’s system for tracking participation in professional development activities, especially with regard to earning CEUs. In order to be a “provider” of professional development and have individuals receive CEUs (e.g., PD Days, BLT sessions, etc.), you **MUST** attend a face-to-face training to learn all of the important steps to enter PD Activities into CIMS and track attendance.

The LPDC will also be hosting support sessions for those needing assistance in creating an Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP). All educators with 5-year Professional Licenses in Ohio must have an approved IPDP on file in order to earn credits toward the renewal of that license.

You can find upcoming facilitator training dates and IPDP support sessions in CIMS by searching for “CiMS Facilitator Training 2017-18” or “IPDP Support Session 2017-18”.

Reminders:

✓ **Have a college senior?** Scholarships are available from the CEA Member Scholarship Fund. Each scholarship provides \$1,250 in tuition assistance per awardee. Eligible CEA members must have taught in CCS for the past four years. Your student must have a minimum 2.0 GPA to apply. The deadline to receive the application is 4:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 20. Go to www.ccaohio.org to download an application. Call Kathy Wilkes at (614) 253-4731, if you have questions.

✓ **Join CEA at The Making Strides Against Cancer 5k Walk.** If you have not already done so please form a team and register at www.makingstrideswalk.org/columbus. Remember to register the Columbus Education Association as your Team Company once you register your team. If your school or program does not form a team please feel free to sign up for the CEA Dream Team. The walk takes place Saturday, October 21, 2017 at Genoa Park and Amphitheater, 303 W. Broad Street. Registration is at 8:30 am and the walk starts at 9:30 am.

