

# The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

October 30, 2017

## CEA President Challenges School Board

On Monday, October 23, 2017, CEA President Tracey D. Johnson sent an email to the seven members of the Columbus City Schools Board of Education. Below you will find her email asking the Board members to take a more active role in advocating on behalf of the District around the issue of school funding. Johnson will share the Board's response when she receives it.

Dear CCS Board of Education Members:

At the last BOE meeting held on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 there was a discussion focused on school funding. This came after the treasurer's report on the Five-Year Forecast which predicted an over 200 million-dollar short fall in five years. During the discussion it was proposed that the Board aggressively challenge State Legislators to address the unfair school funding model that negatively impacts districts like Columbus City Schools. Superintendent Dan Good suggested that the approach needed to be elected official to elected official advocating for the needs of the District. After much debate, no real resolution or plan of action was decided as to how the Board would leverage its influence around the issue of school funding. As a result, I am asking the CCS School Board to advocate on behalf of our students and the families that elected you into office.

The Columbus Education Association, along with our state affiliate OEA, strongly believe that we cannot wait two years for a new governor to have conversations about school funding. As a result of the disappointing contract negotiations, I have already begun this work on behalf of CEA and the families we serve. On October 11, I met with staff from the Governor's office, ODE and OEA to discuss the concerns of the CEA membership with the current state school funding model. On October 16, I met with a group of parents and community members to discuss this issue also. These conversations were positive with a reassurance that more conversations would take place. CEA is galvanizing as much support as we can to put pressure on our state elected officials to take a serious look at how schools are funded and develop a model that is fair. But we need the CCS School Board to join in this fight.

It will take all of us joining with other school boards, organizations, affiliates, parents and community members to demand that those elected to represent us do their jobs. We cannot sit back and wait for a new governor and hope that we will see the change that is needed. I am asking the CCS Board of Education to take a more active role in addressing the issue of school funding. CEA is willing to work with all who are willing to tackle this issue head on. I am hoping that CEA can count on the CCS School Board to join us in this fight. I look forward to further discussions with you about this issue in order to ensure that all of our students have the resources and support needed to reach their full potential.

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## CEA's Position on Issues

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## Early Voting Has Started

Here are the remaining early voting dates for the Franklin County Board of Elections:

Oct. 30 - Nov. 3	Early in-person weekday voting	8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Nov. 4	Saturday in-person voting	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Nov. 5	Sunday in-person voting	1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Nov. 7	General Election Day	6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is noon on Nov. 4. Download an absentee ballot request form at <http://bit.ly/2yUH7o6> and submit it to your county board of elections. Franklin County residents can go to <http://bit.ly/2kDE3KP> to download a sample ballot. Follow the return instructions carefully and mail your completed ballot back to your county board of elections as early as possible.

## Watch Senate Bill 216

(As printed in the OEA Legislative Watch)

Ohio state Senator Matt Huffman (R-Lima) has introduced Senate Bill 216. The bill would make a variety of changes to Ohio law regarding continuing contracts for non-teaching employees, teacher licensure and evaluation, aide permits, student testing, and the college credit plus program.

OEA is reviewing the bill and will urge that any provision that is contrary to the interests of OEA members and the learners they serve be removed from the bill. Senate Bill 216 contains the following provisions:

### **Non-teacher continuing contracts:**

- Lengthens the service time for a non-teaching continuing contract from three years to seven years.

### **Educator Licensure:**

- Consolidates teacher licenses into two grade bands (K-8 and 6-12).
- Allows a superintendent to employ an individual holding an educator license to teach a subject area or grade level for which the person is not licensed.
- Educational aide permits and educational paraprofessional licenses are only required for individuals working in federally-funded programs.
- Nonteaching employees whose services are needed to substitute for educational assistants shall not be required to hold a permit or license.
- Establishes one substitute license (no long term and short term).
- Removes the requirement for 30 hours of professional development for teachers instructing gifted children.

### **Educator evaluation:**

Generally, the bill implements the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) reform recommendations of the Educator Standards Board (ESB). The ESB made six recommendations:

- 1) update the OTES rubric,
- 2) embed student growth measures in the revised OTES rubric,
- 3) remove shared attribution,
- 4) embed the alternative framework components as sources of evidence in the revised OTES rubric,
- 5) tailor the structure and timing of observations to meet the improvement and growth needs of teachers, and
- 6) provide a professional growth process for teachers rated Accomplished and Skilled.

**Note:** OEA supports the OTES reforms recommended by the ESB. OEA is working with Senate Education Committee Chair Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) on a separate bill that is focused solely on implementing the OTES reforms recommended by the ESB. Chair Lehner's OTES reform bill is expected to be introduced next week. OEA will strongly support that bill.

### **Student testing:**

- Eliminates kindergarten diagnostic tests.
- Allows option for paper tests on state assessments for student in grades 3-5.
- College-credit plus (CCP):

- Student required to take CCP course at school district if offered there.

## Know the Contract: Additional students for pay

The CEA Master Agreement (Section 209.04) provides for additional compensation in certain situations when bargaining unit members have to be responsible for their colleagues' students.

Elementary teachers who receive divided students from colleagues without a substitute receive additional pay at the rate of six times three-quarters of the supplemental hourly rate per day.

Middle school and high school teachers who are assigned during their conference periods to cover an absent teacher's class on a rotating basis will receive pay at the rate of three-fourths of the supplemental hourly rate for each 45-minute period. When a self-contained middle school assignment is divided among other teachers, the compensation shall follow the elementary model listed above.

When a teacher, must leave after the workday has started and is charged sick or personal leave for that absence, the teachers who receive those students shall be compensated at the following rate: number of coverage hours for that day times three-fourths times the supplemental hourly rate. To verify that you have been paid accurately, keep track of the dates you have been assigned extra students or have been assigned to cover a class during your conference period.

## Thanks for Giving

By donating to the United Way of Central Ohio, you create positive changes for now and for the future for many Central Ohio families. The United Way brings together the resources of our community investing our collective time, money and efforts in effective results-oriented programs. You can have a positive impact and improve people's lives. We all benefit when children and families succeed. This year's campaign ends on Thursday, Nov. 2. Your Association would like to thank the following schools/units who have completed their campaigns since the last issue of The CEA Voice went to press: Centennial HS, CAHS, Cranbrook ES, East Columbus ES, Georgian Heights ES, Hubbard Mastery School, Hudson Adult & Community Education, Hudson Street Warehouse, Lindbergh ES, Maize ES, Ohio Avenue ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Wedgewood MS, Westgate ES and Whetstone HS.

## CEA Member Gets Solo Art Exhibition

Congratulations to CEA member Kenya N. Davis (Duxberry Park) on her solo exhibition Body Eclectic: Diverse art works by Kenya N. Davis at the King Arts Complex, 867 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Columbus, OH. The opening reception takes place November 16, 2017, 6:00 p.m. Admission is free.

## Reminders:

- ☑ Open Enrollment for your medical benefits ends 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.
- ☑ Bargaining 101 workshop will be held on Thurs., Nov. 2 at 4:30 p.m. at the Columbus Downtown HS. This session focuses on bargaining basics. You do not have to be on the bargaining team to attend this session. Go to: <http://bit.ly/Bargaining101> to RSVP or call the CEA office at (614)253-4731. CEUs will be granted for attending.
- ☑ The Spring 2018 Fee Waiver Applications will be in all buildings on Monday, October 30, 2017. The completed fee waiver application is due back to 889 East 17th Avenue by Friday, November 10, 2017, by 5:00pm. If you are a Priority 1 or a Priority 2 status, please be sure to include the proper documentation with your completed fee waiver application. Documentation is required with each fee waiver process. Your Priority status will change to a Priority 3 without the proper documentation. Please call Norma Oldham, 889 East 17th Avenue, (614)365-5039 or email her at [noldham@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:noldham@columbus.k12.oh.us) if you have any questions.