

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

March 12, 2018

March 14 Safer Together Day

During the March 6 CCS Board of Education meeting, the board adopted a resolution in support of our students and staff in response to the gun violence in our communities and our nation. District Administration met with a focus group of students to get their thoughts on how we should respond to the call for a nationwide student walk-out on Wednesday, March 14. The District calls the day Safer Together Day.

What is the National School Walkout? Students, school faculty and supporters around the world will walk out of their schools to honor those killed in the massacre at the Parkland High School in Florida earlier this year for 17 minutes at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 14. Those participating are encouraged to wear orange – the color used by many who support gun control.

Columbus City Schools' Interim Superintendent Dr. John Stanford stated he supports any student or staff member wishing to support this effort. Suggestions were sent to schools regarding possible activities but each school has been given autonomy as to how they will support the Walk-Out. He stated that no student or staff member will be punished for participating in the 17-minute walk-out.

We commend the Board and District Administration for taking a bold stand in support of our students and staff and for allowing them to raise their voices around the issue of gun violence.

Staff Cuts Reduced

This is what collective action looks like. On March 6 the CCS Board voted on personnel reductions in response to the pending deficit the District is facing. The initial proposed reductions were 163 positions across certificated and classified staff members. At the meeting those reductions were reduced to 61 with the hopes that most will be absorbed through attrition.

While we do not want anyone to be receive a lay-off notice, we are glad to see these significant reductions. This is a direct result of our Association and its members standing up and letting our voices be heard. The CEA leadership attended several meetings with District Leadership and Board members advocating on behalf of the membership. Members sent emails, attended Board Meetings and forums and raised the voices on behalf the profession, their schools and their students. The reductions in possible layoffs are a direct result of our collective action.

We are able to accomplish great things when we all stand up and raise our voices. Together we are stronger.

Governor's Administration Voices Support for Education Consolidation

House Bill 512, sponsored by Representative Bill Reineke (R- Tiffin), seeks to consolidate the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Higher Education, and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation into a new, cabinet-level agency, the Ohio Department of Learning and Achievement. The bill also proposes to transfer most of the

functions and policy-making powers of the State Board of Education (SBOE) to the new department. Under the bill, SBOE would oversee teacher licensure and educator misconduct. OEA is opposed to this bill.

On Tuesday, February 27, 2018, supporters of the bill offered proponent testimony in a hearing before the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee. The proposal was praised by officials from Governor Kasich's administration. John Carey, Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education and Ryan Burgess, Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation stated that the bill will lead to greater coordination and collaboration. Among others providing testimony in favor of HB 512 were Dennis Franks, Superintendent of the Pickaway-Ross Career and Technology Center; Ron Larussi, Superintendent of the Mahoning County ESC; and Tom Gunlock, former President of the State Board of Education.

In opposing the bill in its current form, OEA believes the proposed consolidation of these state departments would dilute the unique roles and needs of each department. OEA is skeptical that the proposed "super" department will promote additional collaboration. OEA is also not convinced that the functions of the preK-12, higher education, and workforce development systems would be adequately carried out under this plan.

Further, OEA is very concerned with the diminished role of the State Board of Education. Members of the Board serve an important democratic function that allows for public, parent and educator input on K-12 education issues. While we share the stated goal of increased collaboration, OEA believes that the stated objectives for this bill can be achieved without the merger of these state departments.

Senate Bill 216 – Public School "Deregulation Act" Continues to Receive Hearings

The Ohio Senate Education Committee held a seventh hearing on Senate Bill 216 (R-Huffman) on February 28, 2018. The committee accepted several amendments to the bill, which are outlined below. More amendments are expected at future hearings. Senate Bill 216 is a wide-ranging bill with numerous policy proposals that impact educators and students. OEA has a variety of positions on specific provisions in the bill and recognizes that the bill is still evolving. However, as an overall package, the OEA opposes the bill as it currently stands. To view OEA's testimony delivered before Senate Education Committee, go to <http://bit.ly/2G0sEvJ>.

Of primary concern are provisions OEA views as diluting or eliminating safeguards in teacher licensure that are designed to ensure the professionalism and preparedness of educators serving students in the classroom. On the other hand, OEA supports teacher evaluation reforms that are designed to advance continuous teacher improvement and student achievement. In some areas, the bill raises important issues that merit further consideration of more narrowly-tailored solutions.

SB 216 amendments accepted by the Senate Education Committee on February 28, 2018 made changes to the bill's provisions affecting school safety, the use of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and gifted education professional development. For the full list of changes, go to: <http://bit.ly/2oObslL>.

Article 211: New Dates

With the ongoing talks of budget reductions, CEA asked the District to push back Article 211 in order to make sure it was fair to the membership. The District agreed and the following are the new Article 211 dates:

- Friday, March 2: Administrative Staff Reduction Notification for reasons other than allocation changes
- Friday, March 16: Administrative Staff Reduction Notification for allocation changes
- Tuesday, March 20: Round 1 Postings OPEN (All known openings by 5:00 pm)
- Monday, March 26 :Round 1 Postings CLOSE (Applications no longer accepted)
- MARCH 30 - APRIL 6: SPRING BREAK (NO ACTIVITY)
- APRIL 9 - 20: WOODCREST BREAK (NO ACTIVITY)
- Monday, April 23: Round 1 Interviews Open
- Friday, April 27: Round 1 Interviews Close (Selection Agreement Forms and Rosters sent to Principals at 5:00 pm)
- Monday, April 30 : Selection Agreement Forms due to Human Resources by 5:00 pm
- Monday, May 7: Round 2 Postings OPEN (All known openings by 5:00 pm)
- Friday, May 11: Round 2 Postings CLOSE (Applications no longer accepted)
- Monday, May 14: Round 2 Interviews Open
- Friday, May 18: Round 2 Interviews Close (Selection Agreement Forms and Rosters sent to Principals at 5:00 pm)
- Monday, May 21: Selection Agreement Forms due to Human Resources by 5:00 pm
- Tuesday, May 29: Job Fair 4:30 p.m. at the Linmoor Education Center

Support Our Third Graders

The CEA book drive kicked off March 1st and will end on March 29th. We want to put a new book in each 3rd grade summer enrichment packet. Support our campaign by donating at least two new books appropriate for children reading on the pre-primer through third grade reading level. A suggested book list has been given to your FR.

At the conclusion of the campaign, a drawing will be held for four \$100 VISA gift cards for members who donate at least three new books. Give your books to your FR or building campaign chairperson, and ask for an entry form for every three books you donate. Send your completed forms to Teri Mullins at the CEA office (Rt. #1) no later than Friday April 13. The drawing will take place on Monday April 16.

For more information about the campaign, call Teri Mullins at CEA (614)253-4731 or tmullins@ceaohio.org.

CCS UNCF Workplace Campaign Draws to An End

A mind is a terrible thing to waste, but a wonderful thing to invest in. Thank you to those employees who invested in the future of our youth by contributing to the UNCF Workplace Campaign. If you haven't contributed please consider giving, it is not too late. The UNCF administers scholarships and programs allowing students from low-and moderate- income families to afford college tuition, books and room and board. The UNCF scholarships apply to all schools, not just historically black colleges and universities. CEA would like to thank the following schools and programs for completing their Workplace Campaign: Avalon ES, Avondale ES, Berwick Alternative K-8, Briggs HS, Capital Improvements, Career Tech Dept. (FHCC), CEA, CEC, Champion MS, Colerain ES, Columbus City Prep. School For Boys, Columbus Downtown HS, Columbus Gifted Academy, Columbus Spanish Immersion, Cranbrook ES, Dominion MS, Easthaven ES, Ecole Kenwood, Forest Park ES, Gables ES, Georgian Heights ES, Gifted and Talented, Hamilton STEM,

Hilltonia MS, Huy/AG Bell, John Burroughs ES, Johnson Park MS, Leawood ES, Liberty ES, Lincoln Park ES, Maize ES, Marion Franklin HS, Medina MS, Mifflin MS, Moler ES, Northgate Intermediate ES, Northland HS, PAR, Scottwood ES, Shady Lane ES, Sherwood MS, Stewart ES, Sullivant ES, Wedgewood MS, Weinland Park ES, Westgate ES, Whetstone HS, Woodcrest ES and Yorktown MS.

Please contact Ezetta Murray at CEA if you would still like to donate, (614)253-4731.

LA Attendance

Thank you to the following CEA Faculty Representatives in attendance at the March 1 Legislative Assembly: Alpine ES, Art, Arts Impact MS, Avalon ES, Beechcroft HS, Berwick PreK-8, Briggs HS, Burroughs ES, CAHS, Cassady ES, CEA, Centennial HS, Champion MS, Clinton ES, Colerain ES, Columbus City Prep. School for Boys, Columbus City Prep. School for Girls, Columbus Downtown HS, Columbus Gifted Academy, Columbus North International HS 7-12, Columbus Spanish Imm. K-6, Como ES, Cranbrook ES, Devonshire ES, Duxberry Park ES, Eakin ES, East HS, East Linden ES, Eastmoor Acad. HS, École Kenwood K-6, Fairmoor ES, Fairwood K-6, Forest Park ES, Ft. Hayes Arts & Academic HS, Ft. Hayes CC, Gables ES, Gifted & Talented, Hamilton STEM Acad. K-6, Highland ES, Hilltonia MS, Hudson St. Warehouse, Independence HS, Indian Springs ES, Indianola Informal K-8, Innis ES, Johnson Park MS, Juvenile Detention Center, Leawood ES, Liberty ES, Lincoln Park K-6, Lindbergh ES, Linden STEM Acad. PreK-6, Linden-McKinley STEM 7-12, Linmoor Ed. Ctr., Livingston K-6, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Mifflin MS, Moler K-6, Music, Northgate ES, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, Nurses, Oakland Park ES, Oakmont ES, Olde Orchard ES, OT/PT, PAR, Parsons K-6, Phys. Ed., Psychologists, Ridgeview MS, School Counselors, Sherwood MS, Social Workers, South HS 7-12, South Mifflin STEM Acad PreK-6, Southwood K-6, Speech & Language, Stewart ES, Valley Forge ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Watkins ES, Wedgewood MS, Weinland Park ES, West Broad ES, West HS, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES, Woodward Park MS, Yorktown MS.

PAR Pool

Congratulations to the following CEA members who were selected to be in the Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) Pool: Tammi Gale, Independence HS; Erica Golden, Scottwood ES; Harold Howard, Woodward Park MS; Samuel Leopold, Columbus Gifted Academy; Maya Marlowe, Weinland Park ES; Kelly McLeese, Columbus Scioto; Brittney McCord, Linden-McKinley STEM; Meredith Mucha, Speech and Language Services; Eryn Sandhage, West Broad ES; Jennifer Sheehan, Woodward Park MS; Shawna Streeter, Maize ES; Merele Wilder, Cedarwood ES; Scott Wilson, East HS.

Selection to the Pool does not guarantee an automatic placement. Members are called as needed based upon the certification needs of the Program. Members selected to the PAR Pool can be in the pool for up to five years. Congratulations to our teacher leaders.

Reminders:

☛ The Scholarship Committee is taking applications for CEA and CEA-R Scholarships for our members' children. Applications are due at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, March 29, 2018. You can find the application at: <http://bit.ly/ceaspringschol18>. The Scholarship application must include the following:

1. A statement of the student's personal philosophy and goals.
2. Two references: One from a current academic instructor with whom the student has studied during the past year, and one from someone other than a relative. Send completed applications to:

Columbus Education Association
Attn: Spring Scholarship
929 E. Broad Street Columbus, OH 43205

☛ Voting in the CEA Spring Election ends on Mar. 13. Votes will be tallied Mar. 14. In the event of a spring run-off election, campaigning will begin Mar. 15 and end Apr. 24. Voting begins on Apr. 9 and end Apr. 24; votes will be tallied on Apr. 25.