

The CEA Voice

Rhonda Johnson, President

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Columbus Education Association

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School closing plan nearing completion

At its meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 23, the Columbus Board of Education voted to approve the recommendations of the Facilities Master Plan Revision (FMPR) Committee. The committee recommended:

- Consolidating Linden Park I.G.E. Alternative and Medary elementary schools.
- Keeping Douglas Elementary School open. Committee members noted that the school is at 90 percent of capacity and its informal program has a strong base of parent support. Demand for the informal program is high. Indianola Alternative Elementary School, the only other district school with the program, could not absorb many additional students.
- Requesting more time to study closing Linmoor Middle School. The study revealed the following enrollment trends: 2002—449 students; 2003—422 students; 2004—323 students 2005—275 students; and 2006—234 students. Currently, there are 589 students who live in the assigned area of Limoor. 293 of these students attend another CPS school, and 123 attend charter or private schools.

At the Jan. 24 meeting of the FMPR Committee, a recommendation was made to consolidate Linmoor Middle School. Supt. Harris will then make a formal recommendation to the board at its meeting on Feb. 6.

The committee's work began several months ago. Since the last report, the group has been focused on four schools' enrollments and feeder patterns and how school closures at the end of this school year would impact planning for Segment 3 of the district's Facilities Master Plan.

"A district's enrollment is always a dynamic situation," said Co-chair Floyd Jones. "The superintendent and board should consider reviewing enrollment and its impact every year to ensure the Facilities Master Plan reflects continuing community involvement and the needs of Columbus students today and tomorrow."

OEA on board with amendment

The Ohio Education Association endorses a proposed constitutional amendment to fix the school funding crisis in Ohio.

OEA said the amendment will guarantee high-quality education as a fundamental right for all Ohio's public school children.

The sponsors of the amendment have formed the Campaign for Ohio's Future and are using the theme *Getting It Right for Ohio's Future*.

OEA believes the amendment fixes school funding by:

- 🔔 Creating an objective process to determine the level of investment needed to provide a high-quality education for all Ohio children.

- 🔔 Establishing a dedicated, education trust fund to fully fund the state's share of education.
 - 🔔 Providing strict accountability for school funding and spending.
 - 🔔 Alleviating the frequency of school tax levy issues by providing adequate state funding and halting the practice of counting non-existent local tax revenues in order to reduce the amount of state funding for local school districts.
 - 🔔 Providing substantial property tax relief for senior citizens and the disabled.
 - 🔔 Providing annual increases to Ohio's cash-strapped public universities to match at least the level of growth in statewide personal income.
 - 🔔 Establishing a local government fund to support police and fire departments, libraries and other local services.
 - 🔔 Providing direct access to the Ohio Supreme Court, which has ruled Ohio's school funding mechanism unconstitutional four times
- "We are fully committed to this effort. We look forward to working hard this year so that every Ohio child has the basic right to a high-quality public education," said Gary L. Allen, OEA president.

Professional Staff Survey

Article 501 of the Master Agreement gives you the right to make an annual evaluation of your school. This year's Professional Staff Survey will be administered in each building in February.

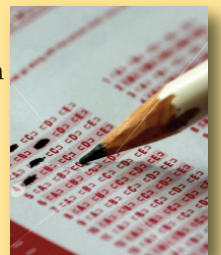
You will have the opportunity to evaluate your school's vision, school climate, administrator-teacher relationships, democratic process, instructional program, professional environment and student behavior.

A survey will be made available to every member of the CEA bargaining unit who works at the building, including, but not limited to, classroom teachers, special education teachers, art, music, and phys. ed. teachers, counselors, nurses, psychologists, speech & language therapists, and OTs/PTs.

The Senior Faculty Representative, or another designated faculty representative, will administer the survey in your building. CEA has found that the highest rate of returned surveys generally comes from buildings where the principal provides time for the survey to be completed during a staff meeting.

All surveys should be completed and put in school mail to Kingswood by Mar. 2. After Kingswood has processed the data, CEA will report the results on our website.

Please take advantage of your right to evaluate the administrator and your teaching and learning conditions.



TAP opening for 2007–08

The Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) is opening a pool for master teacher positions for the upcoming school year. To be eligible to apply, a teacher must have taught successfully in CPS for a minimum of five years with evidence of student achievement gains in his or her prior position, and have an area of expertise in English language arts, math and/or science.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate excellent written and oral communication skills and the ability to work cooperatively and effectively with staff. Applicants must have a good knowledge of classroom management and instructional student learning strategies. Watch for these positions when they are posted. If you have any questions, please contact Edna Thomas at 365-8816.

Two teachers in credit union election

As noted in *The Voice* last week, the *Official Ballot* mailed with the December statement, which was printed on white paper, contained an error. The *Corrected Official Ballot* was sent in a later mailing, and it is printed on yellow paper instead of white paper.

Only the *Corrected Official Ballot* will be counted. Even if you have previously completed and mailed the *First Official Ballot*, you must complete and mail the *Corrected Official Ballot* for your vote to count.

The Columbus Education Association is proud to endorse the two members currently serving on the Board of the MidState Educators Credit Union who are seeking reelection.

Barbara C. Flu-Allen is currently a counselor at East HS on Arcadia with 27 years of experience with Columbus Public Schools. She has been a member of the credit union for 27 years and has served on the Board of Directors for the past six years. She is presently Secretary of the Board of Directors and has chaired various committees.

Bonnie S. Wasson is a teacher at Parsons ES with 26 years of experience in Columbus Public Schools. She has been a member of the credit union for 24 years. Bonnie has served on the Board of Directors for the past 11 years. She has previously served as Chairperson of the Board and chaired various committees.

Contact Angie Freeman at MidState Educators Credit Union, Inc., at (614) 340-1518 or 1-800-628-6446 ext. 129 if you have any questions.

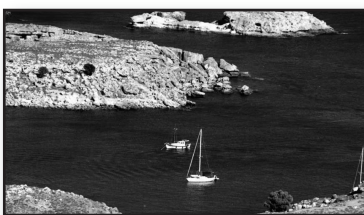
The Aegean awaits

A summer excursion is now being planned for CEA members featuring highlights of the Aegean with great stops in Greece and Turkey. But the trip is filling up, so those interested should sign on soon.

The trip leaves Monday, June 11, and returns to Columbus on Friday, June 22. It begins with a three-day stay in Athens, departing June 15 from the Port of Piraeus. It then moves to Istanbul, Turkey, and then to the resort island of Mykonos, Greece.

On June 20, the group visits the ancient island of Rhodes. On June 21, it will stop at Crete and visit Knossos, then stop on the island of Santorini. The final day takes everyone back to Athens and an afternoon departure to Columbus.

Contact CEA at 253-4731 for more information and a packet of information describing the trip in greater detail.



CEA-R supports educational causes

The CEA-R Program Committee continues to offer a variety of events and trips designed for CEA-R members and friends.

Since 1993, the silent auction held on Jan. 19 was again one of its most successful events. The auction and lunch has been a signature kick-off event of the new year. Profits from this year's auction, about \$307, were donated to the Endowment for the Treatment of Eating Disorders at Children's Hospital. In addition this year, each time the organization holds its 50/50 drawing (held at every meeting and event), half the money goes to the endowment.

The next meeting will be Feb. 14 at Northland Park Arts Center, 1865 Morse Road. It will include a tour of the facilities created for Vaudevillies.

CEA-R membership is open to everyone associated with CEA, active or retired. For more information, call CEA-R President Judy Valentine at (614) 235-4572. To learn more about OEA-R, call 1-800-282-1500.

Congratulations to Rosa Smith

Your association has often maintained valuable contacts with our past superintendents. It demonstrates that there is *life* after serving in Columbus. This has encouraged many of these fine individuals to move on to other opportunities while opportunities still exist. There is a lesson here, and all educators should note it.

Rosa Smith, the former Superintendent of Columbus Public Schools, has announced that she is stepping down from her current position as President and CEO of the Schott Foundation for Public Education in Boston.

CEA President Rhonda Johnson recently received word of Rosa's departure, which is planned for this spring.

Dr. Smith has achieved some notable accomplishments at the Schott Foundation. She worked closely with the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, which led to a big win in the New York courts. It provided \$11 billion in funds for high-quality facilities in New York City Schools.

She released three state report cards on *Public Education and Black Male Students*.

Dr. Smith also provided significant support to the successful effort to provide universal pre-kindergarten in Massachusetts. This is really quite a record.

Congratulations to Rosa Smith on these great accomplishments. We look forward to hearing about her future work.

Special notes

❑ **Income tax time:** Members who qualify may be able to deduct their Association dues. The amounts are: Pay Plan A (21 pays)–\$718.98; Pay Plan B (26 pays)–\$717.93; changed from Pay Plan A to B–\$668.94; changed from Pay Plan B to A–\$767.97; Half-time Plan A–\$405.92; Half-time Plan B–\$405.53. *Dues spent on lobbying efforts are not deductible on your federal tax return. The amount for this past year was \$30.45. For your convenience, the above amounts already reflect the deduction of this figure.*

❑ **CEA spring elections:** Members who are interested in official leadership positions may declare their candidacy for open seats now through Feb. 2. The following positions are open: **Board of Governors in Districts 2, 7, 9 and 10; and delegates and alternates to the 2007–2008 OEA and 2007 NEA Representative Assemblies.** Campaigning for these positions will take place from Feb. 20–Mar. 5. Members will vote for candidates Mar. 6–19. The CEA Elections Committee will tabulate the votes on Mar. 20. Declaration forms are available from the CEA office.