

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

October 28, 2013

Issues 50 & 51: A plan we can get behind

It's called the Columbus Plan. When you support and vote YES for Issues 50 and 51, it's like pressing "activate," to:

Hire, train and keep the best teachers and principals:

The most important factor in a student's academic achievement is the classroom teacher, and the most important factor in building a school full of highly-effective teachers is the building principal.

Columbus City Schools' principals should be given the power to lead, including making decisions regarding personnel, budgets and other issues affecting academic achievement and deciding how best to use their budgets to pursue academic success.

The district should work with local human resources professionals on an aggressive campaign to recruit top teachers and principals, build a talent pool of future school leaders and create programs to support them.

Improve technology in the classroom:

There should be digital devices available for each student in each classroom.

A "digital layer" should be created throughout Columbus to connect learning in school, online and in the community.

A new nonprofit or public organization should be created to ensure that families and educators have the hardware, software and Internet access they need in school and in neighborhoods.

Digital learning should be a part of the curriculum in every grade.

Prepare all children for kindergarten so they come to school ready to learn:

We should expand access to high-quality Pre-K programs by identifying dedicated funding sources, including local levies and funding from the state and federal governments.

Columbus City Schools and community nonprofits should work together to serve more children. Pre-K should be available to all 4-year-olds, with services available 5 days per week, 5.5 hours per day during the school year.

External Pre-K programs should meet the standards set by Columbus City Schools to receive funding.

The community should create an Early Childhood Education Council, of which Columbus City Schools should be a member, to coordinate all programs, assessments and supports for Pre-K children.

Expand high-performing schools so children in every neighborhood can get a good education:

The district will focus its resources on the school level and limit the size of the central office. The Columbus City Schools superintendent will focus on academic success, making schools strong, giving school leaders the free-

dom to make necessary changes and attract the most talented educators.

High-performing community schools that meet strict application guidelines and are approved by a public-private partnership will be eligible to receive money from the district's Innovation Fund.

Empower a new Independent Auditor to watchdog school spending and data:

Housed in CCS offices, the auditor will monitor spending decisions, protect the integrity of district data and serve as a liaison between the district and the state when CCS' performance is questioned. This auditor would be jointly chosen by five elected officials, including the mayor and school board president.

Guarantee our graduates are ready for college, the workplace or our armed forces:

Through partnerships with colleges or career technical programs every set of neighborhood schools will offer opportunities to earn credentials with market value and college credits. Students should be able to continue their work at the partnering institutions.

Access private and public sector contributions for an Education Innovation Fund:

A new public-private partnership will be created to oversee the implementation of this plan. It will use an innovation fund to replicate successful district schools and attract proven charter schools to the city, generating \$30 million to \$50 million per year from the City of Columbus, school board and private sector.

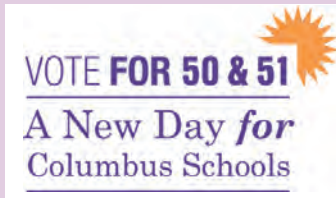
The mayor will appoint a director of educational improvement to focus the city's efforts on education and serve as a nonvoting member of the Columbus school board.

Voting YES also means avoiding the drastic cuts our treasurer would be required to make to balance our required five-year budget. That means \$50 million in cuts for next school year, and it includes the CEA bargaining unit. The following information is taken directly from CCS Treasurer Penny Rucker's PowerPoint presentation at the Oct. 14 board meeting:

❖ Forecast Ending Balance in FY18 is (\$204,094,112) (parentheses indicate a negative balance)

- To eliminate the deficit we must make reductions
- We expend 85 percent of our budget in salaries and benefits
- If we adjust early, in FY15, and hold that spending level continuously throughout the forecast, we would need to reduce approximately \$50,000,000
- This does not factor in any additional levy revenues or correlating expenditures

With 85 percent of the district's budget being spent on personnel and with CEA representing more than 50 percent of all district employees, our members will not escape the slashing. We expect all areas of personnel to be hit hard—even ones we think of as safe. Let these facts be your guide as you support The Columbus Plan: Issues 50 & 51.



It's YOUR levy

Along with our students, educators stand to gain the most—or lose the most. Three mills of the levy go to support our district's current operating expenses, including our salaries and our benefits. Without that millage, many teachers will lose their jobs. Class sizes will grow. Please help us get the positive message out to voters by making a donation to the levy campaign. To make a contribution online, go to newcolumbuschools.com and click on "Donate." You can also pay by check. Make your check payable to Reimagine Columbus Education Committee. Send it to the Columbus Education Association at 929 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43205.

Thanks to our most recent contributors:

Centurion Club—\$100+

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Club 50.51—\$50.51

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Other contributions

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