

The CEA Voice

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Volume XLV, No. 37

Columbus Education Association

May 18, 2015

CEA at the OEA Representative Assembly

Seventy-five CEA members represented you at the Ohio Education Association Representative Assembly (RA) May 8–9. The OEA RA is the top governing body of our state association and is comprised of more than one thousand delegates elected by local education associations.

OEA President Becky Higgins explained to delegates that OEA would establish a Commission on Student Success (CSS). Its purpose will be to recommend to elected officials a comprehensive policy agenda that would serve as an alternative to Ohio's current standardized test-driven system.

The commission will be charged with making recommendations on key components of a high-quality system of public education that inspires students' natural curiosity, imagination and desire to learn. It will propose legislation to specifically address and align the following three components:

- 1) elements of a student assessment system designed to provide educators data they need to support meaningful student learning;
- 2) elements of an educator evaluation system that ensures every student has a caring, qualified and committed teacher; and,
- 3) elements of a school accountability system that ensures equitable access to support, tools and time to learn for all students.

The OEA President shall invite nominations and applications from a diverse mix of OEA members with expertise on issues related to the charge of the commission and shall recommend approximately twelve members to the June 6, 2015, meeting of the OEA Board of Directors.

OEA Secretary-Treasurer Tim Myers was re-elected to a three-year term without opposition. CEA member Robin Jeffries was also re-elected without opposition to serve as NEA Director 6.

The gathered delegates voted in favor of making three amendments to the OEA Constitution and Bylaws. The amendments would allow student members of OEA to have a voting seat on the OEA Board of Directors, allow for pro-rating dues for members during union organizing and campaign and also modify the beginning and ending dates of the terms of office for all OEA officers.

RA delegates soundly approved multiple new business items, including:

- ▣ Establishing a committee to study the College Credit Plus program and recommend a full-ranging unified organizational strategy to the OEA Board of Directors.
- ▣ Working with NEA and other allied organizations to develop a strategy that would educate members about the impact of the tax on *Cadillac* health care plans and to develop a plan to address said tax impact on OEA members.
- ▣ Consulting with NEA to investigate potential civil rights implications of Ohio's graduation requirements tied to standardized testing results regarding their im-

pact on English language learners.

- ▣ Lobbying the state legislature to require that ODE notify parents of their right to refuse and the implications of refusing statewide standardized tests that are not required for any grade promotion or graduation.

Additionally, delegates and management staff contributed more than \$35,000 to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education. The Capital District/CEA contributed more than \$5,000 to the fund.

Congratulations to CEA Member Pam Artrip (Woodward Park MS) on receiving the OEA Marilyn Cross Scholarship at the OEA Awards Dinner. This scholarship will assist Pam with furthering her education.

Still at work: Brown v. Board of Education

May 17 marked the 61st anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision ending officially imposed segregation in public schools. In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka* that racially separate schools "are inherently unequal."

Many people think of the momentous *Brown* decision as the beginning of the struggle. It is true that the case had the most impact. Initiated and organized by the NAACP, who recruited African-American parents in Topeka, Kansas, for a class action suit against the local school board, it arrived before the Supreme Court in 1952 as a combination of five cases representing nearly two hundred plaintiffs. Ultimately, the NAACP sought to end the practice of "separate but equal" throughout every segment of society including public transportation, dining facilities, public schools and all forms of public accommodation.

We have come a long way. But even after six decades, there is still much work to be done. Last year, the U.S. Office for Civil Rights released data from its first universal data collection spanning the 2011–2012 school year, the first universal data collection since 2000. The information describes all of the nation's 97,000 schools and revealed some startling facts, such as:

- ▣ Black preschoolers make up 18 percent of children enrolled in preschool programs in public schools, but 48 percent of children suspended more than once.
- ▣ Black children are more likely to be pushed out of school before they've even made it to kindergarten.
- ▣ Black, Latino, American Indian and Native Alaskan students have less access to experienced teachers than white students.
- ▣ Black students are more than four times as likely and Latino students are twice as likely as white students to attend schools where 80 percent or fewer teachers meet certification requirements.

Nearly one in four districts with two or more high schools reports a teacher salary gap of more than \$5,000 between high schools with the highest and the lowest Black and Latino student enrollments.

The anniversary of this Supreme Court decision is a chance

to share this important history and its aftermath with our students. It's also a great time to acknowledge to ourselves and our fellow CEA members the role organized labor has played addressing inequality, especially the treatment of teachers.

In the wake of *Brown v. Board of Education*, many school districts were using desegregation as an excuse for firing Black teachers. A Joint Committee of the NEA, representing white teachers and the American Teachers Association (ATA), representing Black teachers, distributed to educators a kit on intergroup relations and copies of "A Study of the Status of Education of Negroes," (from *The Journal of Negro Education*) outlining the issues at stake. A number of NEA and ATA affiliates merged: Kentucky and West Virginia, the District of Columbia, Oklahoma and Delaware. The Committee urged the integration of minority members into NEA programs. Presidents of both organizations signed an historical merger agreement in 1966.

Take a few moments this week to remember (and perhaps teach) the importance of decades of struggle, the progress we have made and the issues still at stake. You can read about *Brown* on many websites, including these: <http://brownvboard.org>, www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/history-brown-v-board-education-re-enactment and www.history.com/topics/black-history/brown-v-board-of-education-of-topeka.

Calendar approval

The CCS Board of Education has adopted the 2015–2016 school calendar, as required by state law. Here are the highlights:

Students Report	Aug. 26, 2015
Labor Day	Sept. 7, 2015
Professional Development Day	Sept. 25, 2015
Capital Day	Oct. 16, 2015
Professional Development Day	Nov. 3, 2015
Parent-Teacher Conference Day	Nov. 25, 2015
Thanksgiving	Nov. 26–27, 2015
Winter Break begins	Dec. 19, 2015
Classes Resume	Jan. 4, 2016
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Jan. 18, 2016
Parent-Teacher Conference Day	Feb. 25, 2016
Spring Break begins	Mar. 25, 2016
Classes Resume	Apr. 4, 2016
Memorial Day	May 30, 2016
Last Day of Classes for Students	June 2, 2016

Grow and teach others through the TLI

The NEA's Teacher Leadership Initiative is taking applications until June 1. This training project, a partnership of the National Education Association, the Center for Teaching Quality and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, will help guide the next generation of teachers to become leaders in the profession.

We urge you to consider becoming part of this program. Professional growth comes from within our ranks, from educators who have been in the field and can share their experience with those entering the classroom. Leadership growth within the Association is also essential. This is a critical time for public education, with reshaping of standards and retooling of expectations. Teachers are, in many cases, the most important people in children's lives, and we must remain strong. When you join the TLI, you concentrate on Association involvement, instructional excellence and policy leadership through reflective practice, personal and interpersonal effectiveness, continuing education, and technological facility, with guidance from coaches, peers and the community.

The goal is to activate at least one thousand teachers to be leaders able to guide policy makers. Project participants will receive a stipend and CEUs. Go to http://bit.ly/2015-16NEA_TLIcor to apply online. For more information, contact Dorothy Wilson at CEA at 253-4731.

Thank you for attending the LA

One of the many duties of Faculty Representatives is to attend the CEA Legislative Assembly (LA). Held on the first Thursday of nearly every month of the school year, the LA is the policy-making body of your Association. Your elected faculty representatives receive vital updates from CEA officers and staff and vote on important issues affecting your Association and its members. Any CEA member is welcome to attend the LA. The following is a list of buildings/units that were represented at the May 7 Legislative Assembly:

Art, Berwick K–8, Broadleigh ES, Burroughs ES, Cassady ES, CEA, Cedarwood ES, Centennial HS, Colerain ES, Columbus Africentric EC ES, Columbus City Prep. School for Boys, Columbus Downtown HS, Columbus Global Acad., Columbus International HS 7–12, Como ES, Devonshire ES, Duxberry Park ES, East HS, East Linden ES, Eastgate ES, Easthaven ES, Eastmoor Acad. HS, École Kenwood K–6 @ Northgate, Fairmoor ES, Forest Park ES, Ft. Hayes Arts & Academic HS, Georgian Heights ES, Gifted & Talented, Guidance Counselors, Hilltonia MS, Hudson St. Warehouse, Huy ES/A.G. Bell Program, Indian Springs ES, Indianola Informal K–8, Johnson Park MS, Juvenile Detention Center, Liberty ES, Lindbergh ES, Linden STEM Acad. K–6, Livingston K–6, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Mifflin MS, Music, North Linden ES, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, Nurses, Oakland Park ES, Oakmont ES, Olde Orchard ES, OT/PT, PAR, Parkmoor ES, Parsons K–6, Psychologists, Ridgeview MS, Salem ES, Scottwood ES, Shady Lane ES, Sherwood MS, South HS 7–12, Special Ed. Coordinators, Speech & Language, Starling K–8, Sullivant ES, Valley Forge ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Watkins ES, Wedgewood MS, Weinland Park ES, West Broad ES, West HS, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Windsor STEM Acad. K–6, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES, Woodward Park MS and WorkStudy.

Support our university students

Are you interested in mentoring a university student next school year (student teacher, FEEP student, field placements, etc.)? Would you like to earn CEUs for doing so? Have you been employed as a CCS teacher for at least three school years? All CCS teachers who would like to mentor a university student during the 2015–16 school year must complete the online application at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/studentrequest>.

We hope to place all university students needing their placements to start this August or September prior to everyone leaving for the summer. Be sure to check your CCS email on a consistent basis.

CEA District 3 Governor run-off results

Michael Smith (Huy ES), was elected District 3 Governor in the recent run-off election. Smith received 118 votes and Cassandra Daniels (Mifflin MS) received 76 votes. His three-year term will begin Aug. 1, 2015. Congratulations, Michael.

Special notes

- ❑ Celebrate **Bruce Green's retirement party at Plank's on Parsons, Tuesday, May 19, from 3:30–7 p.m.** Pizza and refreshments will be provided.
- ❑ **Melanie Garvin** (Dominion MS–MD Hearing Impaired) has won the **2015 AEP Teacher Vision Grant**. Her project involves the Lego's Simple Machines and Motors with a solar energy add-on kit. The class was awarded \$400 to purchase the Lego items.
- ❑ CEA-R will sponsor a **Teacher-to-Teacher Garage Sale on Thursday, Aug. 13, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.** at East HS. Retirees, this is a great opportunity to sell all those teaching materials you no longer need. This sale is being held in conjunction with the New Teacher Orientation. To reserve tables, mail \$10 per table to **Jeanne Stoll**, 1680 Carriage Rd., Powell, OH 43065.