

The WEATHERVANE

March 2011

Important Dates

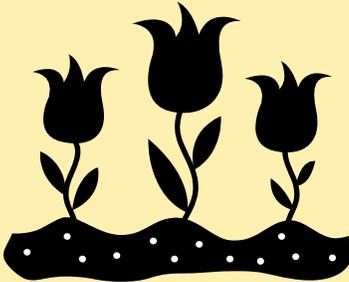
* *Spring Break*

Mar. 28-Apr.1

* *No School
April 22*

* *Waiver Day
May 3*

* *WEA Spring
Reception
May 4*



WEA Officers:

President

Chris Williams

Vice President

Rhonda Gilpin

Treasurer

Amanda Koenig

Secretary

Lynn Yoho

Fac Rep At

Large

Sam Liebfreund

Jordi Vilanova

Candy Peak

Tom Peet

Todd Ebbrecht

Bev Koenig

The President's Corner

The Governor's Budget Bill: The Next Blow to Public Education

The below represents what we know so far about the budget bill. It will need to go through the Senate and the House, but must be finished this spring. Kasich is a man of his word: he said he would work to break the backs of the public education unions...are you going to let him?

K-12 FUNDING PROPOSALS:

- Repeals Evidence-Based Model for school funding.
- Decrease overall education funding by \$1.3 billion (11.5%) in FY 12 (\$10.2 billion).**
- Decrease overall education funding by another \$500 million (4.9%) in FY13 (\$9.7 billion).
- Decrease overall education funding by \$3.1 billion over FY12-13 from FY 11 amounts.
- Increase Foundation funding by 2% for FY 12 and 1.5% for FY 13.
- Eliminate state fiscal stabilization funds (federal stimulus for state foundation) of \$457 million in FY 12.
- Reduce federal stimulus for IDEA Part B and Title IA totaling \$400 million in FY11 by 90% for FY 12 with the remainder eliminated in FY13.
- Decrease overall Special Education funding by 14.5% in FY 12 and another 2.1% in FY 13.
- Decrease TPP "hold harmless" payments by \$428 million (37.2%) for FY12 and by another \$247 million (34.2%) in FY 13.
- Precise data for charter school funding not yet available because charter school funds flow through local districts.
- Maintain overall funding for Joint Vocational School Districts in FY 12 and FY 13.
- Decreases overall funding for early childhood education by 4.7% in FY 12 and another .5% in FY 13.
- Create "regional shared service centers" that provide administrative support to school districts and local governments by July 1, 2012.
- Create a new combined health insurance program managed by the state's Department of Administrative Services that local governments and school districts can join if they choose.
- Requires employer & employee to each pay 12% of pension contributions. Currently, the employer pays 14% and the employee pays 12%. This is a 2% salary cut!**

K- 12 POLICY PROPOSALS:

- Provide additional teacher payments for students who exceed achievement growth. (Merit pay)
- Using "teacher quality" to drive employment decisions instead of seniority.
- Test teachers in failing schools.
- Streamline dismissal process for poor-performing schools.
- Give parents the right to "reconstitute" schools.
- Close poorest performing schools.
- Increase the number of EdChoice vouchers available (from 14,000 to 20,000).
- Remove cap on charter schools and enhance access to facilities.
- Expand on-line education.
- Implement best practices proposed by KnowledgeWorks for reducing spending on "non instructional" spending.
- Make Ohio the "preferred destination" for Teach for America students.

BECAUSE WE CARE

Births

Meghann Ongaro (Blendon) -girl
Tiffany Arnold (Hawthorne) - girl
Denise Leach (Hawthorne) - boy
Sam Rosen (South HS) - girl
Julie Wilson (South HS) - girl
Candi Amadio (Annehurst) - boy

Condolences

Tom Cullinan (Heritage) -mother
Jane Henson (Mark Twain) -mother-in-law

Retiring ?

If you want to maintain your district health insurance through August 31, you must give written notice to HR by April 1. The written notice of intent to retire must include a statement indicating whether or not you wish to continue your district insurance through Aug. 31. If not, the district insurance will be terminated on June 30.

For those of you having problems getting in to see an STRS counselor (they stopped taking appointments) but are considering retiring, please send an email to HR prior to April 1st to indicate your situation. Doing so will allow you to be eligible for the summer insurance coverage once you reach the decision to retire.



Did You Know?

You have a benefit through an EAP (Employee Assistance Program). You are entitled to 3 free visits with the EAP counselor, and then they can help you determine any future steps needed.

For more info, contact www.westedassn@aol.com

Take care of yourself. Be sure and get your free, yearly routine physical that is provided through your district health insurance. For more info, contact MMO.

OOPS (Corrected Information on License Renewal)

There is now a Four-Tier Teacher Licensure Structure, as of January 2011. You will be able to renew your 5 year license by earning the standard 18 CEUs/6 semester hours. It is only if a teacher wants to move from a Professional Educator License to a Senior Professional Educator License, that a masters is required, along with a few other criteria.

The complete Four-Tier Teacher Licensure Structure can be found on ODE's website.