



[gahannajeffersonea.com](http://gahannajeffersonea.com)

[centraloeane.org](http://centraloeane.org)

[ohea.org](http://ohea.org)

[nea.org](http://nea.org)

160 South  
Hamilton Road

April 2019

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# The Advocate

President

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Vice President

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Treasurer

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## Two School Funding Bills may be introduced

**The Fair School Funding Plan** includes an additional \$720 million over Fiscal-Year 2019 levels for local school districts. Under this plan, no school district will receive less funding and will base funding on identifiable student needs. It will increase funding for most school districts including Gahanna-Jefferson over the next two years. It provides direct funding for charter schools meaning Gahanna will no longer lose property tax revenue to charter schools. In fact, Gahanna would be able to retain over \$2 million if this bill was to pass in addition to an increase in state funding. Right now, about 70 school districts would not see an increase but the legislation continues to work to solve this dilemma. ***OEA is strongly in support of this plan.***

**House Bill 166** is the state budget bill for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. It includes Governor DeWine's school funding proposal. An additional \$550 million would be provided over the biennium, outside of the formula, to support disadvantaged students by providing wraparound services, mental health counselors, physical health care services, mentoring, professional development when trauma-driven care may be required and other means of addressing student needs. The problem with this bill is that it continues to allow Charter School to take funding from local school districts and make it easier for school districts to be taken over by the State. ***Even though OEA supports the funding this plan offers which includes funding for wraparound services, the problem could be very dangerous for school districts.***



Gahanna- Jefferson Education Association

### GJEA Officers

Membership Chair  
Lindsay Dexter, LE  
[lb Dexter@gmail.com](mailto:lb Dexter@gmail.com)

Fund for Children and Public  
Education Chair (FCPE)  
Diane Ballard, MSE  
[dianeballard@mail.com](mailto:dianeballard@mail.com)

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[douglasparkerii@gmail.com](mailto:douglasparkerii@gmail.com)

Negotiations Chair  
Dwayne Marshall-LHS  
[marshall.133@me.com](mailto:marshall.133@me.com)

## **Know Someone Not Receiving the Advocate**

If you know of a member who is not receiving the Advocate, it may be because they have not signed up. Please have them email Dwayne Marshall at [mashall.133@me.com](mailto:mashall.133@me.com). He will check to find out the issue or will send them the link if they have not signed up. He can make the change if you want to receive an electronic or paper copy. Please do not re-sign to make changes or corrections, contact Dwayne personally.

## **Mark Your Calendar:**

**April 19 – Good Friday – No School**

**April 21 – Easter**

**May 7 – Retirement Dinner**

**May 10 and 11 - OEA Representative Assembly**

**May 12 – Mother's Day**

**May 16 – School Board Meeting – 6:30pm Clark Hall**

## **Negotiations Update**

Our proposal has been completed and we have served notification to the Board of Education that we are ready to negotiate. Once we receive word from the board, we will have our initial meeting to exchange proposals. Next, we will schedule meetings to start working on what we want and what they want in our new contract. Future updates will be emailed to you using our newsletter called the "Negotiator". It will look a little different than the Advocate as it will ONLY give you negotiations updates during the process. Again, this may be a difficult negotiation's year so please be aware that your team needs your support. We are motivated to get you the best contract possible but it will take your involvement as well. This involvement maybe as small as wearing your GJEA gear when we are meeting to negotiate. For Remind updates text to: **81010 and put @gjeaupdate in the message box.**

## **Our Health Insurance - Grady Benefits**

If you have questions about our health insurance, you are encouraged to call our Insurance Broker; Joe Grady of Grady Benefits. Questions like: Why did I get a bill for \$1000 and the total was \$1300 or shouldn't our insurance pay more than that? I just got a bill for 80% of an outpatient surgery. Is that really what I owe? These are questions better equipped for Joe Grady and his team than representatives on our Insurance Committee.

Joe Grady can be reached at [GradyBenefits.com](http://GradyBenefits.com) – (614) 224-4432 or (888) 81-Grady.

## GJEA awards



Each year at our spring retirement dinner, GJEA recognizes

individuals who have made significant contributions to our schools with our ***Friend of Education*** award as well as past members who have contributed to the advancement of our association through our ***GJEA Hall of Fame*** award. Any GJEA member is eligible to nominate deserving individuals for either award.

Nomination forms for both awards can be printed from the GJEA website at [gahannajeffesonea.com](http://gahannajeffesonea.com). All nominations for both awards should be submitted to Sarah Hanson-LES no later than **April 23, 2019**

## Retirement Dinner



Please mark your calendar! GJEA's

annual retirement dinner will be held at the Airport Marriott on Tuesday, May 7th. The evening's events will begin at 6 p.m. with a cash bar and dinner following at 6:30 p.m. We will honor our retirees for their years of service to the children of this district. GJEA Site Managers, scholarship winners, as well as our Hall of Fame and Friend of Education award recipients will also be honored. Each retiree and one guest will have dinner provided by an OEA grant. Additional friends, family, and co-workers are \$35 per person. Please send reservations, along with any payment, to Paige Harding - Middle School East by **Wednesday, May 1st.**

## Social Media Warning



This is a reminder that we are public

employees, which means, we are held to a higher standard than some professions. Although we are encouraged to use different types of social media within our classroom to keep current with what our students are engaging, be careful about what you post or how you use it. We need to be cognizant that others might read something we post differently than the intended meaning. Please check your history as well and make sure you have deleted anything that could lead to discipline. We have to be good role models for our students, so watch what you post on any social media.

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## Legislation

**House Bill 154** was introduced by State Representatives Joe Miller (D-Amherst) and Don Jones (R-Freeport) who are both former teachers. This bill will repeal the failed state takeover law and restore local control to school boards. The State government has already taken away local control from Youngstown, Lorain and East Cleveland school districts. In the next two years, state government may take away local control from Dayton, Columbus, Canton, Mansfield, Lima, Toledo, Ashtabula, Euclid, North College Hill and Painesville. Please call, email or text your local representatives to support this bill and do away with Academic Distress Commissions. Support Local Control for Our Public Schools because that is why we elect our board of education.



## Lobby Day by Bobby Swartzentruber

Last Tuesday was OEA's annual lobby day. This is a day in which educators can meet with their state representatives to discuss important topics in education and share personal stories. During my time with fellow Gahanna colleagues, Sarah Hanson, Dwayne Marshall, and Jenny Palguta, I had the opportunity of having very candid conversations about testing, school funding, and the "academic distress commission", which allows the state to take over failing districts.

I left lobby day with some optimism. After meeting with the offices of Rep. Lightbody, Rep. Crawley, Rep. Kent, and Rep Brown, it appears that there is movement toward the reduction of mandated testing. The first changes we will likely see are a recommendation that the SAT/ACT become optional. As for End Of Course exams, Ohio is significantly above the federal minimum, so we discussed the impact this has on students, teachers, and the school day. Several representatives gave the impression that they would be willing to co-sponsor some legislation to address this. Any teachers who would like to share their testing stories during possible future committee hearings should contact Jenny as she is collecting stories about Gahanna students.

Other legislation that we should put our support behind is the "Fair School Funding Plan". This would increase state funding by \$720 million for (FY) 2019. The plan also eliminates "school district pass-through deduction." This means that charter schools would be directly funded instead of local districts being stripped of funds. For this past year, it would mean approximately \$2 million in additional funding for Gahanna (that would not leave the district). This, by no means, is a done deal. There are competing ideas about funding, as well as budget language that is less than ideal. OEA will continue to lobby on our behalf and work toward fair and equitable funding for all public schools.

More representatives on both sides of the aisle are listening to the voices of educators. They are hearing our frustrations. There are some positive signs that the DeWine administration is willing to make changes that would benefit public education as well. It is important that we continue to engage our elected officials. Each emphasized that their doors are always open for discussion and that they would like to hear stories from our classrooms.

If you are interested in attending and representing Gahanna at the next Lobby Days on May 15<sup>th</sup>, contact Jenny to receive a GJEA day. It is a very interesting process and I encourage you to attend!



THE ADVOCATE IS A PUBLICATION INTENDED SOLELY FOR GJEA MEMBERS

## Tuition Reimbursement

Did you know that Gahanna teachers are eligible for tuition reimbursement? This year, over \$100,000 will be distributed to teachers who have spent money on their continuing education from May 2, 2018 through May 1, 2019. In past years, teachers have been reimbursed for as much as one half of their tuition expenses.

Please complete the tuition reimbursement form that has been sent to you by email from Lynn Guthrie. Make sure that you provide proof of payment AND proof of grade or completion from your professor. This is for tuition expenses ONLY. Associated expenses, such as travel, parking, lab fees, or insurance, are not reimbursable. Also, you must fill out the form completely, including monetary totals.

**The completed form with all documents must be returned to the Human Resource office no later than May 1, 2019 at 4:00 PM. No forms will be accepted past the deadline.** Please be aware that if you do not correctly follow the procedure the committee has laid out, you unfortunately will not be included in this year's allotment. If you take a course in April and are unable to procure the documentations by May 1, you may submit it next year for reimbursement.

**PLEASE NOTE: LEGALLY, INDIVIDUALS WHO ATTENDED THE SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR GRADUATE CREDIT AND RECEIVED THE HOURLY PAYMENT ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR TUITION REIMBURSEMENT.**

## License Renewal – LPDC

Here is some information from your LPDC committee: many of you may have licenses expiring this year or questions about your IPDP or our renewal process. We wanted to let you know, don't hesitate to reach out. Last year we started an LPDC email to ask any questions, or get information. You can email [lpdc@gips.org](mailto:lpdc@gips.org) or any of our LPDC members. Please note; this is for questions NOT submissions.

Our meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Gahanna-Jefferson Public School's Central Office, from 3:00-6:00 pm. You can send your updated IPDP and CEU requests to LPDC at CO in office mail. Please remember that our handbook and all of our LPDC forms that you may need are found on the GJPS Curriculum site under [Licensure](#). Our meeting dates are as follows:

May 14

We look forward to working with you,

Your LPDC Members

### Teachers:

Sandy Nicholson, Vice Chair – Blacklick Elementary at [nicholsons@gips.org](mailto:nicholsons@gips.org)

Angela Potts, Chair – Lincoln High School at [pottsa@gips.org](mailto:pottsa@gips.org)

Rhonda Wamsley, Secretary – Middle School South at [wamsleyr@gips.org](mailto:wamsleyr@gips.org)

### Administration:

Erin Schmidt, Academic Officer, Jason Bates, Academic Officer



# OEA Day of Collaboration:

## Beyond Awareness of the Opioid Crisis — Strategies, Supports and Resources that Make a Difference

*When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion – Ethiopian Proverb*

| Speakers  |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Andrea Boxill</b><br><i>Public Health Administrator,<br/>Department of Addiction and Drug<br/>Services, Columbus Public Health</i>   | <b>Kim Kehl, M.Ed.</b><br><i>Medical Director, Ohio<br/>Departments of Mental Health and<br/>Addiction Services</i>  | <b>H.M. “Hank” Harned, MPA</b><br><i>Start Talking! Coordinator, Ohio<br/>Department of Education</i>   |
| Ms. Boxill will discuss the disease of addiction, what the specific disease of opioid use disorder is and how it impacts a child. She will also provide resources on developing a team to address the multi-systemic needs of the child and family. | Dr. Kehl will help participants understand how trauma effects them, their coworkers, and their schools. He will also provide participants with tools to recognize signs and sources of trauma and ways to help deal with secondary trauma in a healthy manner. | Mr. Harned will share information about free available State resources and how to use these resources for maximum impact. This session will also explore what prevention should look like in schools and communities. He will provide an update about accessing evidence-based prevention curricula and professional development. |

This prevention focused program will provide OEA members with an opportunity to share collective resources and wisdom to support students and school communities in crisis. Participants will understand this issue from a National, State and district perspective. Participants will recognize how to meet the needs of students by identifying appropriate evidence-based interventions and develop an increased awareness of resources and supports. Additionally, participants will have an opportunity to develop a plan of action and network with OEA members from various local OEA affiliates.



**Saturday, May 4, 2019**

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

OEA Headquarters

225 East Broad Street

Columbus, OH 43215



### Agenda (Tentative)

- Registration
- Welcome
- National, State and Local Impact of the Epidemic and Interventions
- How to Develop an Intersystem Team to Address the Needs of the Student and Family Impacted by the Opioid Epidemic
- Secondary Trauma Awareness
- Resources, Collaboration and Action Planning

For questions and/or additional information contact

Demetrice Davis at:

[davisdem@ohea.org](mailto:davisdem@ohea.org) or 800-282-1500 Ext. 3100

### **Registration Website**

<https://www.ohea.org/ohea-day-of-collaboration/>

or

<https://www.ohea.org/>