

Nov 2013

The Advocate

GAHANNA-JEFFERSON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Evaluation Update



The district's Evaluation Committee has been meeting (five times so far), and is currently working to approve all SLO's. The committee's work has been a very cooperative and collaborative venture between the administrators and the teachers. Any evaluation questions that cannot be answered by your own evaluator may be directed to Scott Schmidt (CO) or to GJEA President Jenny Palguta (MSS).

Will the new over-the-top teacher evaluation system in Ohio actually be getting some improvements?

Maybe. In last summer's budget bill, the Ohio Senate included language to reduce the value-added component from its current 50% of a teacher's evaluation to 35%. But the Ohio House -- under orders from Governor Kasich -- stripped it out.

Now, Senator Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) has introduced SB 229, which once again seeks to make Ohio's Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) a fairer process. Our OEA officers believe that SB 229 would make Ohio's new evaluation system more effective, fair, and efficient by reducing the academic growth factor and allowing school districts to reduce the frequency of evaluations for highly rated teachers. The OEA strongly supports SB 229 as part of ongoing efforts to address various concerns with OTES.

SB 229 proposes the following changes to Ohio's teacher evaluation system:

Academic growth factor: Lowers the academic growth factor percentage required on teacher evaluations to 35% from the current 50%. A school district may attribute an additional percentage to the academic growth factor not to exceed 15% of an evaluation. The academic growth factor under the OTES is based on value-added and/or other student growth measures, depending on the subjects and grades in a teacher's course load.

Frequency of evaluations: Authorizes local school boards to reduce the frequency of evaluation required for teachers who receive an evaluation rating of "Skilled" or "Accomplished" (the top two ratings).

A school board may evaluate each teacher rated "Accomplished" on the teacher's most recent evaluation once every three school years. Currently, a board may elect to evaluate an "Accomplished" teacher once every two years, instead of annually.

A school board may evaluate each teacher rated "Skilled" on the teacher's most recent evaluation once every two years. Currently, a board is required to conduct annual evaluations for teachers rated "Skilled."

Mark Your Calendar:

11/18	American Ed. Week
11/28	Happy Thanksgiving!
11/28	Hanukkah Begins
11/30	OH — IO! Go Bucks!
12/1	Advent Begins
12/12	Bd. of Ed.—6:30 PM
12/21	Winter Break Begins

GJEA Board of Directors Meetings

4:00 PM at the LHS Library

December 18 —

@ Gahanna's "FM" All
January 15 members
February 19 are
March 19 welcome to
April 16 attend!
May 21

Help!!! It's Time to Renew My License!!!



Do you know when your teaching license expires? It is each teacher's personal responsibility to keep all applicable licenses current. In fact, the district cannot pay an employee whose license has expired. So please take a minute today and double check when you will need to be prepared to renew your current license.

Gahanna's Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) members oversee the license renewal process for everyone in the district and are available to answer all questions. They want to remind us that a new Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) must be approved by the committee following a license renewal before any professional de-

can be counted toward the next renewal. Also, all IPDP goals must be aligned with the Standards for Ohio Educators.

All LPDC information is easily located on the district's Staff Intranet. Look in the left column and scroll down to "Human Resources." Then click on the "LPDC" link. All current LPDC forms — including IPDP and CEU requests are now located at this site.

LPDC monthly meetings are held at Central Office from 3:00 until 6:00 PM on the following dates: December 10, January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, and May 13.

LPDC Members 2013-2014

Sandy Nicholson, Chair

nicholsons@gjps.org

Rhonda Wamsley, Vice Chair

wamsleyr@gjps.org

Angela Potts, Secretary

pottsa@gjps.org

Matt Cygnor, Human Resources

cygnorm@gjps.org

Erin Anderson, Curriculum

andersone@gjps.org

Dec. 7th RA

Ten elected delegates will represent GJEA at the OEA Representative Assembly (RA) on December 7, 2013 at Veterans Memorial. Thank you to the following members for representing us



at this event: **Lindsay Dexter (LE), Josh Goody (MSE), Sarah Hanson (LE), Paige Harding (MSW), Mike Kralovic (LHS), Chris Linnabary (HP), Dwayne Marshall (LHS), Dave Palguta (MSE), Jenny Palguta (MSS), and Tim Skamfer (HP).** Our alternate is Rachel Coldwell (HP).

Nov/Dec Pay Dates



So that you can plan accordingly, your GJEA Leadership Team wants all members to be aware of the pay dates for November and December. **The remaining pay dates for 2013 will be: Monday, November 25th, Tuesday, December 10th, and Monday, December 23rd.** The November 25th check should reflect your newly negotiated "regular" pay, and be similar through August 2014.

Become an ACE!

Are you an "ACE"?

An OEA **ACE** is an **Advocate for Children and Education** — someone who has engaged in some kind of professional advocacy — whether it was to improve the 3rd grade reading guarantee, attend a lobby day, phone bank to defeat SB5, send an email to Congress urging them to fully fund education, or being a leader in your association.

Why are ACEs important?

ACEs are so important because without our advocacy, our voices and those of our students would not be heard. *It really is that simple.*

So, what's this exciting opportunity?

We'd love for more of our members to become ACEs. We know, as union members, there is greater strength in numbers. **This is where you can help AND earn yourself \$50 in the process—by recruiting five new ACEs.**

What can members on the ACE list expect?

Members of our ACE list can expect to receive timely, relevant information regarding education policy, elections that affect public education, and simple ways they can help — whether it's sending an email, attending a lobby day, or simply forwarding important information to colleagues.

There will be no spam, and members can unsubscribe whenever they like.

So, that's the deal — **send your interest to my personal email: dianeballard@hotmail.com** and I will assist you in becoming an ACE. As always, thank you for all that you do!

Diane Ballard, Chair, Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE)

Thanks, GJEA

Dear GJEA,

On behalf of Gahanna Middle School West PTO, we'd like to thank you for your generous contribution toward this year's Fitness Day Program. Your support will enable us to teach our students how important Health and Wellness is to them individually, in their homes, and our community. We thank you for making a difference in the lives of our students.

Sincerely,

*Wendy Fafata-Roberts and Katy Grimm,
GMSW Teachers*

Dear GJEA,

Thank you so much for supporting our Walk-a-thon, our school, and our PTO! We love our school and are lucky to live in Gahanna!

Love,

Mrs. Murry's Class, Lincoln Elementary

Dear Jenny,

Thank you and the GJEA for the donation to the Lincoln Elementary PTO. The support is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Jim Micciulla, Principal

Dear GJEA,

We would like to express our gratitude to GJEA for your generous donation of \$100 for GMSS students and teachers. We appreciate your partnership and your support of our students!

Sincerely,

Robin Murdock and GMSS

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