

Are You in the KNOW?



At the BOE Meeting on Thursday, January 24th, Diane Workman made a presentation to the board members on the feedback that she received from teachers who participated in the *Elementary Curriculum Roundtable Discussion*. CCPS plans to use this feedback as they develop and revise curriculum in Math and ELA. (I have attached the PowerPoint to this email.) You will see a few of the common components that teachers asked for are common assessments, independent work, examples/pictures for anchor charts, essential questions, updated website links/access of Schoology. Teachers also identified some needs in the area of resources. This presentation is being shared with supervisors, teacher specialists and principals this week. The BOE asked Ms. Workman how long she thought it would take to make all of the needed revisions in curriculum. She answered honestly. Some development/revisions could take place next year. Others could take up to three years. The BOE has asked Ms. Workman for regular updates. Ms. Workman did share that they are considering using a similar process for elementary Science and Social Studies.

Our curriculum shortfalls did not just happen this year or even last year. There is not a quick fix to the problem. But this is the beginning of making positive changes that will benefit our students and hopefully make a difference in your workload. This direct action only occurred because of teachers who were willing to speak out and/or attend public forums and board meetings. No one knows or understands the needs in your classroom better than you.

The response that Ms. Workman and CEA has received over the format that was used for teachers to provide feedback on curriculum has been overwhelmingly positive. Teachers appreciated being given this opportunity to have their voices heard in a very friendly, non-threatening atmosphere. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity the next time there is a *Roundtable Discussion*.

In the next week or so your Building Rep will be asking you to attend a *10 Minute Meeting* to hear the Kirwan Commission's policy recommendations to be phased in over the next 10 years and a request to increase state school funding by \$325 million in FY 2020 and \$750 million in the FY 2021 budget. There is so much at stake over the next 67 days. We must use our voices and our power to make it clear to legislators that we refuse to allow our schools to continue to be underfunded or pass down more unfunded mandates.

Join us as we ***March for OUR Schools*** on **March 11th** in Annapolis. We already know our schools are underfunded \$2 million per school across the entire state. Students, educators and schools deserve better. We must act now. As the policymakers in Annapolis are considering suggestions and making decisions, we need to make sure that it is our voices they are listening to. We can do this.

New funding would mean raising teacher salaries by 3%, expanding Pre-K, hiring more educators to allow for increased planning time, increased funding for special education and mental health services.

We have the ability to change our pay, if we march and win. We have the ability to change our workload, if we march and win. ***Will you come with us on March 11th?***

CEA is organizing a bus to transport educators and community members from Calvert County to Annapolis. This will be of no charge to you or family members. CEA will also be providing *free* boxed dinners and water to all participants. Your Building Rep has a Sign-Up sheet for this event, where you may also make your selection of sandwich choice. As of right now, I am only planning on one central location to meet the bus and leave from in Calvert County; however saying that, if we are able to fill more than two busses, I could possibly have a southern and northern location.

We need you to come fight for more school funding. Our kids can't wait.

I hope you will march with us in Annapolis!

