

AFSA Visits School-Based Wellness Centers in Prince George's County

School administrators and all those within a school who see students on a daily basis do not need to reference a medical journal to know that a student who is sick can not concentrate on the work in front of them. While the health care debate rages, we must not forget to include children as an integral part of the discussion. As educators, we know- and the research supports- that a child's wellness is directly correlated to their ability to perform academically. As parents, grandparents and the like, we know that children are our future and must be taken care of- emotionally, academically and physically.



Frances Caffie-Wright heads the SBHCs in Prince George's County schools

There are currently over 1700 school based health centers (SBHCs) in 43 states across the country, representing about 1.5% of all public schools in the United States. Prince George's County, Maryland, however, has taken great strides in promoting health centers within their public schools; 3 percent of its schools currently provide health services to their students via SBHCs. "The goal is to make students available for learning by promoting health," states the county.

Doris Reed, AFSA Liaison and Executive Director of AFSA Local 109, arranged for

AFSA staff to tour three such schools in Prince George's County with Frances Caffie-Wright, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Program Manager of Prince George's County School-Based Wellness Centers.

The schools selected are led by AFSA members Jerome Thomas, Principal of Northwestern High School, Nakia Nicholson, Principal of Fairmount Heights High School, and Glynis Jordan, Principal of Bladensburg High School.

After spending the day with Caffie-Wright touring the wellness center facilities, it was easy to see that she and PG County have a mutual understanding of the connection between health and education and support measures that will bridge the two and aid students. Caffie-Wright readily admits that to promote good health, the PG County Health Department must promote education first through the SBHCs. She noted on several occasions that it was important for health services to be accessible for students, parents and educators and



Caffie-Wright leads AFSA President Woodard on tour of SBHCs in several PG county high schools

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AFSA News Highlights



AFSA Scholarship Deadline Approaching!

February 26, 2010 marks the deadline for the 2009-2010 AFSA Scholarship, which is now OPEN and available to children of AFSA members in good standing.

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Another Big Win for AFSA Local 17, PANOPSI

Thanks to AFSA's support, a class action case representing more than 8,500 New Orleans Public School employees who were wrongfully terminated following Hurricane Katrina was recently upheld. The initial 2008 ruling was upheld as the case was reviewed by Louisiana's Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Principal's Association of New Orleans Public Schools (PANOPSI) was the initial plaintiff filing the lawsuit.

[More on page 3](#)

New Contract Negotiated for AFSA Local 79, Oklahoma City Administrators

AFSA's continued assistance at the bargaining table promoted the November 12, 2009 ratification of the Oklahoma City Administrators' final contract. AFSA Vice President Charles Whelan met with Local 79 former President Natalie Johnson and Local members to assist in the development of contract proposals and through several rounds of negotiations.

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From the President



In Aesop's fable, The Tortoise and the Hare, the speedy hare challenges the slow-moving tortoise to a race. The race begins and the hare quickly moves to an early lead. Relishing his lead, the hare decides he has time to rest and soon falls asleep. The tortoise plods along and devastates the hare when he wins the race. Now, we find ourselves in two critical races: reforming education and health care. Yes, we must win these races, but not at any and all cost.

Effective Education Reform

The 'Race to the Top' is on. It appears that states are making a mad dash for the federal dollars without taking the time to ensure that the reforms required by 'Race to the Top' (RTTT) will be successful in closing the achievement gap and affording students the opportunity to reach their maximum potential. How will these reforms affect education in the long run? RTTT money is not guaranteed to states nor does it last for more than four years. Still, states are rushing to enact legislation that matches the criteria in order to qualify for possible funding. As a result, dozens of "hare-brained" state programs will be created that may or may not provide any long-term, measurable fixes for schools. This we must avoid. Any reform made in the schools must be worthwhile and sustainable long after federal funding runs out. Charter schools are encouraged in RTTT despite a lack of conclusive evidence that they are the answer to increasing student performance. Of the many charter schools in existence in the country, only 17% out-perform public schools, while 37% fare worse than public schools. In addition, there is no conclusive evidence that merit pay, also a part of RTTT, causes teachers or principals to do a better job. I would venture to say

that the best principals and teachers do a good job because of the intrinsic value of their work. Certain aspects of RTTT are to be applauded: adopting standards and building a data system to measure student growth and inform teachers and principals how to improve instruction, training, recruiting, and professional development in order to turn around low achieving schools. However, the implication that schools will improve from the rush to simple solutions such as changing state laws to match RTTT criteria is naive. We know that schools need much, much more.

Health Care Reform

The race is on to pass a national health care law. Everyone is in a hurry to get it done, but at what cost? In our haste to pass a law, we are not taking the time to do it right. As of now, the House and Senate have drafted two different bills. Eventually, lawmakers will need to compromise on key provisions to create the ultimate piece of legislation for President Obama to sign into law. The devil will, indeed, be in the details of the compromise. We need to slow down and really think about the details. The public deserves to be informed about the fine print so they may make an informed choice. We must go deeper than ten second sound bites. Both bills offer some critical benefits: ending the more than 500,000 medical bankruptcies a year; cutting prescription drug costs for seniors; protecting Medicare in the long term; ending abusive insurance company practices such as cancellation of coverage; and banning discrimination on pre-existing conditions. The House bill covers more Americans. On key provisions like funding sources, a public health insurance option and the role of employers, the bill passed by the House is fairer to working families. Thus far, we have been like the hare in our quest to pass a health care reform bill - out of the gate quickly and asleep on critical issues affecting working families. Rather, we must be steady and deliberate in our efforts to continue to demand comprehensive health care reform that includes a public insurance option that does not tax current benefits. A comprehensive bill should: build on what's best about American health care; controls costs; make sure everyone gets high-quality health care as good as or better than they have now; covers preventive care; lets people choose their doctors and other providers; make the Government the watchdog on costs, quality and fairness, and offer the choice of a public alternative to privately insurance individuals; and divides responsibility among employers, government and individuals. So while

the races to reform education and health care are important, they will be won only if we are like the tortoise- measured and deliberate in our approach.



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Editor's Note:

In the Fall 2009 edition of the AFSA Administrator a photo on page 9 was incorrectly labeled. The woman on the right of the picture is not Linda Singer, but Dr. Eloise Messineo.

LOCAL NEWS

AFSA Local 1, Council of School Supervisors & Administrators (CSA)

CSA held receptions around New York City for lawmakers and members during October to informally kick off the union's 2009-2010 legislative agenda. High up on the list of concerns is mid-year budget cuts for education. Gov. David Paterson announced his intention to cut \$3 billion from the state budget including \$480 million from schools statewide. Overcrowded schools, the privatization of Day care and appropriate professional development for supervisors and administrators also top the list, as does advocating for a state law that provides permanent protection for retiree health benefits. The receptions were organized by CSA's Governmental Relations Department and the Retiree Chapter.



Manhattan Legislative Reception
Taken by Anne Silverstein

Manhattan LR01: From left to right: Marlon Hosang, Principal, PS 64, D-1; Dr. Leonard Golubchick, representative from Alan Gerson's office and retired NYC Principal; and Council member Rosie Mendez.



Brooklyn Legislative Photographs
Taken by Yuridia Peña

Brooklyn LR02: Left, CSA President Ernest Logan and NY State Senator Martin J. Golden at the Brooklyn legislative reception in Borough Hall on October 28.

AFSA Local 17, Principals' Association of New Orleans Public Schools, Inc. (PANOPSI)

Cheryllyn Branche, President, PANOPSI, shared the status of the New Orleans Public Schools at Schools Count meeting in Chicago on October 26th, hosted by Hinsdale High School for the Schools Count Corporation. During the Appreciation Dinner, Ms. Branche, principal of Benjamin Banneker's Elementary School, stated the current problems and issues that face New Orleans' schools. Over four years after the destruction of Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans schools continue to suffer from the aftermath. Schools devastated during the storm are slowly being rebuilt and reopened to students. Yet as the schools continue with their own clean-up efforts, they must also address new issues, such as overcrowding, fulfilling state testing requirements, and dealing with the confusion created by countless different types of schools now present in the district. President Branche turned a disheartening report of affairs into an uplifting address of hope and optimism. Her personal dedication and willingness to serve in public education only highlighted this message, and her confidence was felt by all who attended this special evening.



Information from this article was based upon "Branche a Hit at Appreciation Dinner," by Dick Flesher, Founder and CEO of Schools Count Corporation.

AFSA Local 17, Principals' Association of New Orleans Public Schools, Inc. (PANOPSI)

Louisiana's second highest court, the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, upheld Judge Ethel Simms-Julien's Dec. 2008 ruling, which certified the case filed by New Orleans Public School employees as a class action. PANOPSI was the initial plaintiff filing this lawsuit on behalf of everyone, and the lawsuit has now been expanded to represent more than 8,500 New Orleans Public School employees who were wrongfully terminated following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. These school employees now include principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, central office administrators, secretaries, social workers and others. AFSA was the initial benefactor of this lawsuit. The local school board and the state may ask the Supreme Court to review the ruling, but PANOPSI President Cheryllyn Branche states that "we feel very good about a victory early next year." For future updates, visit www.nopsejustice.com.

AFSA Local 28, Detroit Organization of School Administrators

On October 25, 2009 an editorial by Ms. Gwendolyn Gohagon, President of the Detroit Organization of School Administrators and Supervisors, AFSA Local 28, was published in the Michigan Citizen. States across the country are suffering from budget deficits, and Detroit's public education budget has taken a



AFSA Local 28 President Gwendolyn Gohagon with AFSA MI local members

considerable hit, with a deficit projected at \$219 million as of June 30th. This deficit, now seen in a new light after having received an original projected education deficit of \$305.9 million,

has still left school understaffed and, many times, without the sufficient number of administrators- specifically curriculum leaders in Detroit's case- who are equipped and trained to handle emergencies and the many tasks that keep a school running on a daily basis. Upon reflection of an incident where a Detroit school had to send students home due to a lack of administrative personnel, President Gohagon stated that, "It is inhumane to think that the schools of Detroit have one administrator-in-charge, and that in his/her absence, teachers or counselors may assume that responsibilities involved in managing buildings. Counselors should not be given administrative duties and responsibilities, nor should any other non-administrative school personnel."

In addition to education deficits, the Detroit school district has been in disagreement with Detroit Public Schools Emergency Financial manager Robert Bobb. The letter written by Ms. Gohagon reveals the "damaging connection between financial decisions- which are Bobb's proper domain- and instruction- which responsibility supposedly lies with the elected board." The letter addresses the importance of curriculum leaders in the Detroit public schools and urges Robert Bobb to recall curriculum leaders as they play an instrumental role in providing support to principal and assistant principals, address emergencies and solve problems.



Pictured left: Carver Farrow, President, Local 101 is joined by his fellow members of the St. Thomas/ St. John Educational Administrators' Association as they welcome AFSA President Diann Woodard to the island.

AFSA Local 4, Council of School Officers (CSO)

Washington, D.C. hosted one of the largest labor demonstrations in years on Oct. 9 as public school teachers and supporters gather to protest the layoffs of more than 260 teachers. CSO President Aona Jefferson, AFSA Local 4, joined hundreds at an Oct. 16 DC City Council Hearing as the Council met to discuss the controversial firings of nearly 30 CSO members, which disrupted the beginnings of the academic year in schools across the District. DC School Officials attributed the firings to budget cuts, despite a school budget increase of \$15 million over last year's FY2009 budget.

After a chaotic two weeks, filled with protests and complaints from students, parents, school faculty members and the greater DC community, the DC City Council organized a hearing where over 150 witnesses testified on the proceedings on firing such a substantial amount of DC teachers.



AFSA Local 109, ASASP Executive Director Doris Reed participates in the Rally to support DC Teachers, Administrators and other staff. Reed, 2nd Vice President of the Metropolitan Washington Central Labor Council was representing the Council in the absence of President Josyln Williams, who was out of the Country on AFL-CIO business.

Chancellor Michelle A. Rhee previously allotted DC principals the power to decide who to fire during the recent layoffs. CSO President Aona Jefferson stated that principals were made to be the scapegoats by Rhee as they 'targeted' to be fired.

DC Council Chairman

Vincent Gray was vocal in his descriptions of the events, describing the lay-offs as being performed in an "arbitrary, ad-hoc way with little regard for performance."

As these proceedings continue, the Council has stated that they will further investigate the situation and the new information presented during Chancellor Rhee's testimony.

Additional information for this article was provided by the AIL/ NILICO Labor Letter & Agenda

AFSA Local 1, Council of School Supervisors & Administrators (CSA)

The Jewish Labor Committee celebrated its 75th anniversary with a Human Rights Award Dinner on Oct. 27 at the Hilton NY. Stuart Appelbaum, who heads the committee, spoke about the Jewish fight for justice and the right for workers to organize. Mr. Appelbaum is the President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. Awards were presented to John T. Ahern of the Central Labor Council; Roberta Reardon of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists; and Morton Sloan, President of the Morton Williams Supermarkets.

The keynote speaker was Richard L. Trumka, President of the AFL-CIO. He stressed the importance of passing the Employee Free Choice Act and achieving true health care reform that includes a public option.

CSA Historian Jack Zuckerman, who submitted this article, represented CSA at the dinner.



Jack Zuckerman, Richard Trumka AFL CIO President



AFSA Local 25, Public School Administrators & Supervisors Association of Baltimore City (PSASA)

Jimmy Gittings, President, PASASA, met with Former Speaker Gingrich and Reverend Sharpton this November in their continued tour of U.S. schools. The tour began this summer as Former Speaker Gingrich and Reverend Sharpton joined Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on a visit of four major U.S. cities, during which the Secretary has outlined the Obama administration's public education reform plans and emphasized innovative reform efforts for public schools. Baltimore City was the second city to receive these policymakers. Gittings made several recommendations to the two regarding the Race to the Top funds, stating that many administrators within the system feel that with new money being put into the schools, removing administrators shouldn't be an immediate course of action. Instead, Gittings recommended that administrators be given a year or two before the idea of dismissals is entertained. When questioned by Sharpton as to whether or not additional time given to administrators would make a difference, Gittings replied that additional time, coupled with the Race to the Top funds, has the potential to make quite a difference in an administrator's ability to positively affect their school.

AFSA Local 105, Educadores Puertorriquenos en Accion, Inc. (EPA)

U.S. labor pledged solidarity with Puerto Rican workers who protested Gov. Louis Fortuno's plan to layoff thousands of public sector workers and cancel their collective bargaining rights to solve the island's budget deficit. The governor cut more than 5,000 jobs this year with another round of layoffs set for later this month that would eliminate nearly 17,000 jobs from the department of Education and other agencies. A general strike was held Oct. 15 as more than 200,000 people peacefully demonstrated in San Juan against the layoffs. Sympathy rallies were held in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and other cities in the U.S. AFL-CIO's Trumka said U.S. labor would fight "for the rights and well being of our affiliated unions, their members, and the people of Puerto Rico." He noted Puerto Rico received \$5 billion in federal stimulus funds and said future stimulus money "cannot be justified" until the administration "rethinks its proposed policies."

This article was originally published in the AIL/NILICO Labor Letter & Agenda

AFSA Local 79, Oklahoma City Administrators

In early April 2009, then acting-President Natalie Johnson, Oklahoma City Administrators contacted the AFSA National office for assistance with their upcoming negotiations. AFSA responded by providing assistance to President Johnson and her members.

When the negotiation dates were established, AFSA Vice President Charles Whelan made the trip to Oklahoma City to assist with the negotiations. VP Whelan met with Local 79's Executive Board to help develop contract proposals for the upcoming negotiation session. The negotiation sessions concluded with a tentative agreement reached on all non-monetary issues. The parties agreed to reconvene and complete the negotiations in the Fall when there would be a clearer picture of the district's finances. VP Whelan returned to Oklahoma City and completed the final phase of negotiations; a complete, tentative agreement was reached. In addition, VP Whelan helped to prepare the final documents for the ratification vote, and the contract was ratified on November 12, 2009.

As an additional show of support to our locals, AFSA held its October 2009 Executive Board meeting in Oklahoma City.

The Local 79 Executive Board and its Nominating Committee should be commended for their hard work. VP Whelan is very grateful to them of Local 79 for their time, commitment and dedication to their members and this negotiation process. A very special thanks to former President Johnson for her initial call and effort during this process. AFSA extends its support to new Local 79 President John Pundsack as he leads this local during this school year.

AFSA Staff Visits With Members of Congress

Throughout the health care debate that has been overwhelming the American Congress, AFSA's staff has been diligent in meeting with members of Congress to discuss AFSA's top priorities, including meaningful health care reform, along with the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), collective bargaining rights for administrators and the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA).

Representative Joseph Sestak (D-PA), who specifically requested to serve on the Education and Labor Committee when elected to Congress, is a strong supporter of public education and workers' rights. In discussing NCLB, AFSA emphasized the importance of high quality professional development opportunities for school principals and supervisory staff, and that professional development for teachers alone is not



AFSA President Woodard and Director of Gov. Affairs Nick Spina meet with Rep. Vern Ehlers to discuss health care

enough. Rep. Sestak understands the need to support school administrators, and that it is a tremendous challenge to create a safe learning environment. He stated that NCLB has essentially "ignored the captain of the ship".

Rep. Sestak has been an ardent supporter of health care reform and the proposed House bill. He has stated, "We must ensure the passage of comprehensive health care reform legislation currently under consideration in Congress. This legislation carries out my ideals for health



Rep. Bobby Scott with Pres. Woodard and Director Spina

care reform and is a significant step toward the establishment of a health care system that functions for all Americans. Moving forward, we must do more to address the incentives in our health care system that lead to every more expensive care and encourage excessive treatment."

In meeting with Senator Barbara Mikulski's (D-MD) office, AFSA thanked the Senator for her support of health care reform. Senator Mikulski supports the public option and will not vote for a bill that contains an excise tax. She has drawn much needed attention to insurance industry bias regarding health care issues that affect women. The Senator is also a supporter of the Employee Free Choice Act.

To obtain a bi-partisan view on health care reform efforts, AFSA also met with Congressman Vern Ehlers (R-MI). Although Rep. Ehlers does not support the House health care legislation as proposed, he does believe, "There is no question that access to health care and affordable health insurance must be improved. Affordable health care should be available to everyone, and people should have access to the type of health insurance, health care and doctors they want..." AFSA's concerns with NCLB were expressed to the Congressman, relaying that schools cannot be the only ones held responsible and accountable for each child's education and progress. Rep. Ehlers agreed that schools and disadvantaged youths must be provided linkages and access to community based support organizations to keep students engaged and on a pathway to productive citizenship. AFSA thanked Rep. Ehlers for sponsoring the RAISE UP Act which addresses these issues.



Rep. Joe Sestak meets with Pres. Woodard and Director Spina

continued from cover

the best location that permits such services to reach these populations is within the school.

The in-school health facilities provide students with general physicals, vaccinations, STD testing and various illness screens. Principal Nakia Nicholson of Fairmount Heights HS said that the wellness centers are "all part of one machine." She sees the school and the wellness center working in collaboration to promote good health and well-being among students.

In 1990, Prince George's County, the Department of Health and the Department of Education started the first center at Northwestern High School. The centers continue to face challenges during these hard economic times, as they have, largely, been funded through grants. However, Caffie-Wright states that, "with health care reform here, this is our time to make a change." AFSA thoroughly agrees, and we continue to fight for quality health care for all, specifically tracking how the expiration of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) will affect Medicaid funds and services that children of low-income families have come to depend upon.

AFSA Travel Desk

Call Gary Goldstein at
718-494-7722

or email gsolamar@aol.com for
special travel opportunities.
Visit the AFSA website for more
information.

AFSA Scholarship

This year's AFSA 2009-2010 Scholarship Program is now OPEN to all children of AFSA members in good standing. Applicants must be attending college for the first time during 2010. Applications must be received by February 26, 2010. To download the AFSA 2009-2010 Scholarship application package visit the AFSA website at:

www.afsaadmin.org

and use the Member Only Content username & password provided in this edition of the AFSA Administrator.

The following is a collection of statements from members of Congress who have met with AFSA staff to discuss the health care reform legislation as it develops. AFSA would like to thank Representative Scott, Representative Cao- the only Republican to vote for H.R. 3962-, Representative Kildee, Representative Price and their staff for sharing this invaluable information with the members of AFSA.

Representative Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA-3)

We are at a critical point in America where we must make sound investments in our children if we are going to succeed as a nation... we must make targeted investments in the lives of our children to ensure the preservation of the American way of life. We must also invest in the lives of our at-risk children to get them on the right track early and keep them there. And we must make sure that every child leaves high school with a diploma and a solid education, so they can either go to college or enter the high-tech, information-based workforce of the future... An essential investment in the well-being of our children is comprehensive health care. This includes prenatal care and preventive care for obesity related diseases like diabetes... I am proud to have voted in favor of H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act, which will make health care accessible and affordable to all Americans, including those with pre-existing conditions. The legislation also takes specific steps to improve the health of the nation's children... we must continue to work to ensure that all children have access to the care they need and deserve, so that they can lead healthy and productive lives.

Representative Dale E. Kildee (MI-5)

Choices regarding health care are some of the most personal decisions we make. The ability to choose one's doctor and decide on a course of treatment with one's physician is an undeniable American right, and so is access to quality affordable health care... While we may respectfully disagree on some of the provisions in this [comprehensive health care] bill, most of us can agree that the problems in our health care system can no longer be ignored. Families across the country are seeing their premiums skyrocket, more and more people are going without, and others cannot get coverage due to pre-existing conditions. Many people have to wait until an emergency to seek medical treatment, turning what could have been a simple doctor's visit into a costly trip to the E.R. When people cannot pay these bills, the American taxpayer bears a portion of the financial burden. Medical providers raise the prices of services to cover these uncompensated costs, thereby increasing costs for everyone and driving up health insurance premiums. In 2008, Americans covered approximately \$42.7 billion of these costs, which translates to about \$1,017 per insured family and \$368 per insured single person.

To address this issue, the House health care reform bill increases competition between insurers, thereby reducing costs and helping the nearly 50 million uninsured Americans access health care. It also prevents insurers from denying or dropping coverage due to pre-existing conditions. This will allow these people to be treated in the early stages of their condition at a doctor's office, rather than going to the emergency room after their condition has progressed. This will save money for the patient, the taxpayer and the medical providers, ultimately bringing down health care costs for everyone.

All Americans deserve quality, affordable health care and I am committed to working on this health reform to ensure it is done right.

Representative David Price (NC-4)

The skyrocketing cost of health care represents one of the greatest threats to America's working families. Between 2000 and 2007, health insurance premiums in my state increased 75%, but earnings rose only 14%. This medical inflation trend is projected to continue, and it is simply not sustainable. The American people need a health care system that works for them – one that provides access to stable coverage, quality care, and affordable premiums and copayments. HR 3692, the Affordable Health Care for America Act, would correct the failures of the current system without compromising its many strengths or adding to the deficit.

Under the bill, the existing system of employer-provided coverage, which works so well for millions of Americans, would be maintained and strengthened. Employers will have the option of providing health insurance coverage for their workers that meets specified minimum benefit requirements, or contributing funds on their behalf. Those who have coverage at work could keep it, but the loss of a job would no longer mean the loss of affordable coverage. Insurance companies would be prohibited from imposing lifetime benefit limits; discriminating on the basis of pre-existing conditions, age, or gender; and cancelling policies when people get sick. And the uninsured and small businesses would finally have access to coverage at the same group rates that large companies have always negotiated for their employees. Via the National Health Exchange, they would be able to compare a range of insurance plans - including a public option - and select the one that best meets their needs.

Landmark reforms - Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid - do not come easily. We were sent to Congress this year to do what is difficult. With House passage of a health insurance reform bill, we are on the verge of overcoming the special interests that halted reform more than a decade ago to enact changes that will make a positive difference in the life of every American. It is an historical moment, an essential investment in our nation's long-term fiscal and economic well-being, and it's long overdue.

Representative Anh "Joseph" Cao (LA-2)

Healthcare is one of the most important issues facing our nation today. Sadly, over 20% of the people in my district are uninsured. Good health is necessary for children's development and that it is our responsibility as lawmakers to ensure that all families have access to affordable coverage. In order for our schools to function properly, and to provide high-quality education, students, educators, and administrators must be healthy. That is why I recently voted in favor of HR. 3962, the Affordable Healthcare for America Act which will provide coverage to millions of uninsured Americans and will make healthcare more accessible for our nation's children and their educators. It is also why I voted to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which provides affordable insurance to millions of our nation's children. It is my hope that both these programs will positively impact the functionality of our nation's educational system by promoting the good health of students and educators, and administrators.

AFSA General Executive Board Meeting Held in Oklahoma City, OK

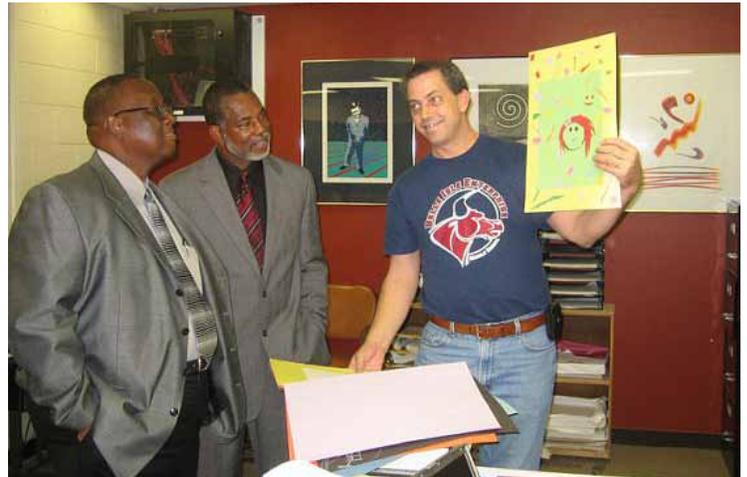
The Oklahoma City Administrators, AFSA Local 79 hosted the AFSA General Executive Board and welcomed them with a reception after visiting several schools in the Oklahoma City school district. Local 79 maintain a membership of nearly 100 members is headed by President John Pundsack and Treasurer Gay Littlepage.

Natalie Johnson, Principal of Ridgeview Elementary School, and her team organized school visitations and a reception for the AFSA General Executive board prior to the official meeting.

The school tours were headed by Lynn Kellert, Principal of Bell Isle Enterprise Middle School, Scott Kaufman, Principal of Buchanan Elementary School in addition to Ms. Natalie Johnson at Ridgeview.

President Woodard, Secretary Caporicci, V.P Crystal Barton and V.P Girard visited the Ridgeview Elementary School. Reflecting on this visit, Vice President Girard made the following comments:

Upon entering the school one could feel the sense of security, warmth and dedication to children. We toured the facility making note of all the vibrant colors on the school walls and student artwork proudly posted in and out of the classroom bulletin boards. The school wide theme ROCK'N and ROLLING, Cruising Towards 1500 was posted everywhere throughout the building. The 1500 is in reference to the statewide achievement score everyone was shooting towards. Many students were impressed by our visit and wanted to know what states we were from. I heard one student say to another student, "Wow, they are from all over the country and they are here to see US!" It was a pleasure visiting such a fine school.



Student artwork on show for VPs Farrow and Smallwood



VPs Farrow, Woods and Smallwood join Executive VP Dierke on a visit to Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School

After visiting Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School with several other GEB members, V.P. Leonard Pugliese stated:

Principal Lynn Kellert, acting as our gracious host, provided the visitors from AFSA with a briefing in her office before giving us a tour of the facility. At the briefing, Ms. Kellert explained to us that Belle Isle was an Oklahoma City Public School that is incorporated as a membership supported Oklahoma not-for-profit corporation. She also indicated that Belle Isle is site-based managed and governed by a Board of Directors. I found this collaboration between the Oklahoma City Public Schools and a not-for-profit corporation particularly interesting since I am currently investigating alternatives to the traditional public school model for my school district in Newark, New Jersey.

Many thanks go to President Pundsack and the members of the Oklahoma City Administrators for their hospitality. This trip was truly a memorable experience for all involved.



In her first few months as AFSA President, Diann Woodard toured the country, visiting AFSA locals from Buffalo, NY to Oakland, CA. On a visit to AFSA Local 100, St. Croix Educational Administrators' Association, Local President Rosa White and her members welcomed President Woodard as they discussed the state of education in the area.

AFSA Celebrates 40 Years of CEF

On September 30, 2009 AFSA staff, Executive Officers and Vice Presidents attended the Committee for Education Funding's (CEF)* 40th Annual Legislative Conference and Gala Banquet Dinner in Washington, DC. The Legislative Conference featured a bi-partisan collection of legislators and policymakers, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) (who explained that education needs to be funded in all areas from construction to science because all roads lead back to education), Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin (D-IL) (who discussed the need to improve the DC school system, increase direct loans, enhance opportunities with the DREAM Act, and improve education programs by following the examples set by school systems that work), Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) (who stressed the need to support students who are the first in their families to go to college), Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA)-a former school administrator-(who discussed the need for schools to find more efficient ways to buy textbooks and to equalize attendance and test results), Rep. Tom Petri (R-WI) (who addressed the need to spend education resources more effectively while taking advantage of teachers' strengths) and Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI) (who spoke passionately about our economy, stating that it will only grow with an educated workforce).



President Woodard, VP Sacchetti, Speaker of the House Pelosi, and VP Girard



VP Gittings with Rep. Patrick Kennedy

Additionally, White House panelists Kathryn Stack from the Office of Management and Budget and Roberto Rodriguez from the White House Domestic Policy Council discussed the Obama Administration's focus to reduce the dropout rate and close the achievement gap, while using programs that empirical studies have shown to work.

CEF awarded Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) with the Richard W. Riley Career Service Award "for an outstanding career of exemplary support of better education for all," and Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) with the Committee for Education Funding's Special Recognition Award "for outstanding dedication to the success of America's Students and for making education a national priority."

At the Gala that evening, Rep. Tim Bishop (D-NY) was awarded CEF's William H. Natcher Distinguished Service Award "for distinguished service during this session of Congress in elevating the priority for education funding to ensure better opportunities for our nation's citizens." Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA) also received the 2009 Outstanding New

Member Award "for demonstrating commitment to our nation's students by advocating education as an investment in the future." Finally, Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) delivered a passionate speech that touched all in attendance, upon receiving the first Edward M. Kennedy Extraordinary Service Award on behalf of his father. Retiring CEF Executive Director Ed Kealy received a Special Recognition Award for his 15 years of dedicated service.

** Founded in 1969, the Committee for Education Funding (CEF) and its 80 plus member organizations have worked toward the common goal of achieving adequate federal support for our nation's education system. Nonpartisan and nonprofit, CEF is America's largest education coalition, reflecting the broad spectrum of the education community.*



Gov. Affairs Director Spina, Treasurer Logan, President Woodard, Rep. Mike Honda, VP Girard and VP Sacchetti (pictured L to R)

Child Nutrition and Healthy Behaviors

The concept of 'health' extends far beyond just health care- a fact that is easy to forget during a time dominated by legislative health care reform. However, in order to build a healthier America, we must look at all aspects of health, from those within a doctor's office to those at the home. The role that schools play in promoting health among students is no less important.

Healthy behaviors among children are said to be indicators of future health habits. With statistics quoting 63 percent of Americans as overweight, schools can play a critical role to encourage and advance health among children- thereby improving the overall health of America. Two key areas where schools can have a beneficial impact in improving child health are nutrition and physical activity.

New York City has been a more recent advocate for implementing small, yet effective and essential healthy measures. The New York City Education Department proposed a set of nutritional guidelines last spring, and has developed a new, nutritional emphasis for NYC public schools by issuing a crackdown on the type of snacks and beverages sold within schools. At the end of June 2009, the department issued a memo outlining the reduction of school bake sales. The Education Department hopes that this ban will assist with the city's 40 percent obesity rate among NYC elementary and middle school students. AFSA Treasurer Ernest Logan, President CSA, Local 1, affirms that "Some schools were having bake sales nearly every day in order to make ends meet, especially schools in economically deprived districts where money is so badly needed. So, despite the best of intentions, those children were probably getting too many sweets and their health may have been being put at further risk." In addition, the new policy required that vending machines and student-run school stores be stocked with healthy snacks, limiting the calorie intake of students. While this move could mean less money for schools as vending contracts are renegotiated and removes contracts from the hands of individual schools to the Department of Education, overall the Department hopes that the new standards will eliminate the health risk that NYC student faced everyday and jumpstart a new approach towards supporting healthier schools.

Along with these previously mentioned examples, school across the country are becoming more aware of the importance of student health. In a report commissioned by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America, a high-quality of health care provided to students was directly correlated to increased academic performance. Inadvertently, students who perform well, academically, were linked to a greater sense of overall health. These findings only further the role that schools play in promoting health- a role that must extend outside the general health box of offering health services. AFSA President Diann Woodard states that, "As health care reform continues to be addressed on the national level, schools must realize this unique role they have in promoting health among students and within the community as a whole."

Fight the High Cost of Health Care with Savings from Union Plus

AFSA is fighting for your health care benefits in the workplace and in Washington, D.C. And Union Plus is fighting for you, too, with new programs that could save you hundreds of dollars on medical bills, doctor visits, prescriptions, wellness programs and more. Check out these money-saving programs that can keep your family and finances in good health.

Consumer Reports Health and Best Buy Drugs: UnionPlus.org/Health
Health Savings Programs: Call 1-877-570-4945 or visit: UnionPlus.org/HealthSavings
Hospital Care Grants: UnionPlus.org/UnionSAFE
Medical Bill Negotiation Service: UnionPlus.org/BillNegotiator
Online Prescription Discount Card: UnionPlus.org/RxCARD
Wellness Programs: UnionPlus.org/HealthClubs

For more information on the programs listed, please contact Jennifer Wright Dorr at (202) 293-5330 or visit the AFSA website at www.AFSA.admin.org.

America at a Glance



Race to the Top Criteria Made Public

This November, the U.S. Department of Education released its finalized criteria for states applying to the first round of the Race to the Top funds. After receiving over 1,000 public comments, the Department of Education finalized the RTTT guidelines, and is now accepting Phase 1 applications, which are due to the Department by January 19th. The structure of the grants remains unchanged, but after reading the public comments, the DoE altered eligibility requirements and selection criteria. RTTT applicants must address the four assurance areas outlined in ARRA section 14006 (a) (2): enhancing standards and assessments; improving the collection and use of data; increasing teacher effectiveness; and turning around struggling school. Additionally, in its final proposed notice, six RTTT priorities were highlighted as qualifying factors, including (in order):

- Absolute priority for all states to meet- A comprehensive approach to education reform
- Competitive preference priority- Emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)
- Innovations for Improving early learning outcomes
- Expansion and adaptation of statewide longitudinal data systems
- P-20 coordination, vertical and horizontal alignment
- School-level conditions for reform, innovation and learning

Additionally, the final notice specifies selection criteria, which includes the identification of greater school leaders and teachers. Effective principals and highly effective principals, phrases that were originally defined in terms of student achievement, have been amended in the final notice to allow states to use multiple measures of effectiveness.

The education community is largely viewing the Race to the Top guidelines as a possible foundation for the reauthorized ESEA.

Gates Foundation Offers Preliminary Insight into RTTT Qualifiers

With their technical assistance planning grants, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation offered a unique and early insight into which states may or may not qualify for the stimulus Race to the Top funds. What EdWeek described as a "litmus test for qualifying for RTTT technical assistance," the qualifications for states to receive the Gates' grants mirrored the Race to the Top guidelines outlined by the Department of Education. While the Gates Foundation initially hopes to provide additional funding to states in order to help them prepare their education agencies to meet RTTT qualifications, the Gates' grants highlighted which states are and are not prepared to apply for the first round of stimulus competitive grants. Fourteen states, in fact, failed the Gates' Race to the Top test, including: Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Vermont. Not winning the primary awards from the Gates Foundation has given Maryland and Vermont enough cause to delay their Round 1 RTTT applications until they are better prepared to meet the guidelines.

School Improvement Grants

The Department of Education seeks to continue its quest to turn around America's lowest performing schools by awarding competing school districts \$3.5 billion in School Improvement Grants (SIG). The grants are targeted toward assisting the lowest performing schools within a state. States must identify three tiers of the lowest performing five percent of schools in the state, and, from there, Local educational agencies (LEAs) must identify which tier schools they are targeting and which of the following models of corrective action they will apply:

Turnaround model: Replace the principal and rehire no more than 50 percent of the staff and grant the principal sufficient operational flexibility (including in staffing, calendars/time and budgeting) to implement fully a comprehensive approach to substantially improve student outcomes.

Restart model: Convert a school or close and reopen it under a chart school operator, a charter management organization, or an education management organization that has been selected through a rigorous review process.

School closure: Close a school and enroll the students who attended that school in other schools in the LEA that are higher achieving.

Transformational model: Implement each of the following strategies: (1) replace the principal and take steps to increase teacher and school leader effectiveness; (2) institute comprehensive instructional reforms; (3) increase learning time and create community-oriented schools; and (4) provide operational flexibility and sustained support.

AFSA submitted public comments to the U.S. Department of Education, which expressed concern with certain aspects of the SIGs. Specifically, AFSA stated that the proposal to immediately remove a principal should never be the initial step in turning around any school. AFSA's public comments also included recommendations to successfully turn around schools. As the February 8th deadline quickly approaches, AFSA will continue to express its concern over the SIG qualifying factors, which all replace the principal and base school reform efforts on unfound and unfair practices.



PAC CONTRIBUTION FORM

While forming a Local PAC is very important to achieving your Local's political and legislative goals, it is also essential you have a voice on National issues. The AFSA Federal PAC supports political candidates and legislators who stand up for quality public schools, early childhood education, collective bargaining rights and organized labor, meaningful professional development, and the tools education professionals need to provide America's youth with the highest quality education possible.

Name: _____

Local #: _____

Amount of Contribution: \$ _____ **Check #:** _____

***Mailing Address:** _____

***Employer:** _____

***Occupation:** _____

Please share the AFSA PAC Contribution Form with your members and have them return it to AFSA's national office at:

American Federation of School Administrators 1101 17th Street, NW, Suite 408 Washington, DC 20036

Federal law prohibits union dues from being used as contributions to political action committees. All contributions must be made voluntarily from a personal account. *Federal law also requires all individuals who donate more than \$200 per year to a political action committee for that committee to report their name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 11-13, 2010** American Association of School Administrators' National Conference on Education, Phoenix, Arizona. Details and register: www.aasa.org/nce
- March 1-4, 2010** AFL-CIO Executive Council Meeting
Buena Vista Palace Hotel, Lake Buena Vista, FL.
- March 12-14, 2010** National Association of Secondary School Principals Annual Convention and Exposition in Phoenix, AZ. For more information and to register, visit: www.nasspconvention.org
- March 24-27, 2010** National Service-Learning Conference- Inspire. Imagine. Innovate! The conference will be held in San Jose, California. For more information please visit our website: www.nylc.org
- April 5-8, 2010** Alliance for Retired Americans Convention to be held at Bally's Las Vegas in Las Vegas, NV. Contact Joni Jones at (202) 637-5377 for more information.
- April 8-11, 2010** National Association of Elementary School Principals Annual Convention and Exposition in Huston, TX. For more information and to register, visit
- April 9-11, 2010** AFSA Officers and General Executive Board will meet in San Diego, CA.
- April 18-21, 2010** The National Afterschool Association and Afterschool Alliance Annual Conference -- BE THE CHANGE. To be held at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center near Washington, DC. To register now and receive a discounted rate, visit: www.naaconvention.org/registration.html