

EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

2010 Resolutions

ATTENDEES:

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Berea Federation of Teachers #1699	Bill Boone Lisa Cistolo Roslyn Painter-Goffi
Brookfield Fed. of Teachers #1728	Jay Bodner
Buckeye Local Educ. Assn. #4595	Debbie Findish
Cincinnati Federation of Teachers #1520	Joyce Johnson
Clear Fork Valley Educ. Assn. #4109	Adam Staley
Cleveland Heights Teachers Union #795	Beth Rae
Cleveland Teachers Union #279	Jillian Ahrens Mark Baumgartner Sandra E. Green
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Georgetown Fed. of Teachers #4903	Nina Miller
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OBSERVERS: Cleveland Teachers Union #279 Ohio Federation of Teachers	Meryl Johnson Deb Tully, Staff

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RESOLUTION ON RACE TO THE TOP

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3 WHEREAS the federal government has issued the Request for Proposal for the
4 competitive grant called Race to the Top; and

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6 WHEREAS the grant sets forth requirements designed to support innovation in school
7 reform; and

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9 WHEREAS Race to the Top aligns with the reforms set forth by Ohio's House Bill 1
10 education reform package; and

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12 WHEREAS local districts were asked to sign on to participate in the Race to the Top
13 grant; and

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15 WHEREAS those local districts, as represented by the Superintendent, School Board
16 President, and the Union President, are required to sign a memorandum of
17 understanding (MOU) that outlines what is mandated and recognizes the importance of
18 maintaining collective bargaining rights; and

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20 WHEREAS the participation in Race to the Top requires that all districts that signed on
21 to Ohio's MOU secure the signature of the union president; and

22
23 WHEREAS the Ohio Federation of Teachers worked collaboratively with the state to
24 create both the MOU and the final grant application; and

25
26 WHEREAS Race to the Top is largely seen as the precursor of the reauthorization of
27 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA); and

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29 WHEREAS it is important that the districts demonstrate a collaborative environment in
30 which those reforms can be enacted; therefore

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32 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) supports the
33 implementation of the Race to the Top grant as a way to demonstrate research based
34 practices to serve as models for the reauthorization of the ESEA; and,

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OFT and the American Federation of Teachers
37 provide technical assistance and support to its locals that have signed on to participate
38 in the Race to the Top grant.
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39 **RESOLUTION ON TEACHERS ON THE MODEL CURRICULA COMMITTEE**

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41 WHEREAS the Governor's Education Reform Plan calls for a model curricula based on
42 the new standards; and

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44 WHEREAS the new model curricula must be completed for adoption by March, 2011;
45 and

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47 WHEREAS the model curricula will be developed by committees that may not
48 specifically require a majority of classroom teachers; therefore

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50 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) strongly recommends
51 the inclusion of a majority of classroom teachers on the model curricula committees;
52 and

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54 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that these teachers on the model curricula committees be
55 selected from candidates recommended by the Ohio Federation of Teachers and the
56 Ohio Education Association.

57 58 59 **RESOLUTION ON THE OPERATING STANDARDS FROM THE GOVERNOR'S** 60 **EDUCATIONAL REFORM PLAN**

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63 WHEREAS the Governor's Educational Reform Plan delegates the development of
64 operating standards for teaching and learning in the 21st century to the Ohio State
65 Board of Education; and

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67 WHEREAS these standards are consistent with the teaching and learning standards
68 promoted by the American Federation of Teachers and the Ohio Federation of Teachers
69 and include a collaborative learning environment and shared leadership; therefore

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71 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers commends the governor for his
72 recognition and inclusion of such standards in his overall Educational Reform Plan; and

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74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers support and
75 promote such standards with all its members; and

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77 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers will work with its
78 locals to implement such standards in the school districts represented by our locals.

79 80 81 **RESOLUTION ON HOUSE BILL 1**

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83 WHEREAS expanded learning opportunities are essential in order to prepare students
84 for success; and

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86 WHEREAS House Bill 1 requires school districts to offer all day kindergarten starting
87 with the 2010-2011 school year unless they apply and are approved for a waiver; and

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89 WHEREAS provisions in HB1 also promote that learning days will be added to the
90 learning year beginning with the state reducing calamity days to three in the 2010-2011
91 school year; and

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93 WHEREAS the state is encouraging enrichment activities that could include travel out of
94 state and/or necessitate absence from school that would be enhanced by teacher
95 support; therefore

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97 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) believes financial
98 support should be provided for those school districts that are already having difficulty
99 meeting their financial obligations; and

100
101 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OFT believes that resources and support must
102 be provided to teachers in order to expand the learning day in creative and innovative
103 ways that engage students and make the day more meaningful.

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RESOLUTION ON OHIO'S NEW LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

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108 WHEREAS House Bill 1 requires the development of a new licensure system; and

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110 WHEREAS this system will offer four differentiated licenses to Ohio teachers; and

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112 WHEREAS the system will include a four year resident license prior to obtaining a five
113 year professional license; and

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115 WHEREAS the system will also include teacher leadership licenses designed to allow
116 teachers to take on different roles and responsibilities; therefore

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118 BE IT RESOLVED that Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) advocates that any activities
119 that are required for these licenses be meaningful and multi-faceted to meet the
120 differentiated needs and experiences of the educators; and

121
122 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OFT advocates that the state reviews successful
123 programs that can serve as models which are currently in effect in American Federation
124 of Teachers and OFT locals.

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RESOLUTION ON TYING TEACHER LICENSURE RENEWAL TO STUDENT ASSESSMENT SCORES

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130 WHEREAS the Educator Standards Board has been required by the legislature to find a
131 way to tie student achievement to educator licensure renewal; and

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133 WHEREAS a growth model measures a teacher's effectiveness more accurately than
134 an overall student achievement score; and

135
136 WHEREAS there is not yet a fair, practical or proven way to tie student achievement to
137 the effectiveness of a teacher; and

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139 WHEREAS teacher effectiveness may not accurately be reflected in student
140 achievement tests as these assessments were never designed to be used as a teacher
141 evaluation tool; and

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143 WHEREAS many societal and home circumstances (such as poverty, poor health care,
144 tardiness and truancy) can powerfully influence a student's annual achievement and
145 may not be possible for one teacher to remedy; and

146
147 WHEREAS students are more transient than ever and move from school to school
148 (sometimes within one year) and therefore it becomes very difficult to tie a student's
149 achievement to one teacher; and

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151 WHEREAS only core subject areas at specific grade levels are assessed and some
152 teachers and/or support staff are not tied to assessment results; therefore

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154 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) asks that the Educator
155 Standards Board (ESB) investigate and identify a more equitable, research-based
156 approach to renewing teacher licenses; and

157
158 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ESB delay tying student achievement to teacher
159 licensure renewal until there becomes a clear link between teacher effectiveness and
160 assessment scores.