

LEGISLATIVE & SCHOOL FINANCE

2010 Resolutions

ATTENDEES:

Beachwood Fed. of Teachers #1468	Gregory Deegan
Berea Federation of Teachers #1699	Gena Catino Victoria Wood
Buckeye Local Educ. Assn. #4595	Dave Parish
Cincinnati Federation of Teachers #1520	Jane Simon Julie Sellers
Cleveland Heights Teachers Union #795	Ari Klein Mary Ann Brennan
Cleveland Teachers Union #279	Emmett Keller Jim Wagner Michele Pomerantz, Chair Todd LeVeck
Genoa Area Educ. Assoc. #4741	Amy Fought
Georgetown Fed. of Teachers #4903	Jennifer Shively
Greenon Fed. of Teachers #4370	Amy Geiger
Jackson-Milton Educators' Assn. #4968	Leah Condon
New Lexington Education Association #4186	Kim Mautz Rebecca Scott
Oregon City Fed. of Teachers #1080	Jeff Cooney Tabatha Nadolny
Toledo Federation of Teachers #250	Andrea Bennett Bob Dickinson Catherine Hernandez Kathy Wersell Kevin Dalton Robyn Hage
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OBSERVERS:	
Blue Green Alliance	Sara Letourneau
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ENVIRONMENTAL RESOLUTION

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2 WHEREAS the Blue Green Alliance (BGA) is a national partnership between labor
3 unions and environmental organizations dedicated to expanding the number and quality
4 of jobs in the green economy; and

5 WHEREAS the BGA was launched in 2006 by the United Steelworkers and the Sierra
6 Club, and has grown to include the Communications Workers of America (CWA),
7 Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Service Employees International Union
8 (SEIU), Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), Utility Workers Union
9 of America (UWUA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT); and

10 WHEREAS the Blue Green Alliance unites eight million people in pursuit of good jobs, a
11 clean environment and a green economy. Both working people and environmentalists
12 have a stake in building the new, green economy. Transforming our economy through
13 renewable energy, energy efficiency, mass transit and rail, a new smart grid and other
14 strategies to combat climate change, has the potential to create millions of jobs, while
15 reducing harmful emissions and moving America toward energy independence; and

16 WHEREAS the Blue Green Alliance works on issues ranging from energy and climate
17 change to transportation to workers' rights and green chemistry; and

18 WHEREAS BGA works to pass comprehensive clean energy and climate change
19 legislation, restore the rights of workers in the United States to organize and bargain
20 collectively, establish a 21st Century trade policy that promotes growth and prosperity
21 across all sectors of global society, and embeds enforceable labor, environmental, and
22 human rights standards in our trade agreements, and create an informed 21st century
23 policy on toxic chemicals that protects workers and communities; and

24 WHEREAS the BGA Foundation is working to educate the public about the job-creating
25 potential of environmental investments, including solutions to climate change; therefore

26 WHEREAS urgency and the ability to solve climate change and its solutions revitalize
27 our economy and create good, union jobs, and economic development programs;
28 therefore

29 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that OFT will actively participate in the Ohio Blue Green
30 Alliance and work with the national Blue Green Alliance to support legislation that
31 provides green jobs.

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RESOLUTION ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY

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34 WHEREAS the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) conducted a survey of third graders
35 by county in Ohio in 2004-2005; and

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37 WHEREAS ODH reports the body mass index (BMI) assessment demonstrated that
38 18.9 percent of Ohio's third grade public school students were overweight. An additional
39 16.7 percent of students were found at risk for becoming overweight; and

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41 WHEREAS counties varied from having about 10 percent of students overweight to 33
42 percent overweight with boys and girls having similar risks of being overweight; and

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44 WHEREAS children who were eligible for the free and reduced-price meal program
45 were more likely to be overweight than other children; and

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47 WHEREAS some schools now provide information on nutrition and fitness in some life
48 science and health curriculums; and

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50 WHEREAS improving children's health will have benefits in the classroom and society
51 and as a whole; and

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53 WHEREAS getting children moving can help reduce the incidence of childhood obesity
54 and is a laudable goal; therefore

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56 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the Ohio
57 Department of Health should provide school districts with the best practices regarding
58 how to keep children active; and

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60 BE IT RESOLVED that school districts should not be mandated to meet a specific time
61 requirement for physical activity without appropriate funding; and

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63 BE IT RESOLVED that school districts must work with the county health departments to
64 disseminate information about healthy food choices to students and parents; and

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66 BE IT RESOLVED that student BMI data should not appear on any school's report card;
67 and

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69 BE IT RESOLVED that OFT supports the national call for reducing childhood obesity
70 and improving the nutritional quality of school meals and snacks sold in the vending
71 machines; and

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73 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that OFT supports the dissemination of information that
74 improves the health of children in Ohio.

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HEALTH REFORM MUST CONTINUE

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WHEREAS largely because of rising costs, 47 million people in this wealthy and powerful country including 8.7 million children—have no health coverage, and

WHEREAS more than one-third of people who have insurance worry about losing it. Even union workers, who have led the way in securing health benefits for working people, are in danger of losing secure health coverage because of out-of-control costs; and

WHEREAS insurance and drug companies are making excessive profits with health insurance CEOs averaging \$8.7 million in 2006 compensation and pharmaceutical company CEOs earning an average of \$4.4 million; and

WHEREAS Ohio has over 1 million uninsured people of which 157,000 children, representing 10 and 6 percent of their respective population; and

WHEREAS the United States Senate and House chambers have passed health care legislation; and

WHEREAS the United States Senate included a public option plan that would have expanded Medicare to those age 55 and above; and

WHEREAS health care costs are driving Ohio pension funds to consider major changes such as increasing fees for actives and retirees; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that OFT supports AFT and other international unions' compromise that did not tax our health care benefits; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Congress must send a health care bill to the President that provides affordable coverage starting at age 55 preferable through a public option plan; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this action takes place before the 2010 summer recess.

RESOLUTION ON REPORTING OF WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

WHEREAS workers are increasingly faced with the threat of violence at their workplace; and

WHEREAS between 1999 and 2000, 135,000 teachers were physically attacked by students and over 300,000 elementary and secondary school teachers were threatened with injury in the United States; and

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121 WHEREAS according to a 2005 U.S. Departments of Education and Justice Report,
122 from 1999 to 2003, annually, an estimated 183,000 teachers were victims of non-fatal
123 crimes at school, which translates into an annual rate, of 39 crimes per 1,000 teachers;
124 and

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126 WHEREAS the scant research available demonstrates that teachers and other school
127 employees may be at an increased risk for theft of personal property, verbal threats of
128 physical harm, bullying, abuse, physical assault, and injury (National Institute for
129 occupational Safety and Health BLOG 4-14-08); and

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131 WHEREAS bus drivers are also subject to assaults on and off school property; and

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133 WHEREAS assaults to school employees should be reported to administrators;
134 therefore

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136 BE IT RESOLVED that public school employees and school bus operators should report
137 to school principals or chief administrative officers any known assaults at school or
138 school events or on school buses; and

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140 BE IT RESOLVED that school district principals shall notify the district superintendent of
141 reported assaults; and

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143 BE IT RESOLVED that school district superintendents and community school or STEM
144 school principals or chief administrative officers shall notify law enforcement authorities
145 of reported assaults; and

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147 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that such action shall grant immunity from civil liability for a
148 district or community school or STEM school employee, principal, chief administrative
149 officer, superintendent, or private school bus operator who makes a good faith report or
150 other notification of an assault.