

**OEA Retirement Systems Update**  
**Report to the OEA Board of Directors: June 2018**

**Please distribute to other OEA members**

**McFee and Rhodes Elected to STRS Board**

OEA's endorsed candidates Robert McFee and Jeffrey Rhodes have been elected to the STRS Board. McFee is a mathematics teacher for Willoughby Eastlake City Schools and Rhodes is a technology education teacher for North Royalton City Schools. The term for these seats begins September 1, 2018 and ends on August 31, 2022.

The voting totals in the election were as follows: Robert McFee (9,761), Jeffrey Rhodes (9,589), Dale Price (6,634) and Benjamin Pfeiffer (5,624). A total of 16,510 ballots were cast which represents an increase of more than 2,000 votes from the previous year.

This victory is a testament to the hard work of the candidates as well as the involvement of OEA members all over Ohio who made the campaign a success.

**OEA Testifies in Favor of HB 572**

On Wednesday, May 23, 2018 OEA provided proponent testimony on House Bill 572. The bill, jointly sponsored by Representatives Gary Scherer (R- Circleville) and Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland), would require the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) to grant a full year of service credit to non-teaching employees of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities who work full time during the school year.

OEA Lobbyist Robert Davis delivered the testimony before the House Aging and Long-Term Care Committee. An excerpt from the testimony appears below:

The employees who would be helped by House Bill 572 are dedicated public servants who work with some of Ohio's most vulnerable students. They continue to contribute 10% of their salary towards their pension benefits but are no longer receiving a full year of service credit per school year. Reduced service credit has an adverse effect on the retirement planning and economic security of these employees. They deserve to be treated the same as the teachers they work alongside and the non-teaching employees of school districts who receive a full year of service credit towards their retirement.

In addition to OEA's testimony, several OEA members who are directly affected by the issue provided written testimony in support of the bill. Representatives of the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD also voiced support.

Please take a moment to urge your legislator to support HB 572 by clicking [here](#).

**No STRS Health Care Premium Increase for Majority of Enrollees and Continued Medicare B Reimbursement**

During its May meeting, the STRS Board approved 2019 premiums for retiree health care plans. About 92% of plan enrollees will have 2019 health care premiums equal to their 2018 premiums. Additional information about the 2019 health care program will be provided in upcoming newsletters and on the STRS Ohio website.

Additionally, the STS Board voted to extend the current Medicare Part B Partial Reimbursement Program for one year. Under this program, benefit recipients currently enrolled in STRS health care and Medicare Part B receive \$29.90 per month to reimburse a portion of the Medicare Part B premium. About 85,000 benefit recipients receive this reimbursement that was set to be eliminated beginning in January. The board's action at the May meeting extends the \$29.90 per month reimbursement through the 2019 calendar year.