**Notes from the OEA Fall Representative Assembly, December 6, 2014**

**Legislative News-** During the lame duck session, the legislature notoriously passes bills that are unpopular, however, they seem more friendly this time.

* HB 343's provision to eliminate the minimum teacher salary has been removed this past week. Governor Kasich endorsed this move.
* HB 597 Which would ditch the Common Core curriculum looks like it will not pass. The greatest threat is the growing dependence on high stakes tests used for naming, blaming, and shaming schools.
* HB 228 proposes limiting testing to 4 hours per year, per subject.
* HB 642 Suspends the consequences of high stakes testing for 3 years.
* There has been no movement on additional pension reform.
* There has been no movement on reigning in failing charter schools.
* Knowyourcharter.com is a local toolkit designed to help schools defend themselves against the growing number of for profit charters.

**Financial News-** Despite the drop in membership and average annual teacher salaries, OEA is on solid ground due to the improvement in the investment market.

**Legislative Policies-**The legislative agenda was updated to address toxic testing:

* Assessments which are not designed to evaluate teacher performance must not be used for that.
* Assessments must provide timely feedback.
* Assessments must have multiple measures, not one shot test scores.
* Assessments must have alternative assessments.
* Assessments must be testing systems, not single tests.
* Assessments must minimize testing time.
* Decisions on grade level retention must be based on student needs, not single tests.