MEA MONITOR

April 2015

*Moline Education Association*

***Special Interest Articles:***

* Add a highlight or your point of interest here
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***Individual Highlights:***

Inside Story 2

Inside Story 3

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Last Story 8

## President’s Report – Susan Blackall

April has passed quickly and a lot has changed. New school board members have been seated and have taken a very strong stand in their first meeting. Despite clear teacher recommendations in support of a new elementary math series, the new board voted 4-3 to not purchase the new series. This is a serious slap in the face to teachers to deny their expertise and reject their choice, especially when there is a need for a math curriculum. I highly encourage teachers from each school to attend board meetings to stay on top of the decisions made by this new board. In addition Dr. Moyer has retracted his communication protocol. He feels that teachers’ voices need to be heard. Feel free to let the new board know how you feel about their decisions.

Here are the current topics for the MEA:

* **Communication Protocol**
* In the past, Dr. Moyer has asked teachers to pass all communication to the board through his office. He has decided that this is a necessary change in light of the new board decisions.
* Board members may show up in your classrooms, and you have free reign to talk and discuss district issues.
* It is to our best interest to focus on major district issues and not bring the board into micro-managing minor issues.
* **Textbooks**
* The new LEAD Moline chrome book initiative was approved by a board vote of 7-0.
* McGraw Hill’s *My Math* was rejected by a 4-3 vote by the newly seated school board.
* Several elementary teachers spent several months piloting the new math series for grades K-5.
	+ Despite teacher support for this new series, the board declined to support their findings.
	+ This should be a major concern for staff, when the board ignores our professional expertise.
* **Early Release First/Last Day**
* We presented many valid reasons to Dr. Moyer to end school at 1:00 on the first and the last day of school; however, he said next year is already set.
* He in very concerned with instructional minutes and the “hours students spend in school when instruction is not taking place.”
* He wants to work on a time study to look at how time is used in our district.
* Dr. Moyer said we can discuss options in the calendar committee next year or in negotiations the year after.

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* **Union Elections**
* We are having an election on May 6 for officer positions, members-at-large positions, and Region 18 Council positions.
	+ Thank you to all the members who have stepped up to run for these positions and are willing to represent you.
* **Student Growth Model Vote**
	+ We will also be voting on the Student Growth Model on May 6.
	+ This portion of the teacher evaluation model is very favorable to teachers.
	+ It gives teachers a lot of room to develop and modify their growth instruments.
* **Long Service Pins**
* Allendale has decided not to continue recognizing staff with long-service pins.
* Unions may continue the long-service recognition on their own if they want to.
* **Ability Grouping/Purdue Project**
* Moline has entered into a collaboration with Purdue University to study gifted program options.
* Five schools will continue our gifted program as it currently runs and five schools will be the treatment schools using ability grouping and receiving professional development.
* **Insurance**
	+ I wanted to remind everyone that there are new requirements for health insurance coverage through the district. The Health Insurance committee has met and decided on the surcharges that will be required of members if they don't get an annual physical or if they use tobacco.
	+ For a Single Health Insurance premium there will be a $100 surcharge per month if that member uses tobacco and $25 surcharge per month if that members does not get an annual physical.
	+ For a Family Health Insurance premium there will be a $200 surcharge per month if any member uses tobacco and $50 surcharge per month if the primary members do not get an annual physical.
	+ Smoking Forms are due to Allendale by June 1.
	+ Insurance physical forms are due to Allendale by June 15.
	+ Any further questions should be directed to Sarah Bartels at Allendale.

As always, if members need me to stop by their building or want to have a conversation about contractual issues, please feel free to call me. My number is 309-236-5907.

Sue Blackall

MEA President

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**MEA MONITOR**

**Public Relations- Kim Anderson**

Attention members! Did you know that the MEA has its own website ([http://mea40.org/](http://mea40.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank))? On this website, you can find archived copies of past Monitors and Connecting Lines. In addition, you can find lists of who the MEA Exec Board members and ARs are and when their meetings are held, MEA election applications and bios, how to access our contract and your Weingarten rights, tax info, John Deere-Moline / Moline Schools Special Recognition Awards, MEA Scholarship info, and links to the District, IEA, and NEA. But there is more we can do with this site!

In a section called Good News, we will feature fun, planned events by the newly formed MEA Social Committee. In addition, I would be willing to post other things such as special classroom or events or school fundraisers, outstanding awards or achievements of students or staff etc. Please feel free to send me text and pictures of anything you would like to share that you believe would qualify!

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MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

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WEB SITE:

www.mea40.org

**Executive Board**

President-Susan Blackall

Vice President-Bonnie Lartz

Secretary-Emily Roberts

Treasurer-Lori McCaw

MHS at Large

Scott Ehlers

Colette Guerdet

Middle School at Large

Dave Strafford

Toni Williams

Elementary at Large

Chris Ballard

Dinah Leibovitz

Leslie Perkins

Appointed Committee Chairs

Elections-Teresa Armes

Legislative-Valerie Hays

Membership-Jen Ulam

Public Relations-Kim Anderson

Social-Cassie Larvenz

 Chief Negotiators-

Susie Hafner



**NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: MAY 7 AT 3:45 AT MEA OFFICE**

**NEXT AR MEETING: MAY 14 AT 3:45 AT IEA OFFICE**

**NEXT SUPERINTENDENT MEETING: NOT SCHEDULED**

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##### **About Our Organization…**