MEA MONITOR

December 2014

*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

Inside Story 4

Inside Story 5

Inside Story 6

Inside Story 7

Last Story 8

## President’s Report – Susan Blackall

Festive Solstice ~ Holy Hanukkah ~ Reflective Ramadan ~ Happy Kwanzaa ~ Merry Christmas ~Season’s greetings ~ Happy Holidays!

It seems the year is flying by with the beginning of second semester looming just two weeks after our return in January. I know teachers are busy wrapping up first semester, writing student growth assessments, creating a teacher assessment portfolio, preparing grades, and living a life outside of school. However, even with everything going on, I hope everyone is able to have a peaceful and joyful holiday season.

Here are some of the current issues in our district:

* **Teaching License Renewals**
  + I want to lead with this again. I can’t emphasize enough that you need to check your on-line ELIS accounts. Bring them up to date and make sure you have enough CPDU’s to renew your license. You run the risk of losing your license if you don’t stay on top of this.
  + The window to add past CPDU’s and update credentials ends December 31. After that, past CPDU’s will be locked out.
  + Tammy Muerhoff, of the Regional Office of Education, encouraged teachers to be their own advocates to make sure their licensing is correct.
  + Questions can be directed to the ROE at 736-1111.
  + A lapsed teaching certificate can cost $500 to reinstate as well as having to take courses equal to 9 credit hours.
* **Climate/Morale/ How Can Dr. Moyer Help?**
* It has been expressed to Dr. Moyer that many teachers in all areas of the district are feeling stressed over the new initiatives and new curriculum.
* He said that he is aware of the teacher frustration and wants to know what he can do to help reduce teacher’s stress and enable them to get through the rest of the school year successfully.
* This topic will be discussed at the next AR meeting. So, if anyone has any specific (legal, humane, and doable) ideas, please share them with your AR’s.
* **Curriculum Concerns**
* Concerns continue to be voiced on the lack of resources necessary to teach some of the units and/or the appropriateness of some of the units.
* Dr. Moyer said that teachers should discuss problems with K-12 curriculum leaders, the department chairs, and the building principals. These people in turn would present the issues to Matt DeBaene.
* If this communication process isn’t working, let me know.

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* **PARCC Testing**
* There are many questions about how we are going to schedule and staff next semester’s PARCC testing. There will be two sessions – one in March and one in May. All tests are supposed to be done on computers and proctored by the classroom teachers. We will let you know how plans evolve.
* **21st Century Grant**
* Congratulations to Moline High School. Last week they received notice that they would be one of the recipients of the federal 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) grants. These grants will support 70,000 students across the state in before- and after-school enrichment programs. Eighty-seven 21st CCLC grants on behalf of 300 schools and entities were awarded, with Moline receiving $135,000. This will allow MHS to offer services such as night school, after-school tutoring, summer school, and credit recovery.
* **Staffing for Next Year**
* Staffing openings for the elementary positions closed on Tuesday. Interviews will be starting immediately.
* There is a follow up meeting for the staffing committee to give feed back on the process. I have shared that many displaced teachers feel that this process, having to apply for their old jobs, was stressful and unpleasant.
  + Before any remaining jobs are posted externally, Title teachers will be contacted personally about remaining job openings.
  + If no bi-lingual applicants apply for the specialist positions when the jobs are posted externally, they will be re-posted as mono-lingual positions.
  + Once again middle school and high school openings will be posted the end of January or the beginning of February. All qualified permanent teachers, may apply for those positions.
* **MEA Openings for Next Year**
* Next year will include the retirement of people serving in several key positions on the MEA Executive Board.
* There will be openings for president, vice-president, elections chair, and social chair. Please take a moment to consider running for office or volunteering for a chair position.
* In addition we will need a volunteer to work on the insurance committee, acting as oversight for the district’s insurance fund – a very important committee for those of us interested in keeping the cost of insurance under control.
* Feel free to call me, if you have questions about these positions.

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. Have a good break.

Sue Blackall

MEA President

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**Public Relations- Kim Anderson**

Attention members! Did you know that the MEA has its own website ([http://mea40.org/](http://mea40.org/" \t "_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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Moline Education Association

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**Happy Holidays!**

**NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: JANUARY 8 AT 3:45 AT MEA OFFICE**

**NEXT AR MEETING: JANUARY 15 AT 3:45 AT IEA OFFICE**

**NEXT SUPERINTENDENT MEETING: JANUARY 22 AT 3:45 AT COOLIDGE**



**Executive Board**

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Vice President-Bonnie Lartz

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Susie Hafner

##### **About Our Organization…**