MEA MONITOR

February 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

In looking at the old adage about if “March comes in like a lion,” well then our weather should be “a lamb” for spring break. I keep thinking it should be getting better soon, but that pleasure continues to stay out of reach. In addition to ISAT testing, 3rd quarter grades, and negotiation training, here are some of the other issues that we are working on at this time:

* + Pension Issue
* June 1, 2014, is the date that all new pension laws take effect. Even though there currently are lawsuits pending, there are no injunctions halting the law from taking effect.
* Salary caps for pension calculation will be in locked at $110.631 as of June 1 or at a teacher’s current salary for anyone making over $110,631.
* The only variation to the June 1 date is for teacher’s retiring at the end of the 2013-2014 school year; their important date is July 1, 2014. There are COLA benefits for those retiring before

July 1.

* 1% Sales Tax
* The initiative is well under way for the Yes Makes Cents County School Sales Tax
* If you have some time to share to make a few phone calls, Jay Bohnsack helping put a canvassing list together.
* It is essential that all teachers take the time to vote this March 18. We only lost by a couple thousand votes last time. I know we can make the difference.
* School Calendar
	+ I would like to say thanks to the calendar committee. You provided us with excellent choices.
	+ On a more contentious note, please note that Dr. Moyer decided that all heat days would be made up during the fall break.
	+ Although the board does have the final decision on any school calendar, this was not in any version that was voted on, nor was it discussed at any calendar meeting.
	+ Discussions are continuing with Dr. Moyer on this topic.
* Teacher Evaluation Document
	+ A thank you also has to go out to the informal district evaluation committee. They worked long hours to put together a document that will be fair and focused on collaborative teacher growth.
	+ Our union ratified this portion of the teacher evaluation document, dealing with professional growth, on February 19th.
	+ Thank you also to Teresa Armes for organizing all the ballots and the voting process.
	+ There will be sessions offered in the future that would address questions on the PERA, SB7, and the Charlotte Danielson model.

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* Internal Postings
	+ There also will be a posting for an assistant principal position at John Deere Middle School. It should be on the district’s website now.
	+ Asst. Superintendent Lanty McGuire has informed us that he will be posting internal transfer options this spring for several elementary positions. This will happen after March 10, the date for announcing the Honorable Dismissal List. I will let you know when the positions are posted.
* New Co-teaching Model
	+ Co-teaching, also known as the Integrated Services Delivery Model, is being used in the core subjects for the 9th and 10th grade. Classes of regular education students and special education students will be combined at a 70-30 model for math, science, English, and social studies.
	+ Concerns about training, teacher placement, common planning time, grading, and least restrictive environment have all been raised about this topic. Discussions with Peggy Black, the co-teaching specialist, and the administration are continuing.
* Elementary C&P.
	+ A committee is being put together to look at creating more specific language as to reimbursement for lost C&P time if there is no sub for a specialist, or how to handle lost C&P due to field trips or special events. Angela Sheese, Sheri Martin, and Julie Bender-Peterson have volunteered; let me know if anyone else is interested.
	+ Lanty McGuire has agreed to meet with us to discuss this topic.
* Some teachers were concerned about the possibility of a private provider for special needs students being brought into the district. This is the information I have heard:
	+ Camelot is a private provider of services for special education students. It was said at a Black Hawk Area Special Education District meeting that this group plans to rent Horace Mann from the Moline school district and open in June for ED students.
	+ Tina Dehman says this is still being worked out and not a finished outcome.

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**AR Secretary’s Report – Emily Roberts**

The MEA Association Representatives met Thursday, February 20th, 2014, at the IEA office, Moline. Julie Reed, Stephanee Jordan, Luz Hernandez, and Lisa Mihalopoulos presented information on the new dual-language program at Lincoln-Irving.

President Sue Blackall called the meeting to order at 4:05pm. There were 29 representatives and 15 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 16th, 2014, AR meeting was made by Shelly Rumler, seconded by Rachel Moore. **Motion** passed.

Treasurer Lori McCaw reported balances of $43,620.40 in checking, $30,033.56 in savings, and $178,784.44 in cds. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report was made by Sherri Martin, seconded by Julie Bender-Peterson. **Motion** passed.

**Committee Chair Reports:**

**- Elections** – Teresa Armes thanked the ARs for the good work they did on the last election; upcoming election on Wednesday, March 5th, for the NEA Convention – if anyone wishes to be a write-in candidate, contact President Blackall.

**- Legislative** – Fran Grier distributed a list of bills in legislation and their current status.

**- Grievance** – no change.

**- Region 18** – Bonnie Lartz reported on an upcoming election, and informed the ARs that members were encouraged to vote “republican” for Sen. Dillard in the primary. President Blackall will send an informational e-mail on why IEA is supporting this candidate in the primary.

**- Membership** – no report.

**- Public Relations** – no report.

**- Social** – Cassie Larvenz reminded members of the TNT event, “Show and Tell about Wine,” scheduled for Friday, February 21st, at the IEA office. March 7th and March 14th – art sessions at the Artsy Bugsy Studio.

**- Negotiations** – no report.

**Old Business:**

**- Lost C & P Time** – President Blackall is receiving information and is working on the issue. If anyone is interested on serving on a committee for this area, please contact her.

**- Teacher Ranking** – after a mistake on a ranking was discovered, all “3’s” were checked and reviewed.

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**New Business:**

**- 1% Sales Tax Initiative** – Jay Bohnsack distributed brochures on the “YES Makes Cents for Students” and asked members to contact friends and neighbors and encourage them to vote in favor of the initiative. There is also a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help canvass voters.

**- Teacher Evaluation Document** – 75% of the votes received were in favor of the document. The committee will now work on the student growth component. Members are asked to e-mail Colette Guerdet with any information or thoughts regarding the student growth component.

**- Budget Amendment** – a motion was made by Colette Guerdet, seconded by Jay Bohnsack, to add a line-item to the budget (for legal issues) with monies of $4 per MEA member being moved from savings to the new line-item. **Motion** passed.

**President’s Report:**

**- Co-teaching** – President Blackall noted that Tina Denman had been invited to attend the next Executive Board meeting with Dr. Moyer.

**- Internal Transfers** – Lanty McGuire will advertise internal transfers this year.

**- New Building Protocol** – President Blackall noted that there appears to be a new building protocol recently put in place regarding principals’ contact with the MEA President.

**A.R. Concerns:**

- It was voted (2010-2011) to not publish AR concerns in the Monitor. ARs were reminded to communicate concerns discussed at the meeting with the other MEA members they represent. President Blackall will discuss most issues in the “President’s Corner” section of the Monitor or send superintendent’s responses directly to the ARs for dissemination to members.

**Good of the Order:**

- Gift certificates were presented to winning ticket holders.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Colette Guerdet, seconded by Fran Grier. **Motion** passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:47pm.

**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!

On March 18, voters in Rock Island County will vote on a proposition for the 1 Cent Sales Tax for School Facility Purposes.  This would equate to approximately $11.5 million annually for public schools within the county that can be used to modernize school facilities.  Schools in the county are facing serious immediate facility needs including:

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* Safety improvements to buildings designed in a different era require expensive updating to support a SECURE learning environment for our students and a SAFE working environment for our teachers and staff,

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* Energy efficient heating and cooling systems are needed to keep our students at school and to save on energy and resources currently used to run outdated systems,
* Other building and facility enhancements are needed to modernize our schools to improve the educational environment, to ensure that our students have the tools they need to compete in a changing economy,

The sales tax is for one cent on every dollar spent on qualifying retail purchases. Retail sales that are NOT taxed include groceries, prescriptions, over-the-counter medication, titled vehicles including boats and ATVs, farm equipment, parts and farm inputs. Services are not taxed

Voter approval of this proposition will also have widespread benefit to our local economy. Many projects funded by the sales tax will put local people to work and support local businesses in the county. Schools play an important role in attracting families to settle in our communities. The approval of the one cent sales tax will allow Rock Island County to compete with the curb appeal of Iowa Scott County Schools. In addition, this one cent sales tax has been adopted by our surrounding counties including Mercer, Henry, Warren, Knox and Jo Daviess. In five years, will their learning environment surpass what we are able to offer in Rock Island County under the current school funding structure? Will their curb appeal and increased academic and athletic facilities coax families to live and work in their communities?

The one cents sales tax proposition also represents a shift away from property tax reliance. For the first time in Rock Island County history, the burden of maintaining and improving school facilities will not be solely the responsibility of property owners. It is estimated that 30% of all sales tax dollars generated in the county are from sales to people who live outside the county.

In addition, the Boards of Education of the districts have pledged to reduce property taxes by not levying the fire prevention, safety, energy conservation levy (5 cents per 100/value). School districts will be able to become less reliant on property taxes with options to pay off existing bonds and avoidance of new property taxes to fund facility projects.

By voting YES to the 1 Cent School Facility Tax proposition, you can help make pennies add up to facilities for our students and District staff and help continue to support the future economic viability of our county.

We need your help! Please consider rounding up your friends and family to volunteer for one evening to help educate your neighbors on this game changing event for our kids and the future viability of our school buildings.

Also, we will be gathering to make the calls at the IBEW -  1700 52nd Ave # A, Moline, IL 61265.  The times are weekdays 5-8 and weekends 12-3.

People can volunteer for one hour time frames also.

Thanks,

Jay Bohnsack

####  MEA Member News:

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*Congratulations to:*

Lynsy Erickson (Garfield) on her recent engagement

Allison Dounolis on the birth of her son

Amanda Hoover (MHS) and Det. Nate Hoover (MHS) on the birth of their son

*Condolences to:*

Trish Leibovitz (Butterworth) on the death of her uncle

Dinah Leibovitz (Washington) on the death of her brother

Cheryl Nowers (Lincoln-Irving) on the death of her mother

Sherri Martin (Roosevelt) on the death of her grandmother and her uncle

Mary Tallitsch on the death of her brother

Julie Adams (Butterworth) on the death of her aunt

Karen Heaton (Deere) on the death of her father

**Executive Board**

President-Susan Blackall

Vice President-Bonnie Lartz

Secretary-Emily Roberts

Treasurer-Lori McCaw

MHS at Large

Colette Guerdet

Jennifer Ulam

Middle School at Large

Susie Smice

Elementary at Large

Chris Ballard

Tina Ferreri

Dinah Leibovitz

Appointed Committee Chairs

Elections-Teresa Armes

Legislative-Fran Grier

Membership-Julie Bender

Public Relations-Kim Anderson

Social-Cassie Larvenz

 Chief Negotiators-

Amber Sensabaugh

Frank Boothe

Moline Education Association

PhONE: 309-764-0811

E-Mail: sblackal@molineschools.org

WEB SITE:

www.mea40.org

**MEA dues paid in 2013**

For most members:

Full Time: **$636.72**

Half Time: **$343.52**

New Full Time: **$273.84**

 New Part Time: **$148.08**



**NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: MARCH 6 AT 3:45 AT MEA OFFICE**

**NEXT AR MEETING: MARCH 13 AT 3:45 AT IEA OFFICE**

**NEXT SUPERINTENDENT MEETING: MARCH 20 AT 3:45 AT COOLIDGE**

##### **About Our Organization…**

Moline Education Association

**Company Name**

**Street Address**

###### City, State 00000