MEA MONITOR

March 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

Inside Story 4

Inside Story 5

Inside Story 6

Inside Story 7

Last Story 8

## President’s Report – Susan Blackall

School years can be measured by many events, but the coming together of the end of third quarter and the start of spring break is truly like the planets being aligned. I think it is a strong prediction of good thing to come. With only one quarter left, we look to finishing this year while preparing for next year. Underway already, we have summer curriculum plans, textbooks committees, next year’s schedules, and new teacher hiring committees. As one year finishes, the next year has already started.

Here are the current topics for the MEA:

* **MEA Scholarship**
	+ The MEA Scholarship has been increased to two $1000 scholarships this year.
	+ The MEA Scholarship application is included in this month’s Monitor.
	+ All applications should be sent to Sheri Bradley at Franklin Elementary School.
	+ The deadline is Friday, April 24.
* **Master Teachers**
	+ Congratulations to Sue Iverson, Tammy Nelson, Nan Ryan, Allison Ryser, Susie Smice, and Mary Tallitsch for being honored as Dispatch Master Teachers for 2015.
	+ A reception will be held May 1 at 5:30 at the iWireless Center.
* **Textbooks**
* An elementary school committee has proposed a new math series that the board will be voting on at the end of April.
	+ Dr. Moyer has not received any other requests for new texts for next year.
	+ The opportunity to requests texts for next year is still open for discussion.
* **Demand to Bargain**
* The MEA filed for a Demand to Bargain with the school district over a Consumer Education class being outsourced to Black Hawk College.
* The bargaining team met on March 24.
* As a result, the district has agreed that it is in everyone’s best interest to not outsource Moline School District courses.
* In the future, any such courses would be offered to the district staff first.
* **Summer curriculum work**
	+ There was a concern that a summer elementary co-teaching workshop e-mailed implied that teachers were “expected” to attend. That language has been changed. Teachers will have an opportunity to attend and are highly encouraged to go if possible, but review training will also be supplied at the start of the school year.

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* **Election for 1% Sales Tax Initiative and School Board**
* Please remember the upcoming elections on Tuesday, April 7.
* You will have an opportunity to show your support for the 1% sales tax initiative.
* In addition, there are six people running in a contested election for the four school board seats.
* Connie McElyea, school board president, said there was going to be upcoming coverage of interviews with the board candidates in the Moline Dispatch.
* There was a discussion about providing a MEA School Board Forum to meet the candidates; however, it was decided that with spring break, there wasn’t time to schedule the forum before the election.

* **Nominations for MEA Positions**
* We are looking for people to fill officer positions, members-at-large positions, and Region 18 Council positions.
* Interested individuals should send nomination forms to Teresa Armes, tarmes@molineschools.org, by April 17.
* Elections will be held in May.
* Please take a moment to consider running for positions on the Executive Board or volunteering for a chair position. Your union is only as strong as you make it.
* Feel free to call me, if you have questions about these positions. I would be happy to meet with you and to explain the positions.
* **Budget**
* A copy of the proposed MEA budget for the 2015-2016 school year was handed out at the last AR meeting.
* There were a couple of line item changes.
* One item was to create a stipend for the MEA president position for $1300 starting next year.
* Another was to remove the expense of having a land-line phone in the MEA office, since it was rarely used.

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. Have a good spring break.

Sue Blackall

MEA President

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

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The MEA Association Representatives met Thursday, March 12th, 2015, at the IEA office, Moline. President Sue Blackall introduced Julie Reed, who discussed the 1% sales tax initiative. Members were invited to a meeting on Wednesday, March 18th, at the Barrelhouse, Moline, to work on postcards that would be mailed to prospective “yes” voters. Members were asked to contact Julie Reed for more information, or if they were available to help with postcards.

President Blackall called the meeting to order at 4:05pm. There were 19 representatives and 11 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Penny Stenger, seconded by Leslie Perkins, to approve the minutes of the February 12th, 2015, AR meeting. **Motion** passed.

Treasurer Lori McCaw reported balances in the MEA accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report was made by Penny Stenger, seconded by Leslie Perkins. **Motion** passed. It was voted (January 2015) to not publish the dollar amounts in the MEA budget in neither the minutes nor the Monitor. Members with questions regarding MEA account balances are asked to contact Treasurer Lori McCaw.

**Committee Chair Reports:**

**- Elections** – Teresa Armes reported that Shelly Rumler and Susie Hafner were elected as delegates to the NEA Convention; Katherine Schutte, alternate.

**- Legislative** – President Blackall informed the members that Valerie Hays resigned her position as chair, and that Dave Strafford would serve as chair for the remainder of the school year. President Blackall will send an e-mail to members regarding “Re-Boot Illinois.”

**- Grievance** – in the absence of Susie Hafner, President Blackall reported that the Demand to Bargain would begin on March 24th.

**- Region 18** – no report.

**- Membership** – in the absence of Jen Ulam, President Blackall reported that membership remains the same.

**- Public Relations** – no report.

**- Social** – Cassie Larvenz thanked Debbie Engstrom for providing the treats for the meeting. The next TNT event is scheduled for Thursday, March 26th, “Throwback Thursday,” at Hafner’s, in Moline.

**Old Business:**

**- Lost C & P time/PARCC Testing** – President Blackall noted that there were computer issues during the testing and not enough tech support in the buildings. She reminded members to self-monitor lost C & P time and record on the form.

**- Nominations close April 17** for MEA Officers/At-Large Positions and Region 18.

- President Blackall informed members that the district would not provide a “shopping room” for retirees’ materials.

**- Early Dismissal on the First/Last Day** – members were asked to provide President Blackall with reasons to support a one-hour early dismissal on the first/last days of the 2015-2016 school year.

**New Business:**

- President Blackall reported that middle and high school positions had been posted on-line for external applicants.

- Budget – members were provided with copies of the proposed 2015-2016 MEA Budget. Treasurer Lori McCaw and President Blackall explained proposed line-item changes in the budget, including: the addition of a stipend for the MEA President; the decrease in the stipend for the Negotiation Chair; the removal of the land-line MEA office phone. A motion was made by Jay Bohnsack, seconded by Teresa Armes, to accept the budget as presented.  **Motion** passed.

**- MEA Scholarship applications are due April 24th.** Applications should be sent to Sheri Bradley, Franklin Elementary. Application forms were available in the Monitor.

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**President’s Report:**

**- Summer Curriculum Work** – President Blackall noted that the MEA opposed wording in an e-mail that stated teachers were “expected” to attend a summer training session. She informed members that the wording was being rescinded.

**- RiF Information** – President Blackall expressed her opinion that, in comparison to other districts, the RiF process in Moline School District is fair, with the past three evaluations considered.

- President Blackall noted that MEA encourages Dr. Moyer to involve the district stakeholders in the decision-making process.

**- School Board Elections** – it is a contested race, with five candidates running for four positions.

**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.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Jen Ulam, seconded by Dave Strafford. **Motion** passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:01pm.

**Good of the Order:**

- Door prizes were given to the winning ticket holders.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Roberts

MEA Secretary

**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!

#### MEA Member News:

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*Congratulations to:*

Laura Masias (Roosevelt) on the birth of her daughter

Kaycee Cleveland (Willard) on the birth of her daughter

Rachel Moore (Franklin) on the birth of her daughter

Moline Education Association

PhONE: 309-764-0811

E-Mail: sblackal@molineschools.org

WEB SITE:

www.mea40.org

**MEA Scholarship -** Sheri Bradley (Franklin)

MEA Members:  If you have a senior graduating high school this year, and are interested in having him/her apply for one of two MEA scholarships, please download the scholarship application from the MEA web site.  The scholarship committee must receive completed applications and all supporting documents by Friday, April 24, 2015.  Submit all forms to the scholarship committee:

c/o Sheri Bradley,

Franklin Elementary School,

5312 - 11th Avenue C, Moline, IL 61265.

**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

Derek Lindauer

Dave Strafford

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

####  Image result for spring images

**NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: APRIL 9 AT 3:45 AT MEA OFFICE**

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

**NEXT SUPERINTENDENT MEETING: APRIL 23 AT 3:45 AT COOLIDGE**



##### **About Our Organization…**