MEA MONITOR

November 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

Good news is always welcome – especially as we look forward to Thanksgiving break. We just got information about the ruling on the pension reform bill. Sangamon County Circuit Judge John Belz, ruled that the law intended to fix the state’s mounting pension crisis was unconstitutional, paving the way for the next step. Soon after the ruling was issued Friday, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan said she would appeal and ask the Illinois Supreme Court to rule on an expedited basis. One step at a time.

Several issues have been brought up in the last couple of weeks:

* **Teaching License Renewals**
  + It is very important for all teachers to check their on-line ELIS accounts for accuracy. The window to add past CPDU’s and update credentials has been extended to the end of December.
  + Tammy Muerhoff, of the ROE, 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.
* **Staffing for Next Year**
* Staffing notifications should be posted soon. Principals have received their allotted number of teachers for next year, and they are making staffing decisions for their buildings. Once that information is back to Lanty McGuire, he will post all available jobs for next year.
* Jobs will be posted by building and grade level.
  + As was mentioned before, all teachers in the district are invited to apply for positions they qualify for as an Internal Transfer.
  + For an Internal Transfer application, the staff member can only apply for one primary position. However, the staff member may indicate an interest in other positions in the letter written in the application.
* **Common Core Curriculum**
* Dr. Moyer met with the executive board of the union and agreed to answer some questions about BlackBlack and Associates.
* Concerns were voiced on the lack of resources necessary to teach some of the units and/or the appropriateness of some of the units. There were concerns expressed over the dates scheduled for classroom visits.
* Dr. Moyer plans to have an end-of-the-year analysis of the common core curriculum and provide time to improve or adjustment the units then.
* He is aware of the teacher frustration, but he is hoping that teachers maintain a positive attitude and try to gain as much as they can from the curriculum and the consulting with BlackBlack.
* Teachers with concerns should continue to work with their department chairs, grade-level chairs, and building principals.
* Conversations continue.

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* **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.
* Feel free to call me, if you have questions about these positions.
* **Retirement Dinner**
* A proposal has been made to change the end-of-year retirement dinner format. One suggestions has been to go to appetizers only.
* If anyone has any suggestions, please check with your retirees and let me know ASAP.
* **Changes for the Future**
* For next year, Dr. Moyer is planning on focusing on differentiation of teaching strategies and assessments to meet the needs of students in all classes, not just targeted co-taught classes.
* The board has adopted a Physics First approach to teaching science in the school year 2016-17. That will have physics taught in the freshman year, chemistry in the sophomore year, and biology in the junior year. This change comes highly recommended in the Next Generation Science Standards.
* Eight new AP classes are being added to the high school curriculum for next year, bringing our offerings to a total of 15 AP classes, more than any other high school in our area. At this time he is not anticipating the need for hiring extra staff.

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

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

The MEA Association Representatives met Thursday, November 13th, 2014, at the IEA office, Moline. In the absence of President Sue Blackall, Vice-President Bonnie Lartz called the meeting to order at 3:50pm. There were 24 representatives and 12 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Shelly Rumler, seconded by Rachel Moore, to approve the minutes of the October 9th, 2014, AR Meeting. **Motion** passed.

Treasurer Lori McCaw reported balances of $11,771.11 in checking, $20,000 in savings, and $179,140.95 in cds. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report was made by Jen Ulam, seconded by Penny Stenger. **Motion** passed.

**Committee Chair Reports:**

**- Elections –** Teresa Armes informed the representatives of the December election for delegates to the IEA Convention. Three members have submitted their names for the ballot, and President Blackall is a designated attendee. Moline is allowed to send one additional delegate (total of five); any MEA member interested in attending is asked to encourage others to do a write-in for him/her on the ballot on election day. Lists of voting members per building were distributed, and ARs were asked to check for accuracy.

**- Legislative –** no report.

**- Grievance –** no report.

**- Region 18 –** Bonnie Lartz thanked those members who helped canvass voters during the election campaign. She also extended a thank you from IEA President Cinda Klickna.

**- Membership –** Jen Ulam reported that membership stands at 438.

**- Public Relations –** Kim Anderson reported that the MEA blog was updated.

**- Social –** Cassie Larvenz informed members that the next TNT event would be “Wine Down Wednesday” on Wednesday, December 10th, at the Grape Life, Davenport.

**Old Business:**

**- Staffing 2015 –** Principals should receive projected numbers this week. All jobs should be posted before Thanksgiving, with the first round of interviews starting before Christmas vacation.

**- Student Growth Assessment –** Vice-President Lartz read an e-mail from Kris Young, Evaluation Committee member, which stated that the informal committee determined the growth models used for teacher evaluation will be simple growth and adjusted growth. The assessments will be a Type II and a Type III; the Type II will be a Common District Summative Assessment, as those become available. The language for the impact on the summative rating is still being determined; however, it was decided that we would determine 70% of the rating from the Professional Practice and 30% from student growth. It was also decided to have each of the two assessments worth 15% of the total 30%.

**- Black, Black, and Associates –** Vice-President Lartz read a memo from President Blackall that stated the MEA was aware of the poor climate in the schools that is being developed due to the critical reviews from Peggy Black. MEA was also aware of the mandated curriculum that was assigned without collaboration, feedback, or resources. Members were asked to contact President Blackall with any additional concerns.

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**New Business:**

**- Air Quality/Mold –** President Blackall’s memo noted that the district responded quickly to complaints of mold in classrooms and tested the air quality. MEA is checking with the IEA Air Quality Committee.

**- Notification Time for Required Meetings –** President Blackall’s memo noted that complaints were received regarding the lack of notification time for Black, Black, and Associates observations.

**- Retirement Dinner vs. Appetizers –** representatives were asked to check at the building level with retirees and other staff as to whether teachers prefer a formal dinner or appetizers. Please send responses to Bonnie Lartz.

**- “Shopping Room” for materials –** a suggestion was made that MEA have a designated room where retiring teachers may leave donated materials for new teachers/other teachers to choose from. Representatives were asked to discuss this with members and give responses at the January AR meeting.

**A motion was made by Leslie Perkins, seconded by Dave Strafford, that MEA not have a December AR meeting unless deemed necessary. Motion passed.**

**President’s Report:**

**- Communication –** communication issues between administration and staff continue. Members were asked to contact President Blackall with any additional concerns.

**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 Reagan Jones, seconded by Penny Stenger. **Motion** passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Roberts

MEA Secretary

**MOLINE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

**VOTING FOR 2015 IEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**will be held in district buildings**

**on Wednesday, December 3, 2014.**

IEA Representative Delegates will be responsible for approving the IEA budget, establishing the Legislative Platform that the IEA will use with the General Assembly, determining any changes to Bylaws, and other business of the IEA.

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#### MEA Member News:

*Congratulations to:*

Lynsy (Erickson) Oswald on her October wedding

Allison (Hutchins) Olson on her October wedding

Katie Brooks (Wilson) on the birth of her son on 11/08 at 11:09 am

Brandi Neer (Deere/Wilson) on the birth of her son on 11/11 at 11pm

*Condolences to:*

Cathy Moran (Butterworth) on the death of her father-in-law

Moline Education Association

PhONE: 309-764-0811

E-Mail: [sblackal@molineschools.org](mailto:sblackal@molineschools.org)

WEB SITE:

www.mea40.org



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**NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: DECEMBER 4 AT 3:45 AT MEA OFFICE**

**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**

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



##### **About Our Organization…**