

# MVEA Advocate

*The Official Publication of the Moreno Valley Educators Association*

## 129 MVEA Members RIFed

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

April 2010

Volume 20 Number 6

*The* California Education Code allows districts to release certificated employees from contract as long as the employees are notified of the possible lay off by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Our School Board approved such a Reduction in Force (RIF) on March 9, 2010 because of the \$14-16 million deficit projected for 2010-2011. 129 of our members have received RIF notices. Although the School Board resolution targeted elementary, counseling and categorical positions, all levels and 34 sites are affected.

The March 15<sup>th</sup> notice is a preliminary step. Between now and May 15<sup>th</sup>, when the District is responsible for sending the final RIF notices, MVEA will focus on identifying ways to reduce the impact of the RIF on our members. Your leadership continues to ask questions about the District budget at all District budget committee meetings. We are sharing your ideas for budget reductions. At its March meeting, the Rep Council approved a task force to review, research, and propose ways to increase revenues by improving attendance. If you are interested in serving on this task force, call the MVEA office. Negotiations have resumed. Your bargaining team spends evenings at the office preparing, and days at the bargaining table considering op-

tions to settle Contract issues.

Site Reps have involved members in conversations on budget reductions and priorities at their sites. Recently, they distributed surveys to members on curricular and bargaining issues. Over 1,000 surveys were returned. The message was clear. This is not the time to spend money unless the purchase is absolutely necessary. If funding became available, our members' highest priorities for maintaining the core program are elementary language arts workbooks, Read 180 replacement materials, middle school language arts workbooks, the classroom supply budget, access to copying, and maintaining support services. The lowest priorities for members are new textbooks, training, new technology and sports/after school programs. Although returning to Contract conditions is preferred, members are willing to continue the current budget cut days and maintain class size in grades 1-3 at 22:1. They are opposed to "straight" salary reductions and increasing class size in grades 1-3 to 30:1.

MVEA members are committed to supporting our colleagues who have served the District well and are now facing layoffs. Working together, we will find a reasonable solution to this current crisis.

- Restructuring plans are due to MVEA in April. All restructuring plans must be approved annually by 75% of the certificated staff, including flex days.
- The Single Plan for Student Achievement is due to the District on April 26. The planning process should be under way at each site. Leadership teams usually have responsibility for collecting data and recommending suggestions. However, all staff should be involved in this process.

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# The Good, Bad, and Mostly Ugly, Budget Update

By Ann Adler, CTA Executive Director

**I**t is likely that most of you have a spouse, partner, friend, and/or relative who has lost a job in this budget crisis era. It is not any different in public education. All around us, districts are giving Reduction in Force (RIF) notices and/or agreeing to budget cut (furlough) days to balance budgets.

Moreno Valley Unified will be no different. Either more cuts will be made or the District will face sanctions and insolvency which benefits no one—not the students, the employees, or the community.

Let's examine the good, the bad, and the ugly of the state budget expectation and its impact to Moreno Valley:

## The Good...

- Enrollment is up. The District is likely to receive about \$600,000 more than it was expecting because the enrollment is up from last year. The District is paid on average daily attendance (ADA) count (students showing up and sitting in class) which is a percentage of the enrollment. This additional \$600,000 is for 2009-10 and can be added to the projected budgets for 2010-11 and 2011-12. This is good, though it barely makes a dent in the projected deficit.

- The state received federal stimulus money that is different than last year's additional federal stimulus money. Allegedly, that money is still coming to districts during the 2009-10 fiscal year, although nothing has been received yet. Hopefully, MVUSD will receive its portion of about \$1.2 million. This is good.

- CAMM has made some recommendations that would add a savings of \$2.7 million to the budget (reductions to routine maintenance, deferred maintenance, and summer school). While this does cause budget reductions, it is good budget wise and does not hurt people.

- A Supplemental Retiree Plan has been offered. It

is just like last year's but in order to make it a savings, a lot of people are needed. If we can get 90ish people again, this would be good: it saves jobs and would be cost effective to the tune of a \$750,000 savings. Too few people would put a strain on the general budget and add to the deficit over time. This would not be good.

## The Bad...

- The District has cut \$62 million in the last 20 months and now faces state-created deficits of \$16 million for 2010-11 and \$21 million for 2011-12. The District must be able to project out and have a 2% reserve for 3 years under AB 1200, the California budget law. This amounts to about \$5.2 million every year. The District CANNOT do that for 2011-12 based on the current budget assumptions. This means their budget is "qualified" which is bad.



- Ed Services is proposing a \$3.2 million 2010-11 plan for instruction. MVEA surveyed educators who have said they will work with what they have and that expenditures should be limited to replacements, bindings, and core consumables. If Ed Services' plan is adopted by the Board, this would add to the \$16 million deficit and make it a deficit of a little over \$19 million. This is bad.

- Benefits are an unknown at this time. The District paid half of the increase last year (\$980,000) but that agreement ends in June of 2010. Members also paid more out of pocket. Benefits are expected to rise again this year. If the District pays more, it adds to the deficit, and employees can ill afford to pay more out of pocket as well. This is bad!

- The MVEA survey told us that the majority of you are resigned to the fact that the 22:1 and the 2 budget cut (furlough) days probably need to stay to help balance the budget. Hypothetically, if you were to add the savings for those two conditions to the budget, it would add \$4 million to the 2010-11 and the 2011-12 budgets respectively. The \$16 million deficit would be reduced by \$4 million in this scenario, if it were to happen.

So how does this look for next year? UGLY! Look at what we have talked about.

### **The Ugly...**

\$1,200,000 Enrollment increase (09-10 + 10-11)  
2,700,000 CAMM considerations  
2,000,000 22:1 current status  
2,000,000 budget cut days current  
1,200,000 state stabilization money?  
\$9,100,000 + \$750,000 SERP? = \$9,850,000

Total Savings NEEDED: \$16 MILLION

Looming Difficulties that could add to the deficit are Benefits and Instructional Services' costs; \$X million + \$3.2 million, respectively.

**So where does the rest of the \$16 million come from? Where is there another \$6 million? PEOPLE, PROGRAMS, AND**

**POCKET: the three "P's."** There are no easy answers. There are no other answers.

Your Association is looking at **every** possibility. Whatever we do agree to, remember that MVEA can make its ideas known, but the District must agree. In other words, we only control our side of the table. We are VERY cognizant of the survey results and your ideas. But the bottom line is, things are grim. MVEA believes we will achieve the best Contract **possible**. We must assist the District in balancing its budget. Any language we bring to you for a vote will have to have restoration that returns to the previous working conditions as soon as the economy allows. Thank you for your continued input. We will survive but not without the scars of this terrible economy.

To all our MVEA members who have been "noticed" for lay-offs, please hang in there. We support you. We will do our very best to minimize the lay-offs as we move forward to balance the budget and come up with language to which the District will agree.

# Attendance is the Key to Education!

By Harold Acord, MVEA Director of Contract Maintenance

**MVEA** has been getting a lot of feedback from our members with concerns about student attendance. Our Average Daily Attendance (ADA) sets the amount of money that comes into our District from the State. The District states that our Average Daily Attendance rate is presently at 93%. With all of the other cuts to education happening in this State, we cannot afford to ignore any idea that could improve attendance and learning in Moreno Valley and thus bring more money into the District.

A motion was passed at our Site Rep Council this month to have an Attendance Review Committee to gather ideas for dealing with this issue and improving student attendance in order to maximize the funding for education in Moreno Valley. MVEA would like to hear any idea that you may have regarding improving attendance in our District. The committee will compile these ideas



and share them with MVEA's Executive Board, Rep Council, and also with our Board of Education. We will drive a plan that improves attendance.

MVEA members attending the District Board of Education meetings have heard the School Board repeatedly ask questions regarding ideas for improving our ADA. To date, they have yet to hear answers from the District. No one can afford to wait for someone else to come up with a solution. If you have any idea for increasing attendance please let MVEA know either through a call to MVEA, District snail mail, or an e-mail ([haroldmvea@aol.com](mailto:haroldmvea@aol.com)). We can all be part of the solution.

Let's work together to effect a positive change in our District and for our students here in Moreno Valley.

In Solidarity, Harold Acord

MVEA Director of Contract Maintenance

# ICampus Grade Preview

By Connie Pruett, MVEA Vice-President

*A major* change is coming to the accessibility of grade portals on ICampus on Monday, April 5, 2010. MVEA asked for some time to inform our members of this change:

**All of a student's teachers, counselors, and administrators will be able to see what a parent/student sees in the parent/student portal. It is referred to as the Gradebook, BUT it is NOT your Gradebook.**



If you are not comfortable with that access, there is a way that you can limit what is seen. It will limit what all people, including the parent and/or student, see. At this time there is no way to choose different snapshots of the grades for different viewers.

If you would prefer to hide your tasks from view, follow these steps:

1. Click on "Lesson Planner."
2. Click on a task folder. Then click on the "Hide from Gradebook Preview". If this is done, all tasks under that folder will automatically come up "checked" to hide from preview, past and future tasks.
3. You can leave the task folder "unchecked". As you add tasks to the folder, each task will have to be "checked" to hide it from view.

After you have done this, the only thing anyone except you will see is the points possible, the student's total points, percent, and the letter grade in your class. No individual tasks will be seen.

Please ask one of the teachers present at the meeting if you have any questions: Jahi Garner, Palm; Amy Hall, Vista del Lago; Rick MacPherson, Moreno Valley High; Peggy Murphy, Vista del Lago; Connie Pruett, Canyon Springs; or John Rose, Vista del Lago.

## Thinking of Retiring?

### Here is something you need to know.

*If you are* a member of the University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP), it has agreements with certain public retirement systems to provide continuity of benefits for members who work for more than one public system during their careers. If you have service with the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS), see the UCRP/Cal-STRS Concurrent Retirement Factsheet for information about eligibility and resulting UCRP benefit enhancements. You do not have to retire from UCRP and CalSTRS on the same date to be eligible for concurrent retirement. You will, however, lose eligibility for concurrent retirement if you earn service credit under UCRP or CalSTRS after retiring from either plan. Ask your local UCRP Benefits Office how to

get the appropriate forms and information.



A provision for concurrent retirement is also available for UCRP members who are also members of the California State Teachers' Retirement Defined Benefit Program (CalSTRS). An employee is eligible for concurrent retirement if he or she: is an active UCRP member on or after July 1, 2002, is a member of CalSTRS, and elects UCRP retirement income or a lump sum cashout after July 1, 2002. Members eligible for concurrent retirement may also be eligible for certain UCRP benefit enhancements. CalSTRS has similar concurrent retirement provisions that apply to UCRP members; for more information about CalSTRS concurrent retirement, contact CalSTRS directly.

# MoVal Marches 4 Schools

By Patricia Gómez, Co-Director of Elementary

*March 4<sup>th</sup>* was a Statewide Day of Action for Educators and Students across the state of California. It was great to see the dozens of individuals Standing Up for Students at MoVal's schools on the morning of March 4<sup>th</sup>. Many of our members rallied it up with coworkers, parents and even students; all the while flashing their supportive signs and wearing their pink and black shirts. Afterwards, about 100 supporters marched on in the afternoon on the corner of Frederick and Alessandro. Although last year's Pink Friday carried more momentum, nonetheless, many of our schools participated in one fashion or another.

As I drove around town taking pictures, one could tell from the honking cars that the community was curious as to why people were marching on the sidewalks. Our goal for March 4<sup>th</sup> was to spark curiosity among the community and that's exactly what

happened. Thursday's event left many wondering why we were out there, what was happening to our schools and what might be happening to our students' education. For many, the two burning questions were - When's the next rally? What else can we do?

Only time will tell if our March 4<sup>th</sup> event had any kind of impact on the community, district, or state. As we just found out, despite these measures, unfortunately our School Board members still approved the Reduction in Force of more than 100 of our members; but at least we can say that we are not going down without a good fight. So, while you are on vacation during Spring Break, take the time to rest up and gather your strength because this is only the beginning. Let us prepare for the worst of times, but let us always remember to hope for the BEST! It is better to live a few days as a lion than one's whole career as a lamb. Join us in the future!

## Read Across America Day

By Sharon Orme, MVEA Director of Instruction and Professional Development

*Tuesday*, March 2<sup>nd</sup> was Read Across America Day (RAAD) in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday. Schools in our District enjoyed the day by either walking to nearby sites, or participating in activities within their own sites.

*Edgemont Elementary* celebrated by having community business members send employees over to read Dr. Seuss books to the students. The employees wore Dr. Seuss apparel and passed out bookmarks. The Title 1 team had rooms opened for Dr. Seuss activities during Lunch Club all week.

At *Armada Elementary, Vista del Lago* seniors came over to read to the Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students. Vista del Lago has been visiting Armada for RAAD for the last 4 years. Each year the teachers rave about them. Some of the comments from the staff were:

•“The students were really polite and engaging with my class. They liked them and were interested in anything they had to say. The seniors read two stories and made sure each child had the opportunity to answer a question.”

•“The students enjoyed the stories, and it tied in well with a recent lesson about rhyming words.”

•“The students were very animated; one student wore all yellow, like a character from Dr. Seuss. My students really enjoyed them.”

•“It was great! The group was awesome; lots of communication with our Spanish-speaking kindergarteners.”

•“This was the best ever. The girls in my room were excellent.”

•“Great! The children loved it.”

•“It was great as usual. The readers were friendly and good with the kids.”

•“The seniors from Vista were great. We loved their make-up. They interacted well with the second graders as they read the books.”

*Towngate Elementary* students read books in the classroom, library, and all over the school. What a great experience! Many other activities went on during that special day. I am so happy to hear that everyone had a great time!

# NEA DISCOUNTS AND SAVINGS

*As a CTA* member, remember that you are eligible for several great discounts through NEA Member Benefits in addition to those that you enjoy with CTA. The following is just a sample of the fantastic deals negotiated for you and 3.2 million NEA members. Enjoy the fun and the savings! Visit the NEA website for more deals and information at: [http://www.neamb.com/home/productsAndServices\\_750.htm?category=Discounts](http://www.neamb.com/home/productsAndServices_750.htm?category=Discounts).

**Costco Wholesale** – Special savings for members and their families

**Whirlpool Corporation VIPLINK Program** – Huge savings on popular consumer brands from Whirlpool Corporation

**Snap Fitness** – NEW! Get in shape for less at Snap Fitness. Exclusive NEA member benefits include a 10% discount on monthly dues and no enrollment fee.

**Jenny Craig** – NEA members and their eligible dependents can save with Jenny Craig.

**1-800-FLOWERS.COM** – NEA members enjoy a 20% savings every day on flowers, plants, gift baskets, gourmet foods, confections, and plush stuffed animals.

**H&R Block** – Save on do-it-yourself tax software or in-office tax preparation by an H&R Block professional.

**New York & Company** – NEA members save 15% every day!

**The Walking Company Exclusive Online Offer** – NEA members can save up to 15% off all online purchases.

**NEA Magazine Service®** - Save up to 85% off the cover price of over 900 popular magazines.

**Collette Vacations** - Travel the world and save with Collette Vacations, a leading provider of over 120 tours, family cruises and weekend getaways.

**NEA Bookstore®** - Save an extra 5% at Barnes&Nobel.com on books, music, videos and more. Free shipping on eligible orders of \$25 or more.

**NEA Click & Save®** - Save online at hundreds of your favorite stores.

**SmileMakers** - Save an additional 5% on your classroom supplies, plus free shipping on stocked items.

**NEA Hearing Aid Savings Plan** - Special discounts for members and their families

**NEA Vision and Prescription Savings Plan** - Discounts on vision needs and prescriptions

**NEA Long Distance** - Get rates as low as 3.9¢ per minute on state-to-state calls. No monthly fees.

**NEA ID Theft Protection Program** - Protection for you and your family members

**Nolo Legal** – Get a 5% discount from the leading publisher of self-help legal publications, software, and forms.

**Weekly Reader** – Special savings on classroom magazines.

## **Friendly Reminders from The Standard:**

The Standard is available to answer any of your questions about coverage. Their dedicated CTA Customer Service Department can

be reached at 800.522.0406 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time or write to [ctaservice@standard.com](mailto:ctaservice@standard.com) with any questions or concerns.

## **Planning to retire this year?**

As you prepare for this new chapter in your life please don't forget that you and your loved ones can continue a portion of your current, active CTA-endorsed Life Insurance if you maintain a CTA-NEA Retired Lifetime Membership and apply within 120 days of retirement. To get more information, contact The Standard's dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800-522-0406.

## **Wedding or baby due?**

Congratulations! Remember that within 31 days of a Family Status Change, you can add or increase Life Insurance coverage up to \$200,000 and/or add Disability coverage, all without providing proof of good health. Family Status Change includes birth/adoption, marriage/domestic partnership and other qualifying events. For more information about this enrollment opportunity, or to file a maternity Disability claim, visit us at [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org) and click through to The Standard.

## **Organizing your desk?**

Make sure to call The Standard if you're moving to a new address or needing to make changes to your beneficiary designation. It's important to keep your records up-to-date, and it's easy to do. Simply call The Standard's dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800-522-0406.

## **Questions?**

Call The Standard's dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800.522.0406 (TTY), 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Or, email [ctaservice@standard.com](mailto:ctaservice@standard.com). Or, visit [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org) for more info.

# Educator of the Month: Laura Brough

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

*Laura* Brough was MVEA's Educator of the Month for February. Laura began her 33 year career in fourth grade, but switched to Kindergarten, and then to First Grade, where she is currently assigned at Box Springs Elementary. She enjoys watching young students experience the realization that they are readers.



Laura is an expert at her craft. Her students are successful at mastering grade level standards because of her careful preparation and her willingness to give that little bit of extra individual attention to those who need it at recess, as well as before and after school.

Her contributions extend far beyond her classroom. Laura has dedicated herself not only to the students in her own class, but to her colleagues as well. The District for many years has recognized her ability to work with other teachers and appointed her to the original mentor program and later to the position of BTSA support provider in guiding teachers as they completed credential requirements. She is also active in Delta Kappa Gamma, an international organiza-

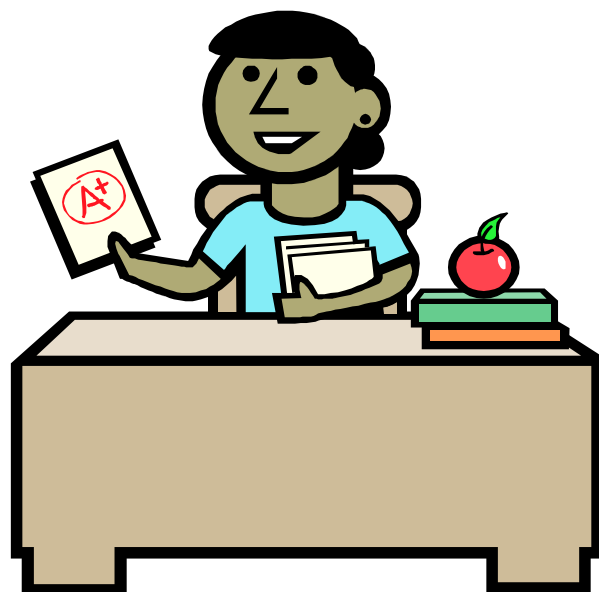
tion that supports women in education.

Laura is viewed as a leader at Box Springs. She chairs her grade level's articulation meetings where teachers analyze achievement data, identify student needs, set goals and develop plans to implement the goals. She has been active expanding this process school wide through her role as a categorical facilitator responsible for the development of the Single Plan for Student Achievement.

The hallmark of Laura's career has been service. She is at her site for long hours working on projects for her own classroom, assisting other teachers and working with parent groups. Her staff reports that she will be sorely missed when she retires this June.

Although she has enjoyed her career, she looks forward to retirement with more time to spend with her family, in particular her grandchildren and her aging parents. Her first project will be editing her father's 600 page autobiography.

Congratulations to Laura Brough, a teacher recognized for her generous and caring attitude!



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*Moreno Valley Educators Association is an organization of professionals which serves as a powerful **voice** communicating the needs of Educators and students to the district, parents, and community in order to establish a **positive** school environment and build **quality educational programs**. The Association will continue to **protect the rights** of Educators, and thereby students, **by promoting equity and human rights**.*






***Important Dates:***

- **March 22—April 2**  
Spring Recess
- **April 4** Easter 
- **April 7** Executive Board meeting @ 4:00
- **April 13** School Board meeting @ 7:00
- **April 14** Rep. Council meeting @ 4:00
- **April 27** School Board meeting @ 7:00
- **April 30** Restructuring Plans due to MVEA



**April 2010**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<i>Spring Recess</i>	<i>Spring Recess</i>	<i>Spring Recess</i>	<i>Spring Recess</i>	<i>Spring Recess</i>	<i>Spring Recess</i>	<i>Spring Recess</i>
4  <i>Easter</i>	5	6	7  <i>Exec. Board</i>	8	9	10
11	12	13  <i>School Board</i>	14  <i>Rep Council</i>	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27  <i>School Board</i>	28	29	30	

**MVEA Executive Board:**

<b>President</b>	Janet MacMillan	<b>Co-Director of Elementary</b>	Patricia Gómez
<b>Vice-President</b>	Connie Pruett	<b>Co-Director of Elementary</b>	Kathy Parrish
<b>Secretary</b>	Peggy Murphy	<b>Director of Middle School</b>	Mike Sorter
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<b>Executive Director</b>	Ann Adler	<b>CTA State Council Rep. to the Board</b>	Katherine Underwood
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<b>Director of Instruction &amp; Prof. Dev.</b>	Sharon Orme	<b>CTA Board Rep. District O</b>	Mikki Cichocki
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