



In Between...

Moreno Valley Education Association

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Site Focus Group Meetings Take Place

MVEA is in the process of collecting information from members on budget issues. Your Site Reps are responsible for holding ten minute meetings with questions designed to encourage conversation should budget reductions become necessary for the 2010-2011 academic year due to the state budget. Many of the sites have already completed this process. Ask your Site Rep when your meeting will be held and attend so your voice can be heard.

Race to the Top (RTTT)

States Race to Meet Deadlines: Some California Districts Balk

President Obama's Race to the Top program is a competitive grant available for state application once initial requirements are met. These requirements include developing common core standards, implementing a longitudinal data system to improve instruction, improving teacher and principal quality through strategic staff development and evaluation systems and turning around the lowest performing schools. If California's grant application is approved, there is the potential for \$350 and \$700 million dollars from the federal government to the state for distribution to school districts. The focus of the funds is to improve the achievement of students in the lowest 5% of the underperforming schools.

California has been in compliance with many of the RTTT requirements. Recent state legislation addresses the others. SB 19, SBX5 1 and SBX5 4 have been signed into law. The laws establish an integrated data system which links student performance on state mandated tests to the teacher of record. Although California has developed rigorous statewide Standards, the law creates a framework for revising these. Open enrollment is expanded as a result of the legislation so that parents of students in the lowest performing schools can elect to send their children to other schools within the home district, another district or a charter school. Additionally, parents may petition to have the local school converted to a charter.

CTA and MVEA opposed this legislation. One of the concerns was tying teacher evaluation to standardized test scores. The legislative package allows, but does not mandate, using student performance data as part of the evaluation system for teachers.

Janet MacMillan, Connie Pruetz and Ann Adler began discussing the RTTT program with Superintendent Lagrosa, Assistant Superintendent Davis, and Directors Krueger and Nordin as soon as the regulations were issued. The group had many questions that could not be answered prior to the state's deadline for application. Based on the group's concerns, the District decided not to apply at this time. MVEA supports this decision. RTTT will continue to be a subject of discussion as the program unfolds.





Annual Update of Seniority Lists **Verify Your Date!**

At the end of January, all schools will post the alpha seniority lists that have been updated by the MVUSD Human Resources Department. The breakers are not included in this list and would only be posted in the event there were actual layoffs. This list is an annual update and not a list of layoffs. **PLEASE VERIFY YOUR DATE EVEN IF YOU HAVE BEEN HERE MANY YEARS.**

Non Re-elects: Notices to Come

Under Education code 44929.21, a district may notify a probationary employee prior to March 15th of any probationary year that he or she will not be re-elected to a district petition for the ensuing year. Non re-election notices are permissible by Ed Code and have nothing to do with seniority. The law does not require a district to give a reason for the lay-off of a probationary employee. Moreno Valley follows this practice.

Typically, the District has non re-elected some employees each year. MVEA believes that the District should afford every opportunity for an employee to meet the evaluator's standards and provide support to assist an individual that is having difficulties. There should be no surprises.

MVUSD will be issuing non re-election notices in early February. If you are called into a meeting with your site administrator and District office personnel, you have the right to representation from the MVEA. Site reps have been trained on how to assist any probationary employee who receives a notice.

Sequential Discipline Standards

MVEA and the District have agreed on a procedure for ensuring that discipline policies are consistently implemented. The Sequential Discipline Standards provide the framework for this process. If you feel that the Standards have not been followed, talk to the administrator who responded to the referral about your concerns. Sometimes the issue can be resolved at that level. If not, fill out the Referral Concern form and submit it to your representative on the Site Discipline Committee. If the situation is not resolved at the site, then the concern is heard by the District Discipline Committee.

Your Site Reps have copies of the Sequential Discipline Standards and the forms necessary to submit a concern.

