

MVEA Advocate

The Official Publication of the Moreno Valley Educators Association

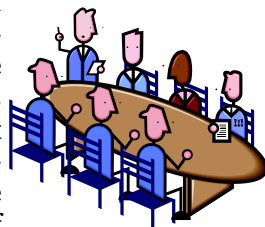
Subject Advisory Councils

Critical Components of Curricular Decision Making

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

The mission

statement of MVEA includes advocating for members and providing a high quality educational program to our students. The Subject Advisory Councils are the forum for **one** representative from each site to have a voice in decisions made by the District on such matters as curriculum, assessments and pacing guides. As the spokesperson for MVEA, the exclusive representative of the certificated employees in the District, the President appoints members to the Subject Advisory Councils. Representatives to these Councils become part of the communication link between the sites and the District office. It is the responsibility of the site representatives to these Councils to report the work of the Council at grade level, department and staff meetings and to seek input from members at the site on issues under consideration by the Councils.



Current members to the Subject Advisory Councils are: Allan Aab, José Alcalá, Lynne Baird, Wenifer Beard, Verona Bedrous, Theresa Buggage, Amy Byrd, Issac Cabase, Chris Campbell, Kelly Charlton, Simonne Clayton, Joshua Clements, Steve Coulombe, Chris Cowgill, Marge Dahl, Andrea Davidson,

Debra Denison, Kandi Dixon, Kristie Foster, Cathy Fulgenzi, Chuck Gahagan, Melissa Garrett, Bernice Gray, Cristan Greaves, Amy Hall, Bradley Harral, Shelly Loomis Harral, Felicia Heck, Norma Hines, Christopher Hooper, Amy Johnson, Bill Kalogonis, Lesley Kantola, Mike Kelley, Frida Lamas, Deanna Leaverton, Dwight Lee, Stacey Lerma, Stephanie Luddington, Rick MacPherson, Lucy McKechnie, Lorena Michel, Michelle Montemayor, James Norwood, Becky Olobri, Don Parmer, Toni Patalano, Nancy Penn, Connie Pruett, Laura Pruett, Marcia Puckett, Dianne Purkey, Steve Quintero, Diana Richie, Jim Rogers, Nancy Rose, Ruth Ellen Schmutz, Bruce Smith, Nicole Smith, Shelley Steinger, Greg Stowe, Margaret Taylor, Eric Viebach, Lastenia Wager, Scott Walker, Joan Warburg, Jenna Westcott, Cindi Williams, Molly Wilson, Jolie Yanagisawa, Susan Young and Maury Yzaguirre.

In addition, there will be subcommittee meetings at the third through fifth grade levels, and at the secondary level in science, social studies and math to review curricular issues in the particular course areas within the department. If you are interested in serving on a subcommittee, please email me at jmacmillan@mveainfo.com.

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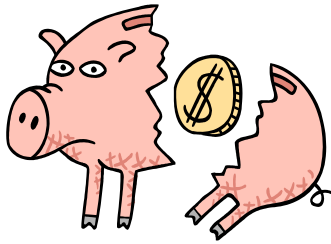
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Visit us on the internet!
MVEAinfo.com

The Governor's 2011-2012 Budget and Its Possible Impact on Moreno Valley Unified

By Ann Adler, CTA Executive Director

Talking Points to Use with Family and Friends



Times are beyond tough, both professionally and economically. Public Education and our students stand to lose the most. The new Governor of California has inherited a state budget that is \$25-\$28 BILLION out of balance. Governor Brown has given education a chance in his state budget proposal, but in order to take that opportunity and turn it into a successful endeavor; we have an uphill battle like we have never fought in the past. The first step to guaranteeing money for public schools is to become educated on the budget and to be able to educate others. I offer these talking points...

WHAT THE GOVERNOR PROPOSED...

- Not funding the 1.67% Statutory COLA and applying a deficit factor equal to a loss of \$18.62/ADA for MVUSD
- Initiating a NEW deferral which delays the **July 2011 payment until October 2012**
- Extending the EXISTING temporary taxes through an initiative on the June 2011 ballot

HOW TO INTERPRET THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL FOR SCHOOLS...

- Deferrals create cash flow problems for districts and can result in districts borrowing at exorbitant interest rates. MVUSD is no exception. This will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest.
- Without COLA the appropriated 6,468/ADA for MVUSD is reduced to \$5200/ADA.
- Categorical funds get both a reduction and no COLA.
- Extension of temporary taxes, **IF APPROVED**, means MVUSD loses \$18.62 per ADA.
- Extension of temporary taxes, **IF NOT APPROVED**, means MVUSD loses an ADDITIONAL \$330 PER ADA ONGOING!
- This brings **TOTAL** loss to MVUSD of \$348.62 PER ADA before any other factors such as declining enrollment, higher benefit costs, etc. are considered

WHAT HAPPENS TO MVUSD ...

- The District builds its budget on projected enrollment, BUT gets paid on actual Average Daily Attendance from **March of previous year (P2)** if it is experiencing declining enrollment. Last year's P2 was 34,157. That is down from the previous year by 162. This year we are projected to be down another 230 ADA which equals more than a \$1,000,000 loss.

HOW CAN WE EXPLAIN THESE POTENTIAL LOSSES...

--If TAXES ARE EXTENDED:

- Loss of \$18.62/ADA = Loss of approximately \$600,000 ONGOING
- **\$600,000 is the equivalent of a little more than half a furlough day, approximately a .6% pay cut or a little more than a .6% pay cut or a loss of approximately 9 teaching positions**

--IF TAXES ARE NOT EXTENDED:

- Loss of \$348.62/ADA = Loss of approximately \$11,000,000 **ONGOING**
- **\$11,000,000 is approximately the equivalent of 11 furlough days, or a 5.5% pay cut or 164 certificated positions.**
- (10 counselors and approximately 40 teachers are still without jobs from 2009-10; most of whom are REALLY permanent or probationary employees but are working in a “temp” status!)

WHAT WILL THE DISTRICT DO?

- BUILD 2 scenarios including the “Worse Case Scenario” budget plan @\$348.62/ADA loss
- The District will have to act to reduce costs, without knowing whether or not the extension of the temporary taxes passes.
- Statutory timelines for layoffs don’t allow for “Wait and See.” Any layoff notices for our unit will be by March 15. A Temp contract ends at the end of the year absent a renewal prior.

WHAT WILL MVEA DO?

- Your MVEA Rep Council has adopted a proactive plan to educate its members. It is already in process.
- MVEA will continue to update you and organize ways we can collectively impact this situation.

WHAT DOES MVEA NEED FROM YOU?

- Help MVEA educate our members about what is at stake and why the June election is so critical. Go to MVEAinfo.com for more information including a PowerPoint you can share with others.
- Talk with friends and family about how serious this situation is.
- Step up and be part of any plans designed to pass the June tax extension once it is approved for the ballot.
- Stay informed and help our MVEA leadership advocate for reasonable solutions in our own District.

Speak Up, Again!

By Connie Pruett, MVEA Vice-President

Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, and John Adams were all supporters of public education. They had plans, opinions, and yes sometimes they had elitist views, but one thing was certain...they all knew that in order for democracy to work, the electorate had to be educated. They knew it was for the common good, in the public interest, and made sense that we educate ALL of our children...ALL OF OUR CHILDREN!

Public education is the great equalizer. Is that what our enemies are afraid of? They don't want equality? Do they NOT want our democracy to work? Portraying public schools as failures, supports private schools and vouchers. “Their” children will succeed and the working-poor's children can remain working-poor! Excellent fodder for the factories and warehouses that make someone else rich!

The United States Congress will act soon on funding for Title 1, special education and more. Rumor has it there will be cuts. The State continues to make reductions to public education.

Write your federal legislators at www.educationvotes.nea.org. Let your voice be heard. Public education is too important to legislate it to death! If Jefferson, Franklin and Adams had email, I would be willing to bet they would have lobbied for public education!

Today Wisconsin, Tomorrow Ohio or Indiana or ????

By Harold Acord, MVEA Director of Contract Maintenance

A&I write this article, our brothers and sisters in WEAC (the NEA state affiliate in Wisconsin) are in the battle of and for their lives. Their recently elected Governor and legislature, on the pretext of trying to meet a budget crisis, are attempting to push through a bill to take away the rights of teachers and other public workers to negotiate their working conditions. They would simply have to take whatever the present State government chooses to give them. They would have no recourse to a bargained contract to define their job responsibilities, pay, benefits, class sizes, evaluation, transfers and more. No public employee union would even be able to collect dues from their members. Thus, the unions would not exist at all. There goes democracy for the "working man." There goes their ability to collectively impact their job responsibilities.



As a teacher of German I cannot help but be reminded that one of the very first things that Hitler did after he gained power by being elected the German Chancellor was to fight for and receive an enabling act empowering him amongst many things to dissolve the unions.

Our colleagues in Wisconsin understand that these are bad times. They are willing to meet and negotiate their working conditions in tough

times. However, they are drawing the line at being forced to give up their basic rights as union members to organize and negotiate with their employers and to even exist as unions and as professional organizations.

On the pretext of fixing their State's budget crisis, their governor is attempting to destroy public sector unions in one fell swoop. Bravely, the teachers in Wisconsin have left their homes and are sitting in at their state capitol to protest this move. In order to ensure that the bill is even debated in line with our country's democratic traditions, some members of the State legislature have "hidden out" in order to ensure that negotiations can take place. It is hard to believe that this is happening in the Midwest where my grandfather and uncles took part in the sit-down strike in Flint, Michigan, and put their lives on the line for the right to organize and to have a voice through their union.

If this can happen in one State of our union, then it could happen in any State, including our own. Already, in Ohio and Indiana and other States there are rumblings by governors and legislatures that they would like to engage in the same union-busting in their States.

What can you do to help show your support of our colleagues in Wisconsin? First, go to www.educationvotes.nea.org. There you will be able to learn about the various activities that you can engage in to support our colleagues who are under fire.

Secondly, talk to everyone you know about what is going on and make sure that they know that teachers, like every other working person in our country, deserve fair working conditions and the right for their voices to be heard.

This is America, right?

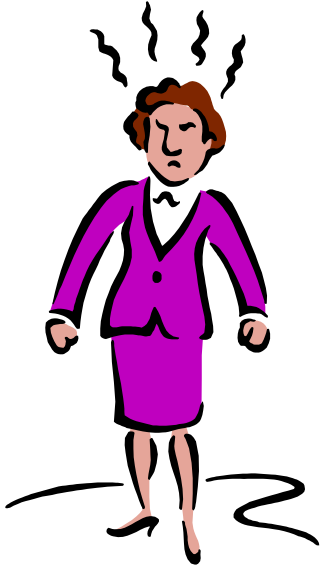
In Solidarity,
Harold Acord,

MVEA Director of Contract Maintenance

Why America's Teachers Are Enraged

Reprinted from CNN.com February 21, 2011

Editor's note: Diane Ravitch is a historian of education and the author of the best seller *"The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education."*



Thousands of teachers, nurses, firefighters and other public sector workers have camped out at the Wisconsin Capitol, protesting Republican Gov. Scott Walker's efforts to reduce their take-home pay -- by increasing their contribution to their pension plans and health care benefits -- and restrict their collective bargaining rights.

Republicans control the state Legislature, and initially it seemed certain that Walker's proposal would pass easily. But then the Democrats in the Legislature went into hiding, leaving that body one vote shy of a quorum. As of this writing, the Legislature was at a standstill as state police searched high and low for the missing lawmakers.

Like other conservative Republican governors, including Chris Christie of New Jersey, John Kasich of Ohio, Mitch Daniels of Indiana and Rick Scott of Florida, the Wisconsin governor wants to sap the power of public employee unions, especially the teachers' union, since public education is the single biggest expenditure for every state.

Public schools in Madison and a dozen other districts in Wisconsin closed as teachers joined the protest. Although Walker claims he was forced to impose cutbacks because the state is broke, teachers noticed that he offered generous tax breaks to businesses that were equivalent to the value of their givebacks.

The uprising in Madison is symptomatic of a simmering rage among the nation's teachers. They have grown angry and demoralized over the past two years as attacks on their profession escalated.

The much-publicized film "Waiting for Superman" made the specious claim that "bad teachers" caused low student test scores. A Newsweek cover last year proposed that the key to saving American education was firing bad teachers.

Teachers across the nation reacted with alarm when the leaders of the Central Falls district in Rhode

Island threatened to fire the entire staff of the small town's only high school. What got their attention was that Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and President Obama thought this was a fine idea, even though no one at the high school had been evaluated.

The Obama administration's Race to the Top program intensified the demonizing of teachers, because it encouraged states to evaluate teachers in relation to student scores. There are many reasons why students do well or poorly on tests, and teachers felt they were being unfairly blamed when students got low scores, while the crucial role of families and the students themselves was overlooked.

Teachers' despair deepened last August when The Los Angeles Times rated 6,000 teachers in Los Angeles as effective or ineffective, based on their students' test scores, and posted these ratings online. Testing experts warn that such ratings are likely to be both inaccurate and unstable, but the Times stood by its analysis.

Now conservative governors and mayors want to abolish teachers' right to due process, their seniority, and -- in some states -- their collective bargaining rights. Right-to-work states do not have higher scores than states with strong unions. Actually, the states with the highest performance on national tests are Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Vermont, and New Hampshire, where teachers belong to unions that bargain collectively for their members.

Unions actively lobby to increase education funding and reduce class size, so conservative governors who want to slash education spending feel the need to reduce their clout. This silences the best organized opposition to education cuts.

There has recently been a national furor about school reform. One must wonder how it is possible to talk of improving schools while cutting funding, demoralizing teachers, cutting scholarships to college, and increasing class sizes.

The real story in Madison is not just about unions trying to protect their members' hard-won rights. It is about teachers who are fed up with attacks on their profession. A large group of National Board Certified teachers -- teachers from many states who have passed rigorous examinations by an independent national board -- is organizing a march on Washington in July. The events in Madison are sure to multiply their numbers.

As the attacks on teachers increase and as layoffs grow, there are likely to be more protests like the one that has mobilized teachers and their allies and immobilized the Wisconsin Legislature.

Meet Your Level Directors

Do you have a question regarding the contract?

Do you have a site issue you'd like to discuss?

Then.....Meet your Level Directors!

<u>ELEMENTARY DIRECTORS</u> -	Susan Cook (SCook@mveainfo.com), Omar Tinoco (OTinoco@mveainfo.com)
<u>MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR</u> -	Mike Sorter (MSorter@mveainfo.com)
<u>HIGH SCHOOL DIRECTOR</u> -	Juanita Quiroz (JQuiroz@mveainfo.com)



Feel free to contact us regarding any contractual/union questions you may have. We'll try to help you ourselves, or connect you with someone that can! We want you to feel you have a voice!

**"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn." -- Benjamin Franklin**

Dean Vogel Elected as Next CTA President

On Saturday, February 5, 2011, the California State Council unanimously elected Dean Vogel, a veteran teacher and counselor from Davis, California, as the next President of the California Teachers Association. He will take office on June 25th as David A. Sanchez, the current President, terms out. Dean's career spans 37 years and he has experience in both elementary and higher education. Not only has he taught children, but he has also trained school counselors and student teachers. Dean has recently served as Vice President of CTA and Chairman of its Public Education Funding Workgroup. Of our new Governor, Dean Vogel says that he is hopeful for the future of education funding under Governor Brown.

MVEA Welcomes Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer

MVEA welcomes Dr. Judy D. White as MVUSD's new Superintendent. Dr. White comes to us from the San Bernardino City Unified School District where she served seven years as Deputy Superintendent. Dr. White has worked in various positions that included Teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Special Education Director, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Deputy Superintendent of Program Improvement, Curriculum, Instruction, and Accountability & Assessment. She has also served as an Adjunct Professor at Azusa Pacific University and Aeon Bible College. Her educational credits include a BA in Sociology, MA in Education and Counseling, and a Doctor-

ate in Educational Leadership.

Mays Kakish is the new Chief Financial Officer for MVUSD and came from the Beaumont Unified School District. Before assuming a position with the school system she worked for an accounting firm that audited school districts. Early in her career, she served as a substitute teacher where she frequently had long term assignments in special education classes.



Educator of the Month:

Jolie Yanagisawa

The Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce recognized **Jolie Yanagisawa** as MVEA's February Educator of the Month. Jolie has taught in Moreno Valley for thirteen years, first at Armada and currently at Towngate Elementary. She has mastered all the nuances of the second grade curriculum, and shares this knowledge with her students, her colleagues as a grade level leader and with other district staff as a valued member of the Math Subject Advisory Committee. Jolie was nominated for this award by her staff, who describe her as the ultimate team player, always ready to share ideas and help with any project.



Jolie is especially dedicated to those students who struggle in school. She approaches

their learning needs from two standpoints. First, she has all the tools to make the curriculum understandable to her students. If you visit her classroom you will see Jolie presenting concepts through direct instruction, many times using technology to grab their attention. She guides them through the initial practice to make sure they understand and finally, allows them to work independently to show their mastery of what has been taught.

Just as important as her classroom routine is having the parents serve as partners in the educational process. Jolie chairs the Student Study Team, a committee of school personnel and parents who work together at developing strategies for helping students reach grade level standards. She has a special talent for letting parents know that they are an essential component to their student's school success. She gives them fresh ideas and organizational skills that are manageable to implement in the hectic schedules of today's busy families.

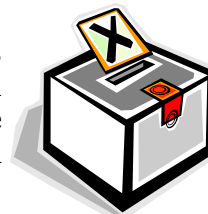
Jolie has a life away from school. She spends her free time with her family, mostly at the baseball field where her daughters both excel at playing softball. Jolie can tell you how valuable these extracurricular activities are to student success.

Congratulations to Jolie Yanagisawa, a teacher who quietly makes a difference for students and her colleagues at Towngate Elementary School!

Local NEA-RA Delegate Election News

By Bill Martin, MVEA Election Committee Chair

Due to the error on the ballot limiting the number of votes for this election, the Election Committee declared the recent Local NEA-RA Delegate election invalid. The maximum number of candidates that one could vote for should have stated twelve, yet the ballot stated eight. We will run this election again March 15–16, 2011. Thank you for your understanding.



**The Official Publication
of the Moreno Valley
Educators Association**

23025 Atlantic Circle, Suite A
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
Phone: 951-485-0545
Fax: 951-485-0353
Email: info@mveainfo.com

*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 2** Read Across America-Dr. Seuss Day
- **March 2** Exec. Board mtg. @ 4 p.m.
- **March 8** School Board meeting @ 7:00
- **March 9** Rep Council mtg. @ 4 p.m.
- **March 15-16** Local NEA-RA Delegate Election
- **March 23** End of NEA-RA CTA Delegate Online Voting
- **March 22** School Board meeting @ 7:00
- **March 28—April 8** Spring Recess

Wear Red For Public Ed Every Tuesday



What started as a one day event has grown into a weekly movement across America. People who support public education will be wearing something red every Tuesday. How much easier does it get to show you care about public education and the students who attend public schools? By wearing red, you will be symbolizing not only your support of America's public education system, but also your support of:

1. INSTITUTING RESPECTFUL REFORM THAT MAKES SENSE

-We call for reform that respects the people who are most involved in the public school system: teachers, parents, and students.

2. CREATING A SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES FAIR FUNDING FOR ALL SCHOOLS

-The current system sets schools up for failure depending upon their locations. It also has created a race between state school systems that deems some schools winners and others losers when it comes to receiving funding. We call for fair and equitable funding for all schools, no matter where they are located.

3. MAKING SURE THAT ALL STUDENTS HAVE QUALITY CLASSROOMS WITH SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

MVEA Executive Board:

President	Janet MacMillan	Director of Member Services	José Alcalá
Vice-President	Connie Pruett	Director of Political Action	Anne Prows
Secretary	Peggy Murphy	Co-Director of Elementary	Susan Cook
Treasurer	Tom Weir	Co-Director of Elementary	Omar Tinoco
Executive Director	Ann Adler	Director of Middle School	Mike Sorter
Director of Contract Maintenance	Harold Acord	Director of High School	Juanita Quiroz
Director of Communication	Cathy Fulgenzi	CTA State Council Members	Harold Acord,
Director of Human Rights	Danny Alvarez		José Alcalá, Janet MacMillan, Connie Pruett
Director of Instruction & Prof. Dev.	Amy Hall	CTA Board Rep. District 0	Mikki Cichocki
		NEA Director District 11	Katherine Underwood