



MARE Focus

FEBRUARY 15, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF MR. KEVIN SANDLIN, MARE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ENDORSEMENTS

- American Fidelity Assurance Co.
- Claim Care, Inc.
- CTS Group
- Forrest T. Jones & Co.
- IMS Technology
- L.J. Hart & Company
- MASA MTS
- MEUHP
- Mike Keith Insurance
- M.U.S.I.C.
- MO. Consultants for Ed.
- Pro Energy Solutions, LLC
- SOCS

MARE PARTNERSHIPS

- LEGAL HOTLINE: EDCOUNSEL, GUIN MUNDORF, MICKES O'TOOLE, TUETH KEENEY
- EDPLUS
- AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE
- GIRLS STATE
- MISSOURI ADMIN. JOB POSTING

MARE Superintendent Searches – MARE has been retained to conduct the following Superintendent Searches:

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Superintendent of Schools - Oak Ridge R-VI - Mr. Darryl Pannier is the Search Consultant. Darryl can be reached by phone at (573) 803-9008 or by email at darrylpannier@yahoo.com. **Application deadline is Friday, February 26th!**

Superintendent of Schools - Purdy R-II - Dr. Paul Ricker is the Search Consultant. Paul can be reached by phone at (573) 365-4703 or by email at paulricker1@charter.net. **Application deadline is Friday, March 5, 2021!**

Superintendent of Schools - Sturgeon R-V - Dr. Jerry Cochran is the Search Consultant. Jerry can be reached by phone at (660) 668-3787 or by email at cochranj115@gmail.com. **Application deadline is Monday, March 8, 2021!**

Superintendents Selected for 2021-2022 Through MARE Searches:

- Mr. Nicholas Larson, Community R-VI School District
- Mr. Matthew Copeland, Missouri City #56 School District
- Dr. Jeri Hardy, Gasconade Co. R-II (Owensville) School District
- Mr. Mark Hedger, Strafford R-VI School District
- Dr. Aaron Cornman, East Prairie R-II School District
- Mr. Kyle Windy, Schuyler Co. R-I School District

- TBA - Oak Ridge R-VI School District
- TBA - Purdy R-II School District
- TBA - Sturgeon R-V School District

Other Vacancies:

Superintendent of Schools - Everton R-III - Contact Michael Wallace at (417) 535-2221 or mwallace@evertontigers.org for more details.

Legislative News

The legislative session is upon us and many bills touted as Education Reform are being heard in committees and will likely soon be debated on the House or Senate floor. Please note the following bills and ask your elected Representatives and Senators to vote **NO** on - HB 942 (School Accreditation & Assessments), HB 349 (Voucher Tax Credits), HB 137 (Charter Funding), SB 55 (Education Omnibus Bill), HB 151 (Superintendent Consolidation), HB 754 (Virtual Expansion), HB 303 (Open Enrollment), HB 543 (Open Enrollment). We have to stand together to defeat these bills!

<https://house.mo.gov/> and <https://www.senate.mo.gov/>

Patron Insight - Small School District Initiative - A Big Success

By the end of February, Patron Insight's Small School District Initiative will have provided complimentary stakeholder research to eight school districts with 5,000 or fewer students. Those districts include MARE members East Lynne 40, located near Kansas City and Hallsville R-IV, north of Columbia.

It's one way of demonstrating Patron Insight's commitment to "Giving Back," by conducting research on behalf of districts that would not be able to afford it otherwise. The participating districts have learned a lot about, for example, their communities, where their patrons get information about their school districts and what their residents want to hear more about from their districts.

Entry forms for the 2021-2022 edition of the company's Small School District Initiative will be provided in the Patron Insight newsletter later in the summer and the link will also appear in a *MARE Focus* newsletter around that same time. If you have any questions in the meantime – or you want to sign up for the "3-minute read" Patron Insight newsletter – please contact Ken DeSieghardt at (direct) 816-225-0668 or ken@patroninsight.com

MOCAAT Welcomes Jason Hoffman

PMA Welcomes Jason Hoffman to the MOCAAT Team

PMA is pleased to announce that **Jason Hoffman** will be joining the team as **Coordinator, Sales and Relationship Management**. Jason will partner with the [Missouri Capital Asset Advantage Treasury \(MOCAAT\)](#) to serve school districts throughout the state of Missouri. His Missouri experience and commitment, coupled with PMA's depth and expertise, will serve Missouri school districts as a trusted partner.



Jason has over twenty years of experience in financial leadership for Missouri schools. He began his career in finance with the State of Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. He went on to serve as Business Manager for St. James R-I School District and Hallsville R-IV/Centralia R-VI School Districts. Jason is currently the Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operating Officer of Jefferson City Schools. He is set to retire from Jefferson City in June, and he will begin with PMA and the MOCAAT investment program on **July 1st. *Continue reading below...***

[Read the Full Release](#)

Mickes O'Toole - Legal Webinar on Unemployment Claims

Unemployment Appeals – Step by Step

Unemployment Appeals - Step by Step - February 19th, 2021 (9:00 am - 9:30 am) | [Learn More Here](#)

At some point every district receives notice that a former employee has filed an unemployment claim. Join attorney Anne Kerns for a free 30-minute discussion on unemployment claims. Together we will walk through the process of handling unemployment claims from a district's initial response through an appeal.

Presented by [Anne Kerns](#).

Please use the link below to register.

If you have any questions please direct them to Elisa Moss at emoss@mickesotoole.com

[Registration and More Info](#)



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Social Emotional Learning Support - New Partnership Between DESE & the Department of Mental Health

January 29, 2021

Dr. Blaine Henningsen, Assistant Commissioner for the Office of College and Career Readiness, reached out to me to share information on a new partnership between DESE and the Department of Mental Health. Attached below is a link to a presentation that was shared earlier this week. I would encourage you to take a look at these materials and pass these along to your district staff. The effort focuses on Social Emotional Learning support through the Reach4MO programming.

[SEL Support](#)

Dynamic Mindfulness A Research Project Opportunity for Middle and High Schoolers

What is Dynamic Mindfulness? Dynamic Mindfulness (DMind) is program that teaches stress resilience and social and emotional learning. Each DMind class includes the key elements of mindful movement, breathing practices, and centering practices. What are the Benefits to DMind? • DMind can help you learn to deal with stress. • DMind can help you to get along better with friends and family. • DMind can give you skills to feel more confident in handling life challenges. • DMind is completely free. • DMind can be done from the comfort of your own home. The Details: What: 16, 45-minute live interactive zoom sessions to learn and practice new skills. When: Monday March 1-Thursday March 25. All groups will occur in the afternoon, after school hours. More information on meeting times will be presented during project consent process. What will I be asked to do? All participants will be either randomly assigned to a control group or intervention group. All groups will be asked to complete a confidential survey online before the beginning of groups and again after the end of groups. Intervention group

participants will also be asked to participate in the DMind program, online for 16 sessions via online zoom session. Will I get paid for participation in this study? Yes! Control group participants will earn up to \$40 (\$20 for pretest and \$20 for posttest). Intervention participants will receive the same payment for pretests and posttests and can receive up to an additional \$40 for participating in the groups!

How do I sign up and who do I contact for more information? Toby M. Mills Email: millsto@umsystem.edu Phone: 573-200-0479 *Please sign up by February 24th at 5:00 PM

MARE Board Training Opportunities - MARE will offer the required Board Training for newly elected or appointed Board members at various locations (SE Missouri, SW Missouri, NE Missouri, NW Missouri, WC Missouri and Lake Ozark) from May through July. A firm schedule will be posted by mid-March on the MARE website and will be included in the MARE Focus at that time!

To register for these in-person training events, please access the form found on the MARE website or contact Kevin Sandlin at (660) 747-8050 or by email at ksandlin@moare.com.

MARE Scholarship Information – MARE awarded a total of 43 scholarships last year including 15 - \$1,000.00 scholarships to college juniors/seniors and 28 - \$500.00 scholarships to graduating seniors from MARE member school districts. Proceeds from the annual golf tournament are our primary source of funding for scholarships. Due to the generous support of many of our Associate Members and other donors, we hope to award even more scholarships in 2021. Information has been sent out to the Missouri School Counselors Association (HS Senior Program) and to all Missouri colleges and universities that have a teacher education program. Links to both programs are found below:

[2020-2021 MARE/EdCounsel HS Senior Scholarship Program](#) - **Deadline 3/10/21**

[2020-2021 MARE College Scholarship Program](#) - **Deadline 3/31/21**

11th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament - The 11th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, July 19th at the beautiful Osage National Golf Course in Lake Ozark, Missouri. Last year's event raised over \$20,000.00 for scholarships for Missouri students seeking teaching certification with plans to return to Missouri public schools and teach. We will accept the first 36 teams that enter to play!

NREA News - For all of the latest news from our national affiliate, please click on these links: [NREA Weekly Update - February 5, 2021](#), [NREA Weekly Update - February 12, 2021](#)

MARE/MO K-8 Fall Conference - Make plans now to join us for the 2021 MARE/MO K-8 Conference which will be held Wednesday, October 20th through Friday, October 22nd at the Lodge of Four Seasons. Help us reach our goal of 200 attendees!

Missouri Boys State & Missouri Girls State - MARE is a proud supporter of both of these organizations. Due to the cancellations of these events from last

year, MARE will be supporting four (4) candidates for each gathering in 2021. MARE supports (pays sponsorship fees) for candidates from MARE member school districts across the state!

Quote of the Week

"Our schools have a doubly hard task, not just improving reading, writing and arithmetic but entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity."

Ken Robinson

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