



MARE Focus

JANUARY 30, 2024

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

ENDORSEMENTS

- American Fidelity Assurance Co.
- Claim Care, Inc.
- Forrest T. Jones & Co.
- Hamlin Energy
- IMS Technology
- L.J. Hart & Company
- MASA MTS
- MEUHP
- Mike Keith Insurance
- MO. Consult. For Ed.
- MOCAAT
- M.U.S.I.C.
- SOCS
- Veregy (CTS)

MARE PARTNERSHIPS

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

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

Principal/Superintendent Search – Kingston 42 – Dr. Maggie Anderson is the Search Consultant. Maggie may be reached at (816) 898-0005 or at mg2.anderson@gmail.com. **Closing (2/2/24)!**

Superintendent Search – Sherwood Cass R-VIII – Dr. Michael Jinks is the Search Consultant. Mike can be reached at (660) 441-7473 or at 19mj46@charter.net. **Closing (2/2/24)!**

Superintendent Search – Otterville R-VI – Mrs. Mary Beth Scherer & Dr. Jamie Burkhart are the Search Consultants. Mary Beth may be reached at (660) 281-7678 or mbscherer@ucmo.edu.

Jamie may be reached at (660) 525-0952 or jamiebeth.burkhart@gmail.com. **Closing (2/2/24)!**

Superintendent Search – North Shelby – Dr. Jerry Cochran is the Search Consultant. Jerry may be reached at (660) 596-3184 or at cochranj115@gmail.com. **Closing (2/19/24)!**

Superintendent Search – Craig R-III – Dr. Maggie Anderson is the Search Consultant. Maggie may be reached at (816) 898-0005 or at mg2.anderson@gmail.com. **Closing (2/23/24)!**

Closed Searches – South Holt Co. R-I, Marion Co. R-II, North Andrew R-VI, La Plata R-II, Sullivan, Spring Bluff R-XV, Scott City R-I, Shelby Co. R-IV, Central R-III, Ralls Co. R-II, Spokane R-VII, Ash Grove R-IV, Kennett 39, St. Clair R-XIII, Van Far R-I, & Chadwick R-I!

All Vacancy Announcements & Applications – www.moare.com!

Calculate & Communicate – Districts are encouraged to calculate how much of the grant money for the state minimum salary (\$38,000.00) they are drawing down and to communicate with your legislators what might happen should that grant program be phased out accompanied by a mandatory minimum teacher salary of \$38,000.00 or higher. It is important for your elected officials to understand what impact this would have on your district including possible program cuts, staffing reductions, delaying of facility improvements, unrealistic local tax levy burdens, etc. Now is the time to begin to prepare this information and have these conversations so that your legislators are informed and hopefully will look for ways to continue to fund an improved minimum teacher salary in our state.

MARE Scholarship Information – MARE awarded a total of 52 scholarships last year including 22 - \$1,000.00 scholarships to college juniors/seniors, 29 - \$500.00 scholarships to graduating seniors from MARE member school districts and a \$2,500.00 scholarship in memory of Dr. Matt Bushey. 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 will be awarding additional scholarships and increasing the HS Scholarship Awards to \$750.00 during 2024! **(\$211,500.00 awarded!)**

[2023 HS Senior Scholarship Guidelines & Application](#)

[2023 MARE College Scholarship Guidelines & Application](#)

Mental Health Survey Opportunity

In case you missed our brief 9-question survey before the holidays RE: mental health needs and resources for our students, the initial responses have been interesting. While we've had a good responses rate far, we always welcome more input, so wanted to extend the timeframe to complete just a little longer. We will share all results when complete.

I am sharing the information below from one of our Associates (SlateXP). They have crafted a short survey as they attempt to gather information on mental health needs and resources for our students. I would encourage you to take a few minutes to access the survey and complete it so that they can gather some informative data to help make decisions on possible programs or opportunities that might assist our students. If you have questions, please reach out directly to David MacLeod at dmacleod@slatexp.com. Thanks for considering this special request.

Mental Health Resource Capacity in K12 – Is It A Growing Concern?

There is an ongoing narrative across the country regarding the status of our student's mental health and the resources available to support their growing need. MARE has always been a champion for school districts and for students in need, so we want to make sure we are always aware of any developing issues that may be concerning to our members and if so, whether we need to develop a partnership that can provide assistance in some way. We have just (9) questions in our survey.

[Mental Health Survey Link](#)

Save the Date - The 14th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, July 15th at Osage National Golf Course in Lake Ozark, Missouri. We will accept the first 36 paid teams for this event. Last year's event raised over \$34,300.00 to be earmarked for scholarships for students interested in teaching in rural Missouri schools.

What is Bond Insurance and How Can it Help You?

What is Bond Insurance?

Bond insurance is a type of insurance policy that a bond issuer purchases that guarantees the repayment of the principal and all associated interest payments to the bondholders in the event of default. Bond issuers will buy this type of insurance to enhance the credit rating on a bond issue, which makes the bonds more attractive to potential investors and reduces the amount of interest that needs to be paid. From the issuer's perspective, if the cost of the insurance policy is less than the interest savings, then using bond insurance to lower the overall borrowing cost is worth considering.

How Can Bond Insurance Help You?

Bond insurance can be an effective tool to raise the rating on a bond issue and reduce the amount of interest paid. Bond insurance is generally useful for issuers of bonds that have an underlying bond rating in the "A" category or lower. When evaluating the benefits of bond insurance, it is important to closely evaluate any conditions or requirements included in the insurance commitment as bond insurance companies may impose requirements such as a debt service reserve fund, parity debt covenants and collateral requirements.

Your underwriter should take the time to analyze the benefits of bond insurance as it can make a substantial difference in the amount of available funds in the Project Fund.

This analysis includes comparing the cost of the bond insurance premium to the interest savings derived from the lower insured bond yields versus the expected bond yields to be received on an uninsured basis. For example, the interest rates and yields for a "AA" rated, insured bond issue would be lower than a bond issue that is not insured and is being sold with an underlying bond rating of "A".

Example of Benefits Associated with Bond Insurance

In April 2023, Raymond James served as Underwriter for the issuance of \$25,610,000 Lease Certificates of Participation for Savannah R-III School District. To minimize interest cost and maximize the available funds for the project, we took the time to solicit bond insurance quotes. Our efforts to obtain quotes from both Assured Guaranty and Build America Mutual ultimately resulted in a favorable quote. **Overall, the District received an insured rating of “AA” and achieved net savings (total savings less cost of bond insurance) of roughly \$776,555.**

<p><u>DR. ALLAN MARKLEY</u> Director 816.729.6059</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 27 years of experience in public education• Superintendent of schools for Raytown C-2, Sparta R-III and Logan-Rogersville R-VIII	<p><u>DR. MIKE REIK</u> Director 816.550.5116</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25 years of experience in public education• Superintendent of schools for Platte County R-3
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RJWorksForMO.com

Education Plus Innovative 2024 Conference

We're excited about this year's conference. We have educators from across the state sharing their practices on how they are redefining the way students learn. Conference strands include culture, design, equity, leadership, technology and wellness; and the conference will also include a huge focus on AI. We'll also have an exhibitor expo, self-paced learning opportunities and a podcast row to round out the conference experience.

We're bringing in four national speakers:

- **Matt Miller**, author of *Ditch That Textbook: Free Your Teaching and Revolutionize Your Classroom*, who will be sharing his expertise on AI and how it will impact teaching and learning.
- **Leena Bakshi McLean**, founder of STEM4Real, who will provide strategies on how to design for every student to have opportunity, access and create an environment of belonging.
- **Laura Boccantuso**, founder of Van Robotics, who will share strategies on how technology and AI can further enhance classroom instruction to help students with diverse learning needs.
- **Sheldon Eakins**, founder of The Leading Equity Center, who will share practical strategies for creating a powerful sense of belonging to ensure all students thrive and succeed.

I've attached a flyer and the session grid. They can learn more about the conference at our [website](#) and register via this [link](#).

I would appreciate it if you would help us spread the word.

Thank you!

Christine Stanek McDonald

EducationPlus

1460 Craig Road

St. Louis, MO 63146

o: 314.692.1233 | c: 314.443.6990

Opportunity to Help One of our Own – Wade Schroeder

Please consider this opportunity to help one of our own!

I thought you might be interested in supporting this GoFundMe, <https://gofund.me/84af91be>. Even a small donation could help Natalie Burns reach their fundraising goal. And if you can't make a donation, it would be great if you could share the fundraiser to help spread the word. Thanks for taking a look! Not sure it copied but this is on Wade Schroeder who has been battling cancer.

MOCAAT – What Can You Do For Me?

MOCAAT® | Local Values. Trusted Advantage.

The MOCAAT® Advantage: Missouri's Trusted Financial Management Resource for School Districts.

Our experienced team, with broad expertise in Missouri school budgeting, finance, and investments, thoroughly manages over \$2.5 billion in assets across 170+ member districts (as of June 30, 2023). Since inception in 2020, MOCAAT has provided a new level of service and performance to Missouri communities.

Our philosophy – Partnership. Maximize the potential of your reserve funds, tax revenues, state revenues, and bond proceeds with our professional guidance.

For financial support tailored to your district's unique needs, contact us:



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NREA News – For all of the latest news from our national affiliate, please click on these links: [January 5, 2024 NREA Update](#), [January 19, 2024 NREA Update](#), [January 26, 2024 NREA Update](#)

Quote of the Week

“The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one who gets the people to do the greatest things.” – Ronald Reagan

MARE Board Training Opportunities - MARE will provide Board Training in 2024 for newly elected or appointed BOE members according to this schedule:

Southeast Missouri - Poplar Bluff, MO – Holiday Inn – (573) 712-9021

- Friday, May 31, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 1, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

West Central Missouri - Warrensburg, MO – Quality Inn - (660) 747-3000

- Friday, June 14, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 15, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Northeast Missouri - Kirksville, MO - Holiday Inn Express (660) 956-4682

- Friday, June 14, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 15, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

Southwest Missouri - Bolivar, MO - Comfort Inn - (417) 326-6169

- Friday, June 21, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 22, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Northwest Missouri - Maryville, MO - Holiday Inn Express (660) 562-9949

- Friday, July 12, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, July 13, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Lake Ozark, MO – The Lodge of the Four Seasons (Conference)

- Wednesday, October 16, 2024 (11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, October 17, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Lake Ozark, MO - The Lodge of the Four Seasons

- Friday, December 6, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, December 7, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

***** Please share this information with any new Board member who has not completed the 18.5 hours of required training! MARE is an approved Board Training provider!**

To register, please complete the form found on our website and fax to (660) 747-8160, scan and email to ksandlin@moare.com, or go online (www.moare.com) and complete the electronic form found under Board Training.

Preparing for the Upcoming Fight for Public Education

The fight will continue in Jefferson City regarding Open Enrollment. It is anticipated that legislation similar to HB 253 will be on the floor of the House very early in the session. It is time again for public Missouri school districts to stand up and make their voices heard regarding this matter. Please review previous information that has been sent out, including the information contained in the links below and take action. Working together, we can defeat this legislation but it is going to take all of us! Please join the fight! If your district has passed a resolution in opposition, please share that with your respective legislators and share a copy of this with your local or regional newspaper!

[HB 253 Open Enrollment](#)

[Open Enrollment - Board Resolution in Opposition](#)

[Open Enrollment - Talking Points](#)

More updated information will be forthcoming. **Please make this a priority issue for your BOE at your November, December, January or February board meeting. Please provide me with an electronic copy of your resolution once approved by your BOE!**

Anonymous Thoughts on Open Enrollment

Merely Hypothetical at This Juncture

Open Enrollment is currently being considered by the Missouri legislature. As with any new initiative, the many facets of the change are being debated. There is talk of timelines, enrollment capacity, lottery systems, voluntary vs. mandatory participation, finance, transportation, etc.

In an effort to suggest how Open Enrollment legislation might affect students, parents, schools or communities, a group of hypothetical individuals were interviewed. These folks could be called the “boots on the ground” as they will be on the front lines of this legislation.

- *Catching the school bus by 6:30am is pretty early but next year with Open Enrollment I'd have to catch it much earlier to get to my new school. I'm pretty fast so I thought I'd be able to get on the track team. But I just found out, there's no bus for transfer students. With no reliable vehicle, if I get accepted, they'll just kick me out for truancy. Being poor makes it hard to take advantage of good stuff. (Interview Scott 9th grade)*
- *All these school commercials confuse me. My mom says when she was a kid they had magnet schools. (Interview Joaquin 7th grade)*
- *I thought my teaching job was tough enough but trying to communicate with parents now that they live further away, is really a challenge. I used to know most of the families in our small community. (Interview Ms. Jones 5th grade teacher)*
- *My daughter, Amy, was very excited to be able to attend our neighboring school where she can take Band. She is very talented and has loved music for a long time. But she does not like their math teacher and they only have one section of math. I'm wondering if we could work it out so she attends Band at one school and math at another. Surely, she can do Open Enrollment part-time. (Interview Amy's mom)*
- *I was so proud when I was elected to our Board of Education. Local control is a tradition in public education. Now I've heard that there is talk that Open Enrollment has an Appeals process to the State Board. How will that impact our local decisions? (Interview BOE member)*
- *Every couple of years a coach gets a really special player. I've been mentoring him through Middle School and I'm not the only one that's noticed his progress. The community has seen him grow up and has been looking forward to great things from our “hometown” boy. But these twins that transferred in are tougher, more aggressive players and are taking over the court. Parents and other community members are on my case. (Interview basketball coach)*
- *I've worked hard all four years of High School. This new kid just transfers in and is now number one in our class. Were her teachers and classes as hard as mine? (Interview with aspiring valedictorian)*

This is just a small sample of the hypothetical interviews that were conducted. While some individuals are looking forward with anticipation to the opportunities of Open Enrollment, others take a more thoughtful, long-term view. They remember that these are the same students that survived education during COVID and Open Enrollment may further disrupt their educational opportunities. (Anonymous)

MARE Board Elections for 2024 – MARE will be electing Regional Executive Board Members in Regions B, D, F, H and J this year. In addition, one member from a MARE member school district’s BOE and a MO K-8 Representative will be appointed by the current MARE Board. More information on this will be shared soon! **Due to retirements, we are looking for a Region B and Region H MARE Board Representative.** If interested, please let Dr. Cochran or myself know.

Representative Regions by Counties

Region B: Counties of – Gasconade, Franklin, Crawford, Washington, Iron, Reynolds, St. Francis, Ste. Genevieve, Jefferson, Perry and St. Louis. **(Dr. Kruse retiring!)**

Region D: Counties of – Laclede, Camden, Miller, Cole, Osage, Maries, Phelps, Pulaski and Dent. **(Dr. Price wants to continue to serve!)**

Region F: Counties of – Jackson, Cass, Lafayette, Johnson, Henry, Saline, Pettis, Cooper, Moniteau and Morgan. **(Dr. Marnholtz wants to continue to serve!)**

Region H: Counties of – Scotland, Knox, Shelby, Monroe, Audrain, Callaway, Clark, Lewis, Marion, Ralls, Pike, Montgomery, Lincoln, Warren and St. Charles.

(Mr. Troy Clawson is retiring!)

Region J: Counties of – Atchinson, Holt, Nodaway, Andrew, Buchanan, Platte, Clay, Worth, DeKalb, Clinton, Ray, Caldwell, Daviess, Gentry and Harrison.

(Dr. Brian Robinson wants to continue to serve!)

BIA-MO Free Concussion Education Seminars

**Sports Concussions:
Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers Seminars
FREE Concussion Education**

A concussion may result in cognitive, physical, sensory and emotional changes for youth. Staying current on information about concussions, helps reduce risks for your student athletes.

Mark your calendars to attend the
Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO)
***Sports Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and
New Frontiers Seminar!***

There is **no charge** to attend, but **registration is required.**

Eastern
February 26, 2024

Western
February 27, 2024

Central
February 29, 2024

Live Stream
March 1, 2024

Archives On-Demand
March 20 - May 31, 2024

**MARE Welcomes Christy Groppe, BOE Member from
Franklin Co. R-II, to the MARE Executive Board!**

Rural Education Matters, Everyday!

MARE Organization Staff

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