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Serving All Middle Level and High School Administrators

January 4, 2018

Video Version: https://youtu.be/gO_l8w4bNCo

MoASSP Principals,

Welcome Back – It is hard to believe that it is 2018. I'm sure you were able to sleep a few minutes later, catch a good movie ("Wonder" is Great!), read a good book, view a bowl game (there were several good ones), or even doze off an afternoon or two. However, the majority of you could not wait to get back and interact with the students and the teachers. That is why your leadership matters, your passion for education is highly visible. As you and your teachers jump back into the routine after the break, it is always wise to revisit the expectations, the protocols, and the reason learning is so important to the future of every student, your school, and our democracy. As the leader of your building have you purposefully planned for a renewed focus on the second semester expectations and the support necessary to help all students be successful? Have you set the stage for the teachers to review the positives from last semester and had the students visualize or create a model of scaffolding for continued success?

Who would have thought? – ("News-Leader" article) Who would have thought the education of Missouri's students would become a political ping pong ball to be whacked back and forth in a battle for power and leverage? The ongoing chess match between the Governor, the Senate, and the education community has witnessed the next move. Governor Greitens withdrew his five nominees to the State School Board on Wednesday morning. At noon, on Wednesday, he reappointed the same five nominees. First, since the nominations were made during the session the nominees cannot take a seat on the board until confirmed by the Senate. Second, the State Board of Education cannot do business because there is not a quorum with three members. Members of the board of education are set to hold a public hearing on Monday to get input on the traits they want to see in the next education commissioner. The hearing will be recorded for board members to listen to later, once they have a quorum. On Tuesday the board is scheduled to meet to narrow the field of applicants, extend the application process or hire a group to conduct a national search for Vandeven's replacement. The board can and might meet, but no action will be taken. There is no restriction on the time allotted for confirmation of appointees during the session. Will the extended allotment of time allow Grietens to effectively maneuver or cajole enough votes to keep his nominees? **As of January 2, 2018, there has been only one application for the open commissioner's position.**

Contact your Senator - Despite this political ploy, it remains critical that you contact your state senator and urge him/her to oppose the confirmations of all five of Governor Greitens' appointees. It has

become clear that Governor Greitens improperly orchestrated the firing of Dr. Vandeven, effectively making the position of commissioner of education a political appointee of the Governor. The important issue at stake here is the constitutional independence of the State Board of Education so it can make decisions based on what is best for Missouri's public-school students, not based on a partisan political agenda. Please communicate this message to your state senator and urge him/her to vote against the confirmation of all of Governor Greitens' appointees to the State Board of Education and send a message that the Governor should stop playing politics with the students in Missouri's public schools.

New Law 2018 - Section [167.905. At-risk students to be identified, district policy required.](#) — 1. By July 1, 2018, each school district shall develop a policy and implement a measurable system for identifying students in their ninth-grade year, or students who transfer into the school subsequent to their ninth-grade year, who are at risk of not being ready for college-level work or for entry-level career positions. Districts shall include, but are not limited to, the following sources of information:

(1) A student's performance on the Missouri assessment program test in eighth grade in English language arts and mathematics;

(2) A student's comparable statewide assessment performance if such student transferred from another state;

(3) The district's overall reported remediation rate under section 173.750; and

(4) A student's attendance rate.

2. The district policy shall require academic and career counseling to take place prior to graduation so that the school may attempt to provide sufficient opportunities to the student to graduate college-ready or career-ready and on time.

3. Each school district shall adopt a policy to permit the waiver of the requirements of this section for any student with a disability if recommended by the student's IEP committee. For purposes of this subsection, "IEP" means individualized education program.

[Suggestions for College and Career Readiness Identifiers for 167.905](#) – See this PDF for suggestions on identifying struggling students.

2018 Mark Your Calendars – There are two things you do not want to miss. The Reid Questioning Workshop and the Spring Conference. Please, note the dates and locations of both events. We will see you at both!

Suicide Prevention Workshop in Columbia, MO – We have had requests for an additional workshop. It is not too late to register your team.

[Online Registration](#) or go to [MoASSP](#) for a printable registration form.

Date: January 22, 2018 in Columbia at the Elks Club, 4747 E Elk Park Dr

Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Cost: \$499 per Team (3-5 members)

(Registration will be limited to the first 25 teams.)

(Members could include but not limited to: Superintendent, Principal, Asst. Principal, Counselor, Outreach personnel, School Nurse, School Resource Officer, School Social Worker, School Psychologist, etc.)

Reid Questioning Workshops - The Reid experience is one of the most important workshops an administrator can attend. If you have not been to see Joe Buckley's presentation, I highly recommend attending. It will change how you communicate with anyone who comes to your office. Reid techniques are not just for questioning students but for dealing with teachers or other practical situations. Joseph Buckley is the presenter and he is very adept at keeping it simple and clear. He uses actual video interviews of witnesses, suspects, and criminals who have committed crimes as serious as murder to give credibility to his workshop.

- January 16, 2018 ([Downloadable Form](#)), Washington High School, Performing Arts Center (8:00 am - 3:00 pm)
- January 17, 2018 ([Downloadable Form](#)) Springfield Public School Board Meeting Rooms (8:00 am - 3:00 pm)

[Aspiring Principals Workshops](#) - Who will carry on your legacy? If you have a quality teacher leader in your building, encourage them to attend one of these workshops.

St. Louis - January 31, 2018 - SASSP Aspiring Assistant Principals/Athletic Directors

Where: EdPlus, 4433 Woodson Rd. #210, St. Louis, MO

Time: (Registration 8:30am) 9:00am - 2:30pm

Kansas City - February 7, 2018 - GKCPA Aspiring Event

Where: Summit Technology - Lee's Summit

Time: (Registration 12:30 pm) 1:00pm - 4:45pm

Northeast and Central - February 8, 2018 - NE Aspiring Event (MSHSAA Office - Columbia)

Where: MSHSAA Building (Columbia)

1 N. Keene St., Columbia, MO

Time: (Registration 8:30am) 9:00am - 2:30pm

Southwest - February 21, 2018 - SW Aspiring Principals Event

Where: Republic Public Schools, Board Meeting Rooms

518 North Hampton, Republic, MO 65738

Time: (Registration 8:30am) 9:00am - 2:00pm

2018 MoASSP Spring Conference “Building Your Brand by Telling Your Story”

March 25-27, 2018, at the Lodge of the Four Seasons

Join us at the Lodge of the Four Seasons for professional growth opportunities that includes:

- Sunday EdCamp, Steak Dinner, and Keynote Speaker Robert Zywicki on Branding Your Building
- Monday Breakfast, a message from DESE, Four Concurrent Sessions, and choices that include golf, networking, or on your own activities at the lake
- Tuesday has a loaded general session with a law update, Beth Houf (Co-Author of Lead Like a Pirate), and closing with Mike Smith, a National Jostens Speaker, “Telling Your Story.”

[Spring Conference Downloadable Registration](#)

It is a New Year, and you are The Principal of the Thing! Have a wonderful beginning of 2018!