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*Serving All Middle Level and High School Administrators*

MoASSP Update November 30, 2017

Video Version: <https://youtu.be/4tOhM6vAZIA>

MoASSP Principals,

**You make such a difference** - The education system in Missouri belongs to all of us. Perhaps you don't realize how much value you have added to our education system state-wide, but your impact is far more reaching than you might realize. Maybe you went to school in a district in one part of the state and now reside in another area. I'm sure many of you have had former students who are now teachers. Maybe you are old enough that some of your former students are now superintendents or assistant superintendents. Perhaps, you have had teachers that are now administrators who have used your mentorship to create systems of collaboration and buildings full of caring, thoughtful, and dedicated teachers. Regardless of where you are in your career, you are part of the fabric of Missouri educators. Your contributions have helped create a state-wide culture of professional growth that has influence and has contributed to an ongoing quest to serve all students in Missouri. Attending meetings both in Missouri and outside our state, I realize how lucky we are to be part of a culture that is cooperative and selfless. Thank you, for your optimistic views, your time commitments, and your leadership. What you bring to your hallways and classrooms every day are the positives from your past, the expertise of administrative knowledge, and the learned leadership skills from years of helping others see their strengths and their contributions to student success. Thank you for going out of your way to devote your life to a profession that selflessly provides hope to so many lives.

**MAP Changes Ahead?** - A group of educators from over 60 districts attended a meeting Monday lead by superintendent Mike Fulton of Pattonville and Matt Goodman of EdPlus. The purpose was to establish a consortium capable of creating innovative assessments designed to measure student growth for students in elementary and middle school. Accountability is a good thing, but it must be a good measure that can be adaptive and capable of meeting the needs of all kids. There are obstacles that must be navigated that include staying within the confines of the federal and state laws. It must also be designed as an assessment tool capable of measuring Missouri Standards and what we want for all students. This process is just beginning and will take at least a 5-year commitment from a district that wants to join the consortium. There will be a cost and probably will not go beyond a \$2.00 per student fee. The eight regions of the state have members on the governance group that will draw up the by-laws and expectations for the consortium. Small districts and large districts are represented in the governance group. I will provide more information as it becomes available.

[Smaller NEMO school districts shine in state reports](#) - Maybe your district doesn't have the latest technology or has buildings that are a little outdated, but because of your leadership, you may have reason to feel great about your building and your region. The secondary school principals in Northeast meet monthly and share their struggles and successes. Their meetings and a network of communicating nearly every day via a designated email network allows for sharing and caring. As a result, there is much to celebrate. *DESE guidelines say that any school district that scores 90 percent or better on the APR is considered to be accredited "with distinction." Eight of the 12 districts in Northeast Missouri received this honor. In addition to Marion County R-2, they were North Shelby (99.3 percent), Scotland County R-1 (98.9), Canton R-5 (97.5), Lewis County C-1 (97.1), Palmyra R-1 (96.8), Knox County R-1 (94.6) and Monroe City R-1 (92.1).*

[Can't live without a phone or a link to technology](#) – The link is to an ASCD article that provides a little direction for teachers in this age of constant connection to technology. Cell phones present a huge research resource at the tip of our fingertips, yet are a constant power struggle in the classroom. Social media, often blocked by school safety nets, are impossible to ignore as an influence and outlet for today's student. The gaming world is a huge presence in the lives of even the youngest learners, yet often allows for exposure of inappropriate materials. So how do we balance? How do we meet the needs of today's students and provide them the tools they need to be successful for jobs that don't yet exist?

**The St. Louis Post Dispatch has reported, [Appointee sues Greitens after being booted from Missouri school board](#)** –Gov. Eric Greitens' attempt to sack the state's education czar is headed to court. In a lawsuit filed Tuesday, former state school board member Tim Sumners of Joplin is asking a judge to decide whether the first-year governor broke the law when he removed Sumners [from the board earlier this month](#). The outcome of the lawsuit could determine the fate of state school Commissioner Margie Vandeven, who has been in the governor's crosshairs this year.

[Second lawsuit of the day filed about Missouri Board of Education turmoil](#) - Duane Martin, a Columbia-based education attorney, filed the suit Tuesday on behalf of Laurie Sullivan, who teaches English in Springfield Public Schools.

In the suit, Sullivan claims the board "purposefully violated Missouri Sunshine Law" on Nov. 21 because the determination of who from southwest Missouri was allowed to vote was determined in a closed meeting. Sullivan's lawsuit alleges that Greitens' appointments "without properly removing current members" violate state law; similar claims have been made by Missouri Democrats and denounced by Greitens' spokesman as "a political stunt."

[JEFFERSON CITY • A judge could weigh in as early as Thursday](#) on the controversy surrounding Gov. Eric Greitens' bid to fire Missouri's top school official. With a Friday meeting of the state school board looming, Cole County Circuit Judge Jon Beetum will hear arguments in a case Thursday afternoon involving an [alleged violation of the state open meetings law](#) by the state Board of Education. Sullivan's attorney, Duane Martin, is hoping to win a temporary restraining order that would block further board action until the matter of the open meetings issue is resolved.

**Maybe a record?** - I know many of you have been busy tweeting, sending emails, and talking with your teachers and principal's networks, but Kevin Overfelt of Raytown South might hold the record. He reported today sending 20 emails out to various people about the dangers of the politicization of education in Missouri. Thanks, Kevin.

**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 (Location TBD) (8:00 am - 3:00 pm)
- January 17, 2018 ([Downloadable Form](#)) Springfield Public School Board Meeting Rooms (8:00 am - 3:00 pm)

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and your fall term has progressed as planned. As you prepare to wind down the first semester take care of those in your charge. A semester of high expectations and being "on" wears many down. I know you will monitor their mental and physical well-being because that is what you do as the leader, It Really is the Principal of the Thing.