

SEAN McCOMB
KIDS BEFORE CONTENT

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ED WINS BIG

500 WORDS
SUMMER BENEFITS

ACTIONLINE

The Magazine of the Maryland State Education Association Volume 14 Issue 5 June 2014



PRIMARY
ELECTION
DAY IS
JUNE 24!

MDAPPLEBALLOT.COM

Find your
education
candidates

MSEA supports Anthony Brown
A champion for Maryland's schools

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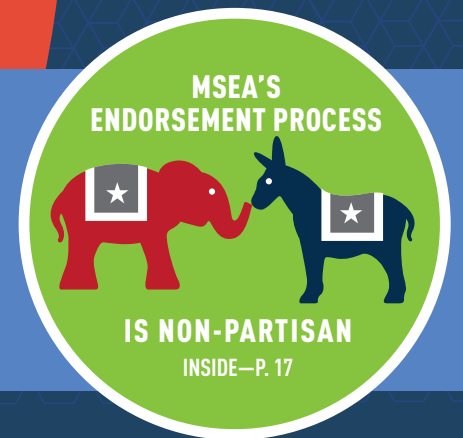
The Magazine of the Maryland State Education Association Volume 14 Issue 5 June 2014

VISIT:

MDAPPLEBALLOT.COM

to find your education candidates

INSIDE: Learn how pro-public education candidates earn a spot on MSEA's Apple Ballot.



Primary Election Day
is June 24

SPECIAL FEATURE ▶
Election 2014

School funding, collective bargaining, college affordability, and pre-K are the issues four educators cite for supporting Anthony Brown and Ken Ulman at the top of the ballot on Primary Election Day. Check out MDAAppleBallot.com for plenty more education-friendly candidates down ballot for local school board, county executives and councils, and General Assembly races!



CONT

4 UP FRONT

It was a very successful General Assembly for Maryland educators. MSEA delivered educators the time, flexibility, and resources that members said they needed to better manage the wave of education reforms.

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9 500 WORDS

It's summertime! Find out how NEA Member Benefits can help you save now with great rates on credit cards, auto and home insurance, and more.

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Garrett County resource teacher Brittany German found her calling at Crellin Elementary—an environmental school where cross-curricular hands-on learning takes center stage.

Get more content, videos,
and resources at
marylandeducators.org/DigitalAL.

Visit marylandeducators.org for MSEA's Board of Directors and local affiliates directory.



ACCORDING TO A RECENT

Washington Post poll, Maryland voters rank public education as the top issue for deciding their vote in 2014. That's one reason why we launched MDAppleBallot.com.



It's clear that voters want (and need) to know who the pro-public education candidates are so they can cast informed votes that will make a difference for their children and their communities. As educators on the frontlines in schools and worksites across the state, and as education policy experts, it's our duty to vet the candidates and use every tool we have to get the word out on solid friends of education. We need to make sure that these candidates win the primary in June and the general election in November.

MDAppleBallot.com is a place where voters across the state can find educator-recommended candidates in their districts. Once you enter your zip code and get your list of candidates, you can share it with your friends and neighbors and sign up for campaign activities to help elect your candidates.

When people ask how we decide on our candidates, be sure to direct them to the Learn More link on the site for details about your local and MSEA's rigorous, member-driven, and inclusive endorsement process. We've endorsed candidates across party lines and across a diverse range of backgrounds because they have one thing in common: a commitment to putting our public schools and our students first.

Whether it's Common Core, funding, class size, school safety, or so many other issues, we need friends of public education in the key decision-making roles that affect our schools and our careers. With the right governor, General Assembly, school boards, and county leaders, we can make sure that the support for public education, educators, and students grows and strengthens.

Check out MDAppleBallot.com and remember to vote in the primary on June 24!


MSEA PRESIDENT

Watch Betty's video at marylandeducators.org/DigitalAL.
Contact Betty at bweller@mseanea.org.

EVENTS

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Inside MSEA with Executive Director David Helfman, and a word from the legal team about education support professionals and the importance of job descriptions.

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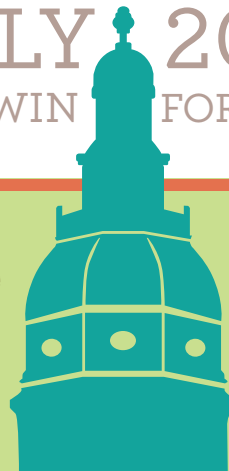
At E. Russell Hicks Middle School in Washington County, world language teacher Maria Lorena Grewe imports STEM content to her Spanish classes to boost student connections.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2014

A BIG WIN FOR EDUCATION • A BIG WIN FOR MSEA

“Maryland’s public schools have long been a national leader. Now, thanks to the General Assembly’s actions this year, Maryland has become a national leader for how a state can come together and take meaningful steps to improve the transition to Common Core, new evaluation systems, and new student tests.”

— MSEA President Betty Weller



When balloons flooded the State House at the end of this year’s General Assembly, legislators weren’t the only ones celebrating. MSEA members were celebrating an extremely successful session—one that included the near-unanimous passage of major Common Core and teacher evaluation legislation, a fully funded public schools budget, and a significant victory for labor rights.

The close of session capped more than a year of work by MSEA that focused on documenting and sharing the complicated, dramatic, and substantive impact of the poorly implemented school reforms on students, educators, and schools. MSEA worked hard to make the

case, schooling legislators on exactly what was happening on the frontlines. The results were worth it.

Big wins on Common Core and teacher evaluations

It’s been no secret that the implementation of Common Core and new teacher evaluations have been a mess in counties and schools across the state. In the face of this tsunami of education reform, MSEA stepped up and led the way to pass several bills to help get educators more time, flexibility, and resources to get these changes right.

“Maryland’s public schools have long been a national leader,” said MSEA President Betty Weller. “Now,

thanks to the General Assembly’s actions this year, Maryland has become a national leader for how a state can come together and take meaningful steps to improve the transition to Common Core, new evaluation systems, and new student tests.”

Common Core and teacher evaluation legislation

House Bill 1167/Senate Bill 676 ensures that state standardized tests may not be used for personnel decisions until at least the 2016-17 school year. This is just common sense amid deep concerns about the PARCC test’s validity and alignment with the new Common Core-based curriculum.



Every year, MSEA breaks down the General Assembly session so members can track their legislators on the issues that affect public education.

This year our annual scorecard has moved to marylandeducators.org/2014LegislatorScorecard.

Find your legislators by region and tally their votes on the key bills of the 2014 session. What grade would you give them?

CALENDAR

Summertime PD The annual instruction and professional development workshop on June 26 is loaded with great training—SPARKS (the training for newer members), Yes You Can! (classroom management), strategies for closing the achievement gaps, and more. If you’d like to attend next year’s program, find out how you can get involved in your local’s IPD program now.



June 26–July 6 NEA Annual Meeting in Denver The Mile-High City will be welcoming Maryland’s 300 state and local association delegates at the 152nd NEA Convention and Representative Assembly. It’s a big deal—nearly 9,000 educators convene to discuss the most pressing and important public education issues of the day. Find state delegates at marylandeducators.org/msea2014election.



The bills also clarify that local school systems and associations have the autonomy to mutually agree upon what is included in their evaluation models. “This clarification was important in the face of the Maryland State Department of Education’s ongoing attempts to force all locals to include PARCC scores as 20% of evaluations,” said Weller.

House Bill 1164 creates a Common Core and PARCC workgroup with strong teacher and parent representation to make recommendations on improving the implementation of the new standards. The group will look at technology, training, timelines, and many other issues, including how the standards intersect with new evaluation systems.

Finally, House Bill 1001 establishes new legislative oversight of any future Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waivers sought by the Maryland State Department of Education. Legislators were very concerned that the ESEA waiver process was being used to make long-term commitments on evaluation systems, testing, and other key

issues without enough input and oversight.

“Our legislative agenda this year was centered on immediately addressing teacher’s unrealistic and inappropriate workload, and the pressures and expectations that have been placed on educators by the tsunami of education reform,” said Sean Johnson, MSEA’s Assistant Executive Director of Political and Legislative Affairs.

“Our success this year really demonstrates the power of our members and MSEA to successfully advocate for legislation that makes a meaningful, positive difference on the issues that educators face every day.”

State budget continues to provide solid support

MSEA makes a strong annual push for the full funding of the state’s education budget, and that effort was successful again this year. The state budget provides \$124.5 million in additional funding over last year’s budget, for a total of \$6.1 billion. The budget also includes \$4.3 million to expand pre-kindergarten by 1,600 seats and \$1.7 million to add 40,000 students to the school

breakfast program.

The state’s capital budget is headlined by \$275 million for the construction of safe, modern public schools.

Milestone for labor rights

On the heels of last year’s passage of Fair Share, another important landmark for labor came this year with the General Assembly’s action to guarantee that the Public School Labor Relations Board will continue.

The legislation to establish the board, which passed in 2010, originally contained a provision that would have sunset the board next year. However, legislators recognized the value of the board to dependably serve as a fair, impartial arbiter in contract disputes between school systems and employees.

But that’s not all

On the last day of session, the General Assembly acted to increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. This will provide a raise for hundreds of thousands of Maryland families throughout the state, making it a little easier for parents to make ends meet and for their children to focus on their school work rather than

their family’s economic security. As part of the Raise Maryland coalition, MSEA lobbied on behalf of the first raise to the state minimum wage since 2006.

MSEA also led a strong coalition to once again defeat the recycled BOAST voucher proposal to direct state aid to corporations making investments in private schools.

MSEA and building trade unions supported House Bill 727/Senate Bill 232, which expands the state’s prevailing wage law to apply to school construction projects where the state covers at least 25% of the project’s cost.

“We know how every legislator voted on these bills,” said Weller. “Now it’s up to us to vote our interests. We want the top-performing legislators for education back in their seats in January.”

“Don’t miss your regional scorecard. Hold your senator and delegates to high standards, as we do for our students—and spread the word. We need pro-public education decision-makers in Annapolis to do the best we can for our students and communities.”

More content, videos, and resources at marylandeducators.org/DigitalAL

July 1-30 Middle School Reading Challenge You can help your middle schoolers maintain their reading gains and give them a chance to win a Kindle Fire or a \$25 gift card. Here’s how they can enter the Radical Readers Summer Challenge: visit readacrossmaryland.org, read 30 minutes every day July 1-30, and download, complete, and submit a reading log.



Leaders for Change MSEA’s 2014 Summer Leadership Retreat (SLR), July 28-30 at Towson University, helps empower educators with tools and resources to improve their classrooms, activism, and careers with training on SLOs, social media, elections, ESP issues, and more. Ask your local association for more information about getting on board for the 2015 SLR.



NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR SEAN McCOMB

Arts Principal Craig Reid said, “It is Sean’s deeply felt compassion for his students; it is every day trying to get better; it is everyday teaching the students in his class as if they were his own. It’s what we all want as parents and as citizens.”

One of the youngest National Teachers of the Year in the 64-year history of the award, McComb meets his students where they are and lifts them up to see their own potential, a gift given to him by teachers he had while growing up in a troubled family environment. In his new role, he hopes colleagues see him as their ambassador: “I love this profession,” McComb says. “It changed my life and I hope I can use it to change others’ lives as well.”

Here’s an excerpt from McComb’s National Teacher of the Year application that explains, in part, his teaching philosophy:

“When I think about my students, I imagine them as global citizens 15 years after leaving my classroom. What are my hopes for them? I hope that they are able to effectively communicate and work productively with an array of people. They must be able to collaborate.

“I hope that they can think independently about the ideas put before them by the media, politicians and mainstream culture. They need to think critically.

“I hope they will remain of agile mind in order to adjust, respond and contribute to a rapidly changing world. They must become lifelong learners. These hopes drive my teaching style to value collaboration and complexity.”

Watch videos, see a lesson, and learn more about McComb’s journey in the digital edition of ActionLine—maryland-educators.org/DigitalAL.



PHOTO: BOB SCHLES OF CONSIDERED NEWS PHOTOS, INC. © 2014

Sean McComb accepts an award from President Obama in the East Room of the White House on May 1.

“Kids Before Content. Love Before All”

For those who know him and work with him—or the hundreds of students who have been in his classroom—Baltimore County member Sean McComb’s latest honor as National Teacher of the Year was probably not much of a surprise. As one of his students said in an interview, “He’s like a hero.” Patapsco High School and Center for the

CALENDAR

60 years | Brown v. Board of Ed

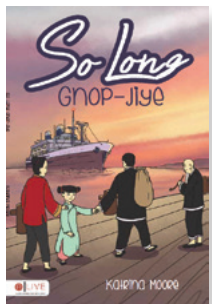
At nea.org, you’ll find great coverage of the 60th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the landmark case that ended school segregation. Educators know that while desegregated schools may be the law of the land, the achievement gaps still exist and low income communities suffer.



Finishing on Top Most families and students take high school graduation for granted, but for students featured in the latest MSEA podcast, it’s an achievement many couldn’t have predicted. Hear how illness, drug addiction, family tragedy, and traumatic brain injury couldn’t stop some very determined students from getting their diploma and prepping for college.



HOWARD COUNTY MEMBER BRINGS CULTURAL RELEVANCY TO ELEMENTARY CLASSROOMS



“My fourth grade class was beginning their narrative writing unit, and to immerse them into the genre,

I gathered exemplary narratives from the library: Patricia Polacco, Tomie dePaola, Allen Say, Jacqueline Woodson,” says Howard County teacher Katrina Moore. “As I read these timeless stories to my students, I noticed some of them were still struggling to connect with the stories and weren’t as inspired as I’d hoped when drafting their own memoirs.”

Moore loves how forward and relevant the elementary integrated curriculum is in her county, but when selecting books that her students can relate to, she finds it difficult to source stories from authors of cultural backgrounds that

match her student population. In Howard County, 54% of students are of African American, Latino, Asian, or mixed cultural background.

Moore responded by writing her own story—*So Long Gnop-Jiye*, based on her mother’s childhood journey from China. “I wanted to encourage love and respect for diversity among my readers, and to inspire children to write their own special stories.

“When I began telling students the story of how my mom came to America when she was seven, and how she struggled to start a new life here, I saw a light in the eyes of the children who were struggling to find a story to tell. They were intrigued by the pet duck she had in China, her *gnop-jiye*. Their hands popped up and they became eager to share their own stories.”

The *So Long Gnop-Jiye* teaching guide Moore created to align with the Common

Core Standards is intended for use in second through fifth grade classrooms and includes ready-to-use text-dependent discussion questions, graphic organizers for story mapping, and more. “I hope fellow educators use *So Long Gnop-Jiye* in language arts/social studies integrated curriculum, especially units such as immigration and cultural diversity.”

So Long Gnop-Jiye is available for order through all major booksellers.



Howard County member Katrina Moore

Learn more about Moore and *So Long Gnop-Jiye* in the digital edition of ActionLine marylandeducators.org/DigitalAL.

More content, videos, and resources at marylandeducators.org/DigitalAL

Media Training in Annapolis

Did you know your local leaders get media training to confidently carry your association’s message to the public through newspaper, radio, and TV interviews? Each year MSEA hosts a two-day event in Annapolis—this year it’s August 6–7—to hone speaking skills and stay on message when reporters come calling.



Women’s Rights Award Attention champions of women’s rights! Women may have the vote, but there’s plenty of work to do—just look at the college and military stats on sexual assault. Applications for MSEA’s 2015 award for pursuing and promoting the rights of women and girls are due September 5. Visit marylandeducators.org/womensrights for more information.



CC.BETTERLESSON.COM YOUR PORTAL TO K-12 COMMON CORE LESSON PLANS

Last November, an MSEA member survey revealed what educators already knew—teachers weren't prepared for the Common Core Standards. A shocking 89% believed that significant challenges remained to understanding and implementing the standards in their schools. For many, the delivery of curriculum was behind schedule and lesson plans were hard to come by.

NEA has provided one answer to the absence of dependable Common Core resources—BetterLesson, a portal to more than 5,000 complete Common Core-aligned lessons from 130 teachers brought together for the NEA Master Teacher Project, a partnership between NEA and BetterLesson.

The free lessons cover every K-12 grade level for math and English language arts and literacy. Each lesson includes instructions, videos of particular instructional strategies, thoughts on how the strategies help to implement the Common Core, and examples of student work. When you use a lesson plan, you'll tap into the creativity of other educators as you customize the lessons to target SLO goals and individual student needs.

Master teachers are NEA members from across the country, certified in their current grade level and subject, who create lesson plans specifically for the Common Core State Standards. When BetterLesson hires its master teachers, they're looking for curriculum developers, inspiring writers, and tech savvy pioneers eager to be a part of the highly collaborative, multi-platform program.

If that sounds like you—and a \$15,000 stipend helps—BetterLesson is looking for talented K-12 science teachers with a passion for the Next Generation Science Standards! You can apply today at cc.betterlesson.com; just look for the Opportunities link at the bottom of the homepage. Teach another subject? You can sign up to be notified when there are openings!



MSEA CONVENTION OCT. 17-18, OCEAN CITY

With issues like Common Core, evaluations, SLOs, and the general elections at the fore, this year's gathering of statewide delegates and visitors to MSEA's annual Convention October 17-18 in Ocean City is sure to be an interesting one. Free workshops, a fresh lineup of exhibitors, activities, and more highlight the weekend.

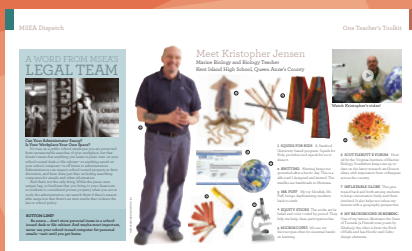
Mark your calendar! If you're ready for free professional development on the education issues that affect you, your students, your career, and your school, plan to attend Friday and Saturday training sessions. In the past, workshops have fit into categories like: classroom management and student interventions; Common Core, PARCC, online resources, and UDL; 21st century tech and social issues; and legal, ethical, and financial topics.

Mark your calendar! If you're a local association delegate who wants to get in the game by driving MSEA's agenda, policy, and political action.

Mark your calendar! If you love freebies! At our all new Education Expo, you'll find exciting new exhibitors ready to showcase their latest innovations, products, and ideas.

Mark your calendar! If you love a good party! MSEA hosts a members-only party in one of the biggest nightclubs in Ocean City. It happens at Seacrests!

Mark your calendar! If you want some quiet time at the beach, some shopping at the Rehoboth outlets, and some quality time with fellow educators. Get details at marylandeducators.org/Convention2014.



Join the growing number of MSEA members getting *ActionLine* online—sign up today!

In the **digital edition of *ActionLine***, you get everything that's in the print edition, plus **premium content** like member **videos, links, pop ups**, special graphics, and more. Sign up today at marylandeducators.org/DigitalAL and your next *ActionLine* will be delivered to your inbox ready to **read on your favorite device**.

NEA Member Benefits



It really does pay to be an MSEA member and for many,

it's the **money-saving** California Casualty home/auto combo insurance policy that proves the point. You can save an average of **\$443** on auto insurance alone with exclusive members-only rates. In fact, CalCas is so confident that they can help you save, you'll get a **\$25 Amazon gift card** and an entry into a monthly drawing to win a \$200 donation to your favorite cause just for checking them out! If you're a renter, boat owner, motorcyclist, or classic car aficionado, there's a plan for you, too. And don't forget: CalCas **offers the same great deals** to your children, parents, and siblings. What's in your wallet? NEA



Member Benefits offers four credit cards with different rates, rewards programs, and application profiles. So whether you're **building credit, repairing credit, or**

just shopping for a better deal,



\$1,000 on used ones.

It's one of the



Contest and a chance to win a \$15,000 school grant

be sure to compare these cards to the ones in your wallet.

Case in point—NEA's Credit Card with Rewards. When you open an account, you'll get a



\$100 credit on your statement after the first 90 days when you spend at least \$500 in any

combination of transactions—that's a **20% return**. And, it's interest-free through your first seven statements, then your rate increases to a reasonable 11.99% or 16.99%. Add to that cash, gift cards, and travel rewards and



it's a pretty sweet-looking

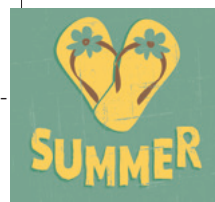
deal. **Great credit?**

Don't miss the NEA RateSmart Card that offers one of the lowest rates anywhere at **9.99%**. A quick apples-to-apples check in with CreditKarma's top 10 credit cards shows that **these cards are right on the money.**

Are you looking for a new or used car? NEA's **Auto Buying Program** has saved members an average of \$3,000 on new cars and up to

easiest to use tools that we've seen for researching cars, and dealers can **hook you up with the best buys** up to 300 miles away. The report features its user-friendly TrueCar Price Curve to give you a target price on new and used cars, trade-in values in your zip code, and dealer recommendations.

Looking for some



summer tips from neamb.com to help you save? Take advantage

of the monthly \$2,000 **Sallie Mae Scholarship Drawings** now through August. Enter the June sweepstakes by June 30; if you don't win, enter again in July and August. You can use your winnings for yourself, National Board Certification, or college tuition for your child.



Nominate your school for the **Healthy Habits Schools**

(\$10,000 and \$5,000 for second and third places). Lysol, NEA, and the PTA are **fighting the flu with germ ed**—a dedicated effort to reinforce the importance of healthy habits at home and at school. Visit lysol.com/mission-for-health/healthy-classrooms to enter, then check out the great resources and help your school stay **happy and healthy** all year long.



Are you a member of Costco? If so, you can get **NEA members-only specials** when you sign in at neamb.com. Just look under "Shopping & Discounts" and you'll find the Costco deal, plus more like 20% off at 1800Flowers.com, a 15% discount on AT&T cell phone service, classroom resources, car rental deals, and more.



at neamb.com. Just look under "Shopping & Discounts" and you'll find the Costco deal, plus more

One Teacher's Toolkit

Brittany German

Resource Teacher, Crellin Elementary School
An Environmental School in Garrett County

1. BOOTS Whether it is in the barn, gardens, stream, or the grounds of our future greenhouse, boots are essential. It's the only item we require; a local church supplies all of our students' school supplies.

2. OLD CLOTHES One of Crellin's mottos is "Dirt makes you smart." I always have an extra set of clothes. You never know if we will be out worming a sheep, cleaning out a new chicken yard, or mending a fence.

3. SHOVEL My favorite tool. It can be used to dig holes, shovel manure, mulch, and soil, but it also works great as a lamb deterrent and a boundary marker.

4. FRESH EGGS DAILY Our guide to raising chickens.

5. CAMERA We use cameras to document research and capture magical moments.

6. INTEL COMPANION COMPUTER CAMERA We use this in the barn to observe the behavior of our animals when we aren't there. This adds more data gathering opportunities that students can then use in math, science, and language arts for writing reports.

7. PASCO SENSORS We use sensors to collect information such as temperature, CO2 levels, wind speed, and weight in our experiential-based cross curriculum studies. We download the data to our iPads or computers and use it to help interpret our research results and make graphs to illustrate our findings.

8. STUDENTS Our students constantly ask: "I wonder why—?" "I wonder how—?" "I wonder if—?" Their questions inspire all of us at Crellin Elementary.



INSIDE MSEA WITH DAVID HELFMAN



Times have certainly changed since I paid my own way through college in the 1970s. Today's college graduates are saddled with an average loan debt exceeding \$26,000 and loan payment schedules extending up to 30 years.

Nationally, state funding to higher education has dropped 28% since 2008, while tuition at public four-year universities has climbed 27%. The result? Two-thirds of college graduates are leaving school owing money, making it harder to start a family, buy a home, or stay in modestly compensated but critical fields like public education.

NEA has been a strong advocate for increasing need-based financial aid—especially the federal Pell Grant program, making student loans more affordable by lowering student loan interest rates, and fully funding public higher education in state budgets.

Whether you're a recent grad or parent, you know how burdensome student loans have become. Here are some simple steps, great tips, and services from NEA Member Benefits that can help students and parents alike:

Explore NEA Member Benefits and the online tips for saving on your student loans. You can find them at NEAMB.com. Be sure to check out the NEA® Smart Option Student Loan® by Sallie Mae®.

Support NEA's Degrees Not Debt campaign to increase needs-based grants and limit college loan interest rates. It's easy to add your voice to NEA's efforts to lobby for college affordability at nea.org.

Take action by getting involved in the work of partners like Generation Progress, an advocacy group working for smart solutions to the student debt crisis. Learn more at genprogress.org.

Attending college and improving lives shouldn't be so hard. Through advocacy and action, we can help ease the burden on families today and make it easier for future generations to achieve their dreams.

A WORD FROM MSEA'S LEGAL TEAM



Not So Fast! ESPs shouldn't juggle every request

If you're an education support professional, you know that under that broad catch-all category many are considered jacks-of-all-trades. You also know that many of you are increasingly posted in classrooms, offices, and lunchrooms to fill in where positions are short staffed due to funding and absences with no consideration of the pay differential that accompanies various job titles.

That's where your job description comes in. It is vitally important to know and understand your job duties and responsibilities. If you have been regularly assigned additional responsibilities that fall within a higher pay grade, you should be paid accordingly.

For example, many contracts provide for the payment of an additional stipend for paraeducators asked to substitute for an absent teacher—but it's a right many have to demand. In other cases where the contract may not have an explicit provision regarding work outside of your classification, the local association will support you in addressing the matter.

Your contract also protects you when you work hours beyond your negotiated work day due to additional job duties or due to assigned work in your regular duties. All ESP are entitled to pay for all hours worked, and if you work beyond 40 hours in any one week, you are due one and one-half times your regular rate of hourly pay for hours worked over 40.

If you find yourself regularly performing duties outside of your job description or working beyond your negotiated work-day, please contact your local association office for assistance.

“Maryland’s public schools lead the nation, but it isn’t enough until all of our school districts and students have the skills they need to succeed. This means ensuring that educators have the winning combination of professional salaries, focused professional development, and modern, technology-ready school infrastructures that support 21st century teaching and learning environments for all students and educators.” —Anthony Brown

ANTHONY BROWN & KEN ULMAN





Champions for Maryland Schools



Why Anthony Brown? Because Anthony Brown is a trusted leader who has proven over and over again that he is a friend of public education and a true champion for Maryland's future. He listens to educators and we've benefitted from his support.

Anthony Brown has a vision for Maryland that includes action on some of the most important issues educators and communities face today: an early start for all Maryland four-year-olds so that they enter kindergarten ready to learn; school funding that supports high quality learning and career paths for

all high school students; and supporting the college dreams for every student who chooses a two- or four-year post-high school education.

Anthony Brown is a leader for 21st century students and educators. During his term as lieutenant governor, the O'Malley-Brown Administration invested a record \$2.3 billion in new school construction and an additional \$45.4 billion in operating programs so that you have the resources you need to succeed in the classroom and on the job. When MSEA needed a leader to protect collective bargaining and representation rights of members, Anthony Brown stepped up and delivered for us.

He respects educators and MSEA and studiously seeks out our opinions to inform his education policies. Complex issues like Common Core, fair evaluations, and shifting student assessments call for a governor who will listen to educators' expertise and experience and Brown has a proven record of listening. He is committed to making education a top funding priority so that we

have the resources to do our jobs and the salaries we need to support our families.

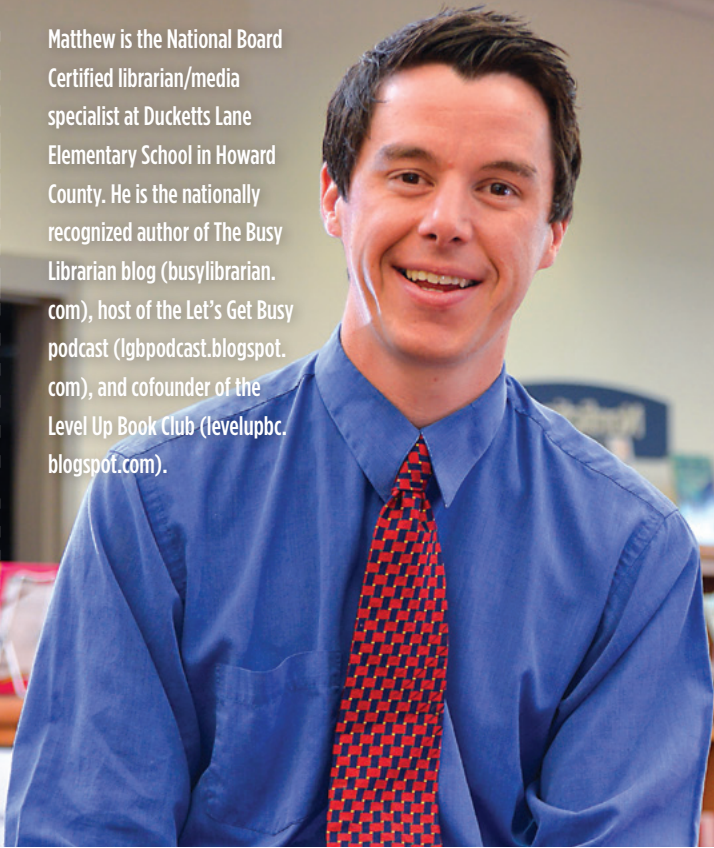
Brown's running mate, Ken Ulman, is a two-term county executive in Howard County. The county ranks first on the state's "education effort" index, which measures the amount of money spent on education compared to total county resources—so it's no surprise that the county's schools consistently rank first in Maryland based on MSAs and graduation rates.

Ulman has been a champion for student welfare, too. He challenged the bullying epidemic with Stand Up HoCo, a community-based effort that combines education and outreach with an online anonymous reporting tool to report bullying to responsible adults who can take action.

It's the Brown-Ulman team that promises a better Maryland. Turn the page to read why educators like you are casting their ballots for Anthony Brown and Ken Ulman.

MATTHEW WINNER

Matthew is the National Board Certified librarian/media specialist at Ducketts Lane Elementary School in Howard County. He is the nationally recognized author of *The Busy Librarian* blog (busylibrarian.com), host of the *Let's Get Busy* podcast (lgbpodcast.blogspot.com), and cofounder of the *Level Up Book Club* (levelupbc.blogspot.com).



School Funding and New School Construction

I support Lt. Governor Brown's proposal to increase the annual investment in public school construction and provide the learning environments and access to resources necessary for supporting our students as 21st century learners.

Classrooms need to once again be seen as the portals for achieving new knowledge, collaborating with others, and connecting with the world. Teachers need access to the tools that will not only enhance instruction, but will also allow their learners to interact with information fluidly and in the context of their lessons.

High speed internet access, a robust wireless network infrastructure, and access to a wide variety of internet-connected devices enable teachers and students to create, communicate, and collaborate across classrooms and across the world. We need modern schools and infrastructures to make that happen for every student and educator.

Anthony Brown is committed to setting a new high water mark for public school construction by reaching \$500 million in annual investments. He will increase our annual funding \$160 million by FY2019 and ensure that every child and educator has a modern classroom with the technology they need to prepare for a career in the 21st century.

Members share why they are

Early Childhood Education and the Achievement Gaps

As an educator, I realize the importance of an early start to education, and so does Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. We know the research—access to quality early learning experiences is key to closing the achievement gap and that starts well before kindergarten.

Anthony Brown stands firm in his belief that early child education is the key to putting our students on the path to educational success. I stand behind the Lt. Governor and I will continue to do what I can to support the universal, high quality, and voluntary pre-kindergarten program in Maryland that he has promised.

The 10-point plan that Anthony Brown and Ken Ulman have developed to reduce the achievement gap among Maryland students outlines specifics that will surely lead us in that direction. As leaders, they will play a vital role in addressing critical education issues for the welfare of our community and will continue to set priorities, shape policies, and allocate the resources educators need to be successful. Lt. Governor Brown has promised us a seat at the table as educators. I believe in that promise.

Anthony Brown's 10-point plan for closing the achievement gaps includes establishing the Office of Educational Disparities and Opportunities, delivering more comprehensive community-based educational services to parents and students, expanding career and technology education, improving student health, increasing Latino school liaisons, and more.

Linda is a special education resource teacher at Accokeek Academy in Prince George's County. She has a degree in early childhood education and special education.



LINDA SHACKELFORD

KIMBERLY HARRIS

Kimberly is a first grade teacher at Burnt Mills Elementary School in Montgomery County. She was teaching in Ohio when Governor John Kasich was elected and immediately set about limiting bargaining rights for union members. In 2011, the law was repealed.



Protecting Collective Bargaining

I'm originally from Ohio and I'm now working here in Maryland. When you come from a union state, collective bargaining is something you take for granted every day, but when you don't have it all of a sudden your world is turned upside down. That's what happened in Ohio.

Ohio has a strong union history and after the election of an anti-labor governor, we saw a law passed that severely limited our collective bargaining rights. It seemed to happen in the blink of an eye. That sent my educator colleagues across the state into a world of panic and chaos. When you are no longer guaranteed your rights, you think about job security, your children, your future, and your retirement. That kind of attack tears at the fabric of communities, threatens families, and weakens the rights of employees across the board. It creates an environment of fear.

I support Anthony Brown because he trusts and respects labor unions and working families. He has a proven record of not only protecting collective bargaining rights, but leading to expand and enhance such rights.

From Anthony Brown's MSEA candidate questionnaire: "My record clearly demonstrates my strong belief in workers' rights to organize, collectively bargain, and take actions to improve their wages and benefits, working conditions and standards. As your Lt. Governor, I have worked to expand collective bargaining in Maryland. In 2012, we expanded collective bargaining to 2,300 more state employees."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHEN CHERRY PHOTOGRAPHY

voting for Anthony Brown

College Affordability

I'm 27. I started college in 2005, in the middle of Governor Ehrlich's administration. The cost of college tuition grew 21% from 2003-2007, and then the recession hit.

My college years were a stressful time for me and my family. I moved out of the dorms and into an apartment with friends to save money—it wasn't as convenient as living on campus, but it was one-third the cost.

I wanted to be a teacher to make change in the world. I got my master's because I wanted to make more money to comfortably afford the house that I bought with my fiancée and prepare to start my own family. But, I'm in my late 20s and the fun has stopped. There's no fun with friends because we can't afford it because of our school loans. We have to pick and choose the things that we're going to do with our lives. I'll be 57 when they're paid off.

Lt. Governor Brown promises that he's going to make sure tuition increases by no more than 3% a year through 2018 and that will mean more students can afford college and maybe avoid some of the debt that so many of us face today.

Anthony Brown says, "Reducing college costs should never come at the expense of educational quality, and it hasn't. In fact, five of Maryland's public schools were recently ranked among Kiplinger's 100 Best Values. ... But for all of our progress, some families still struggle to pay for college. We can do more for these families and for all Maryland students."

Amanda is a fifth grade teacher at Powhatan Elementary School in Baltimore County. She and her fiancée are getting married this summer.



AMANDA SCHELL



JESSICA FITZWATER

“I’m in it to win!”

FREDERICK COUNTY TEACHER CANDIDATE: WHY I’M RUNNING FOR COUNTY COUNCIL



In our current political landscape, people are looking for elected leaders who show integrity, have a strong work ethic, and will listen with an open mind. These are characteristics we all try to model for our students every day. Who better than a teacher to take on this role? I’m stepping up to the

challenge along with several other educators across this state—and I’m in it to win!

Providing a quality education for our youngest citizens is one of the most important roles of our government. Parents, teachers, elected officials, and community members must work together to make decisions that positively impact our children.

In Frederick County, and throughout Maryland, we need someone at the table who understands the vital role education plays in our community. All of us working in education are already public servants and a vital piece of the fabric of our communities. Taking my leadership in the classroom and our association to the next level and serving our community as an elected official feels like a natural next step.

One of my favorite quotes by Teddy Roosevelt reads, “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” I am running for office because I have the energy, the skills, and the passion to advocate for my fellow community members and because I was raised with public service as a core value.

The time I have spent advocating for public education and the arts has shown me that hard work, collaboration, and compromise can accomplish great things. From lobbying our legislators in Annapolis and speaking at public hearings, to serving on community boards and participating in excellent training through Emerge Maryland and MSEA—all of these experiences have led me to this moment.

Here’s how to find your pro-public education candidates

- ▶ Visit MDAppleBallot.com
- ▶ Enter your address
- ▶ View and print your Apple Ballot, then share on Facebook and Twitter!



for your pro-public education voter guide

MSEA'S CANDIDATE FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

BRIAN FROSH

Brian Frosh understands public education. He firmly backs the rights of local associations and boards of education to mutually agree upon evaluation models. He's a strong supporter of labor as an advocate for collective bargaining and an opponent of privatization efforts that could take jobs from school employees. He's also a longtime opponent of voucher schemes like BOAST and corporate tax loopholes that drain public education funding.

Frosh is on our side. That's why MSEA members overwhelmingly endorsed him in the attorney general's race. He's been a strong advocate when educators, families, and consumers have needed him most. As a member of the General Assembly since 1986, Senator Frosh has played a major role in shepherding landmark legislation. Here are just some of his contributions:

- **Leading** efforts to pass the Maryland gun safety law, protecting schools and getting guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals
- **Championing** laws to prevent and prosecute child abuse and protect children from sexual abuse
- **Increasing** protections for victims of domestic violence
- **Expanding** the rights of workers to sue over workplace discrimination
- **Working** to make college affordable by reducing tuition costs at Maryland's public colleges and universities

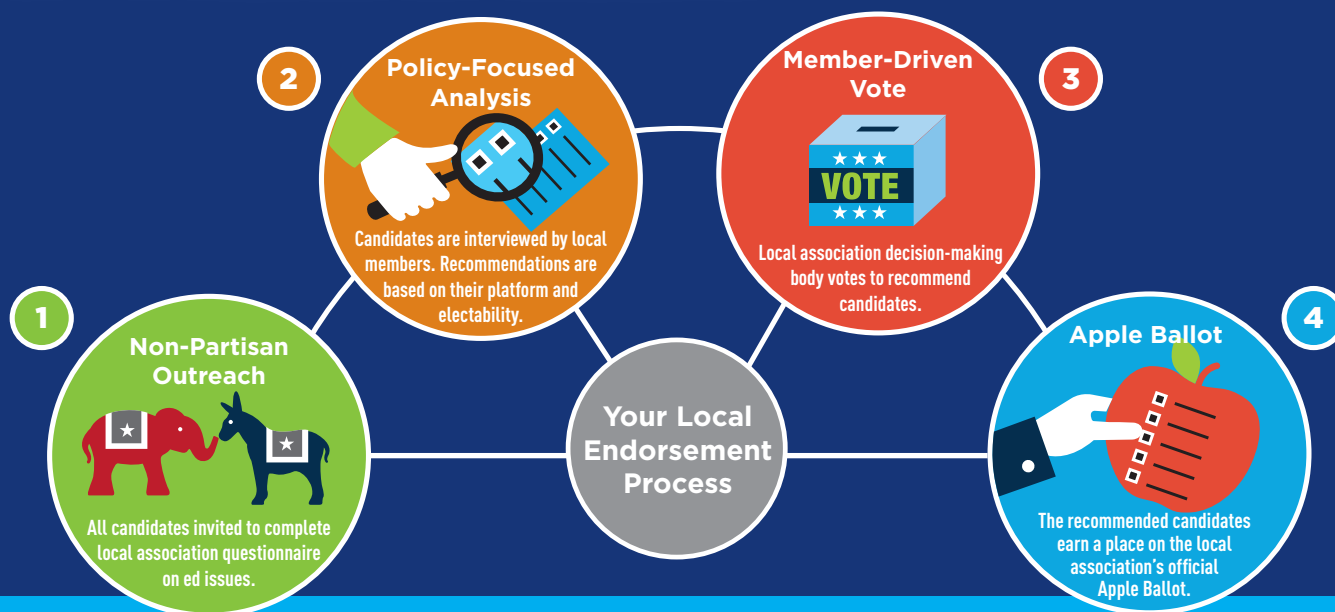
Brian Frosh is fighting for a healthier, cleaner, safer Maryland—and one with strong, well-supported public schools. In its endorsement of Frosh, *The Washington Post* wrote that he is “knowledgeable ... independent-minded ... honest,” and MSEA agrees.



Nice guy Brian Frosh has a tough guy image when it comes to the things Marylanders value—things like honesty, independence, and fairness.

HOW WE ENDORSE OUR CANDIDATES

Find more Election 2014 resources in the digital edition of ActionLine at marylandeducators.org/DigitalAL.



An Even Higher Bar for Statewide Candidates

MSEA invites all statewide candidates to complete a questionnaire and recorded interview.

MSEA shares candidate interviews and questionnaires online with members and Representative Assembly (RA) delegates.

A majority vote of MSEA's Endorsement Council, made up of state and local leaders, sends candidate recommendations to the RA.

Delegates review candidate records, listen to speeches, and vote on the recommendations. A candidate must receive 58% of the delegates' votes for endorsement.

Maria Lorena Grewe

World Language Teacher
E. Russell Hicks Middle School
Washington County



PHOTO: BRION MCCARTHY PHOTOGRAPHY © 2014

Espero poder inculcarles el respeto y la reverencia del aprendizaje.

I hope to instill in them respect and reverence for learning.

Watch Maria Lorena's video in the digital edition at marylandeducators.org/DigitalAL.

Though varied by geography and traditions, the many countries that make up the Hispanic world have many things in common—and a reverence for knowledge is one of them. Being well educated is the expectation and pursuit of countless people. Scientists, mathematicians, and doctors such as Severo Ochoa, José Ádem, Carmen Lelia Cristóbal, and Olga D. González-Sanabria spring forth from these communities and stand as role models. But sadly, when many Hispanic families come to the U.S., these role models become forgotten and educational goals become unreachable.

The objective in my classrooms is to bring the Spanish language to my students, but I try to do so with STEM subjects in mind. Whether it's a unit on the monarch butterfly, the sinking of a Spanish galleon, or the conversion of Celsius and Fahrenheit in weather predictions,

my students are always using their science, technology, engineering, or math skills, while building their Spanish skills. This year, I presented STEM Concepts for Foreign Language Classes to the Maryland Foreign Language Teacher's Association and the North East Conference of Teachers of Foreign Languages.

Also this year, I worked with my supervisor to create a Spanish language STEM program on the galaxy and the moon. It has been fun and creative working with my school's sixth grade teachers to create cross-curricular lessons.

My hope is to awaken in students the understanding that science is not difficult, but a part of everyday life. Learning it in a different language builds skills that they may need in careers that interact with a global 21st century community. *Espero poder inculcarles el respeto y la reverencia del aprendizaje.*

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