

May 4, 2015

**Representative**

**Council Highlights**

- May 4—May 29:  
Open Enrollment for benefits: Make sure to look at Craig Frame's email regarding changes in plan costs before you enroll!
- State Council Elections: Watch for envelope in the mail and vote by May 11th.
- AdHoc//Bargaining Update on page 2
- CTA leadership elections held:

**President:**

Eric Heins

**Vice President:**

Teresa Montana

**Secretary/**

**Treasurer:**

David Goldberg

# MTA NEWS

Murrieta Teachers Association

## President's Message from Kathy Ericson

The saying goes, "The busier you are the faster time flies!" It's hard to believe we have less than 6 weeks before another school year comes to an end. This year has been filled with bond undertaking, curriculum evolution, technology progression, rich training, shared leadership, PLC collaboration, committee counsel, work team diligence, and commitment from each of you to bring your students the education and engagement Murrieta is known for.

Our tentative agreement was ratified by our members and approved by the Board of Education. This agreement provides a 3.17% one time, off schedule bonus. The district is doing their best to ensure the bonus is included in our May pay checks. The agreement also includes the fold in of our 3 new member groups, so I'd like to welcome our psychs, SLPs, and nurses. We look forward to building these partnerships.

MTA's EBoard elections have concluded. Incumbents re-elected include Beth Szabo as Middle School Director, Matt Johnson as Special E. Director, and yours truly as your President. Adam Knutson has been elected into the position of Treasurer for Russ Welch, who has stepped down to focus on his upcoming wedding. Congrats to Russ and a huge welcome to Adam!

This summer, there are opportunities for paid professional development the week after school lets out and the week before school begins in August. These trainings are mandatory, however attendance over the summer is not. The paid trainings will also be offered in 3 hour increments after school in August/September. The last option to attend the required trainings is to be released from the classroom in the beginning of the school year. When we return in August there will also be leadership training for all leadership teams.

Finally, I'd like to wish our retirees the best. You all have given so much to our district over the years, and our students have benefited from your dedication to education. Enjoy your extended summer!

As always, I'm here to support each one of you. Feel free to reach out any time.

Kathy

**Check out the MTA website:**

[murrietateachers.com](http://murrietateachers.com)

# Director Reports

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## Middle School Director

### **Beth Szabo**

Each middle school site should be providing a copy clerk for three hours per day. This article of the contract was added when middle schools went to a common prep since it is difficult for all teachers to have access to the copy machine in the same 50 minute block. If your site does not have a copy clerk in place at this time, you should be hearing about someone fulfilling that job description in the near future. In order for that position to be maintained, teachers need to utilize their services.

## Elementary Director:

### **Matt Klingelberg**

I would like to address two things in this letter. First is teacher participation at your sites. There are a lot of chances, especially this time of year, to get involved in what is going on at your site. One of the issues that

arises is that participation is often before or after school hours. Although this can be an inconvenience, it is important that we take advantage of these chances. We can only expect our administration teams to ask for our input so many times before they start making decisions without our input.

The other topic that is going to continue to become more important is your leadership team and the dissemination of information. Please talk with your team leaders and request that the leadership agendas and minutes of the meetings get emailed out to all teachers at your school. Typically this email will come from your administrator. As always, if you have any questions please feel free to email me.

## High School Director

### **Kyle Garrity**

The end of the year gives us a chance to take account of this past year and start planning for next. Progress has been made with brighter contract and salary language, as well as an expanding teaching voice found in the strength of our MTA reps, the department chair leadership teams, and new technology teams. During the next few weeks, our departments should be considering who their leads are for next year and conducting elections. These veteran and newly elected leads will be participating in our first joint district-union seminars in the fall to discuss the importance of shared leadership and collaborative planning to improve our schools and the state of teaching. Department Chairs should also be actively participating in the current master schedule decision process with department teacher input, and advocating for appropriate placement of our students in courses, particularly freshman math. The ITL-ITCs will be determining over the next few months the baseline that each classroom should have for technology. Make sure communication lines are clear regarding this technology purchasing process. Each high school site should also be conducting elections of their union reps for next year. Thank you for all your hard work in all the committees and in the leadership teams. The more voice and connection we have, the better our days look... Have a great summer.

## **Negotiations Update from Tom Kuzma— V.P.**

Another year is almost complete but we are squarely in the middle of AdHoc and negotiations. Here is a quick rundown of what is happening.

Negotiations—Wayne Conklin and I are currently in discussions with the district for three new groups to MTA: Nurses, SLP (speech) and psychologists. These three groups in the past have not had any representation. They are happy to be joining us. They have six or seven issues that we would like to address and include caseload and salary. We hope to complete discussions and negotiations for them by June 2016. We also have our first non-certificated group, ESPs (Education Support Professionals), who would like to join MTA: Early childhood teachers. We are in the process of folding them in to MTA.

AdHoc— We have put off discussions concerning employee compensation for 15/16 and 16/17 until after Governor Brown releases his budget revision on May 14. We will then open up discussions for compensation at that time. The economy has definitely moved in a positive direction, but it is still unknown how Brown will spend the excess money that the state has collected over the last couple of years. Education is due the majority of the money based on Prop 98, but the Governor has discretion on how to spend it. We are anxious to get back to the table for discussions and will work hard to have an agreement .soon.