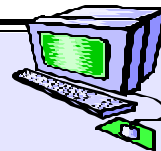




Sept 2006
BACK TO SCHOOL



Connected

The Newsletter of the Miami Valley Educational Computer Association



Norma Stewart, Ph.D.
Executive Director



MVECA is pleased to announce
Angela M. Crandall as MVECA's next
Executive Director. Angela will begin as



Executive Director on September 1, 2006. Angie has previously worked at ODE for 7 years; five of them as an EMIS administrator. She has had various significant experiences in education and administration, including experience a classroom teacher, as a consultant for information technology centers, school districts and educational service centers, work with the Ohio Hunger Task Force, and Legislative Office of Education Oversight. Angie is currently completing her Ph.D. in public administration at the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University.

What else is NEW at MVECA? Read on...

Network updates: Several changes have been made to the MVECA network over the summer – and several more are planned. See page 5 for details...

New Council of Governments: On July 6, 2006, the MVECA Assembly unanimously approved the conversion of MVECA to a Council of Governments. There are **new ByLaws** to govern the new MVECA COG, but there are no substantive changes in the way MVECA will operate. One benefit of this conversion to a COG is that the MVECA COG has been able to employ a Treasurer instead of contracting with a school district for fiscal agent services. One of our fiscal support team, Tom Faulkner, now also serves as the **COG Treasurer**.

Passage of SUB HB115: The regionalization bill (HB115) becomes effective September 21, 2006. The Bill created an Educational Regional Service System (ERSS) to provide support to school districts through 16 regions. MVECA will be meeting with each region which we serve to see how we can better coordinate and improve our services for our districts.

DASL is now live in two districts in the MVECA area. The DASL software replaces the POISE software that we have used for the past several years. For more details on DASL, see page 2.

D3A2: The Data Driven Decisions for Academic Achievement (D3A2) project will provide systemic access to timely data and educational resources aligned to Ohio's Academic Content Standards. Tools accessible through D3A2 will help educators analyze data, and then point them to resources such as lesson plans and assessments designed to address academic needs identified by the data. D3A2 will put data and resources in the hands of educators, parents and students in a powerful, appropriate and easy-to-use format. As D3A2 progresses, teachers will save time by gaining access to aligned resources for improving classroom instruction. Learn more at the D3A2 website at www.d3a2.org.

Newly Elected COG Governing Board:

David Baits - 2 year term
Superintendent
Cedar Cliff Local

Dave Bollheimer-3 year term
Treasurer
Northwestern Local

Keith Brown -3 year term
Superintendent
Washington Court House

Joan Corbitt -1 year term
Treasurer
Greeneview Local

Denny Howell -2 year term
Superintendent
Greenon Local

Ben Teeters -2 year term
Treasurer
Washington Court House

Phil Warner -3 year term
Superintendent
Wilmington City Schools

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Student Services

*Lynda Davis * Stacy Hurtt * Sandra Ingledue * Annette Puckett

SIS UPDATE

Lynda



Annette

Welcome Back to another new school year!
I hope everyone has had a relaxing and enjoyable summer!

With the new school year underway and having the SIS Beginning of the Year Meeting under our belt, I hope everyone is ready to get this year started.

During the course of the school year more SIS trainings will be offered such as Attendance, Fees, Grade Cards/Interims, Report Writer (Repo) Reports, SIS New Users, and Discipline. As the training sessions are scheduled a message to the SIS distribution list will be sent out announcing those trainings.

If you missed the SIS Beginning of the Year meeting, the handouts (Chapters 1 and 2) are available on MVECA's website at the following url: <http://www.mveca.org/SIS/Manual/default.htm> Chapters 1 and 2 are the chapters that schools need to go through and complete before the start of school. Following these two checklists will ensure a smooth start to the school year!

Thank you!

This has been a very busy summer for our DASL team. We have successfully converted two districts from SIS to DASL. Congratulations to Northwestern and Greenon School Districts who are now LIVE. We are hearing great reports from these districts on how well their users are enjoying DASL. Across the state of Ohio, there are currently over 148 school districts that are LIVE with DASL.

We have included several new additions to the DASL page on the MVECA website to help both those districts who will be making their switch to DASL during the 06-07 school year and those who are currently LIVE. Please check in often for new information on trainings and up to date documentation. The link for the DASL information page is: <http://www.mveca.org/SIS/DASL/default.htm>. If you have questions on the conversion process for your specific district, please contact your superintendent's office. They will have the name and contact information for your district's DASL Implementation Leader as your conversion date approaches.

Greene Co. schools should begin their plans for implementation. Documentation, information and a brief video about DASL are available at www.mveca.org/SIS/DASL/default.htm.

DASL TRAINING CONVERSION SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE (subject to change)

CLARK COUNTY: April 2006 through November 2006

GREENE COUNTY: October 2006 through February 2007

CLINTON, FAYETTE, HIGHLAND COUNTIES: February 2007 through June 2007

MADISON COUNTY: February 2007 through June 2007

New MCOECN Student Select Program enables students, educators, and parents to purchase Microsoft, Adobe, and FileMaker software at the lowest prices available through [Educational Resources](#) and powered by [journeyEd.com](#).

Talk to Thor for details.

"The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them."
Albert Einstein

PROGRESS BOOK/SPECIAL SERVICES

Sandra

Greetings everyone. There are seventeen Progress Book districts and fourteen districts using the Special Services Module for the 2006-2007 school year. The conversion for our first two districts from SIS to DASL and Progress Book went smoothly and we look forward to bringing on new DASL districts throughout the year. Rollovers and upgrades were successfully installed to both softwares over the summer months and we are off to a new beginning.

PROGRESS BOOK

Progress Book is now in version 6.1 with nice updates for teachers in the Lesson Plan and the Assignment Type areas. Teachers can login and access the documentation pertaining to the upgrades from the lower portion (in green) of their grade book page. There are help links located on each page of the grade book.

SPECIAL SERVICES

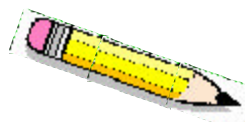
The Special Services Module is now in version 3.3 with updates in the setup options area to now bank accommodations, goals and objectives for Special Education teachers. The EMIS piece is still undergoing testing. We look forward to being able to use this piece by the end of the year. We will keep you informed on the progress.

If you would like to schedule a Progress Book or Special Services training or presentation in your district or building after September, email us at progressbook@mveca.org and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Check out the Progress Book web site at www.mveca.org/progressbook.

PARENT ACCESS

With the start of school being such a busy time, Parent Access currently looks just as it did in the Fall. With the new upgrade over the summer, Parent Access can now have a new look and many more features for teachers as well as administrators and parents. Some of the enhancements include the redesign of the Parent Access login page. Your district administrators can have the ability to post attachments, links, and messages for the parents of the district for a specific building. Someone in the district would need to assume the Administrative role to maintain the buildings. Teachers could to post attachments and links to homework and messages. New roles for control of publishing information and input are now available in the new Parent Access. Teachers can have a choice as to whether parents will be able to view excluded assignments or not. The ability to view parent and student email addresses can be available with the upgrade. Parents could have the ability to view grading scales, homework and message attachments and links. Parents can have the ability to reset their student's passwords for Parent Access and will be able to see the new "Progress Summary", "Progress Details" and "Attendance" pages for their students. You can have the option to post report card data to the Parent Access web site. You could send us a publishing date and we will add this into Progress Book so that on this date, parents can see report cards and interim reports by logging into their child's account. The changes should promote more communication and customization in addition to improved progress reporting. Please check out the PowerPoint presentation in the Parent Access section of the Progress Book web site.



MVECA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., Sept. 4	MVECA Offices closed	Fri., Oct.20	Fiscal monthly meeting
Thurs., Sept 7	INFOhio Open Lab	Fri., Nov. 10	INFOhio Open Lab
Fri., Sept. 15	Fiscal monthly meeting	Thurs., Nov 16	MVECA ASSEMBLY & Board Mtgs
Thurs., Sept. 21	MVECA Board Meeting	Fri., Nov. 17	Fiscal monthly meeting
Wed., Sept. 27	Staff EMIS 07K reporting	Nov. 23-24	MVECA Offices closed
Wed., Oct. 18	INFOhio Open Lab	Fri., Dec. 15	Fiscal monthly meeting
Thurs., Oct. 19	MVECA Board Meeting		

You can register online for all MVECA events at: www.mveca.org/www/training/registration_form.htm



Jim Pesch

Sirsi Software

This summer we updated the Sirsi Workflows server software to version GL3.1. As a result, you will need to update your client software on your pc, the first time you login to Workflows. Please remember that you may need your technology coordinator or someone with administrative access to do this. You will know that the update is not successful if you see error notices that say "unable to write ..." If you have any questions do not hesitate to call or submit a helpdesk ticket.

The Java version of the client software is not quite ready. We were hoping to start migrating MAC districts in September but it looks like we will have to wait for the first GL3.1 sub-release, due this fall. There are several minor issues that need to be addressed before the software can be released.

Electronic Resources

Of course you have heard that the home-use password for electronic resources is changing. MVECA and INFOhio have sent this new password out to their respective e-lists. Please check your old e-mail if you have missed this message. Remember, as part of the license agreement, we cannot publish the password in a public forum. You may send the password home with students and have it posted in your school. You may not put it on a public web page or send it to every household in your district.

INFOhio has created a number of promotional materials for electronic resources. These include bookmarks, postcards, and flyers. The customizable ones are available to all. The ones with the password pre-printed are available to library staff (separate password required). To get a peek at these materials please visit: <http://www.infohio.org/FallUpdate2006/SupplyList0607.html>.

You may notice some changes in the electronic resources. For a detailed list of changes, go to. <http://www.infohio.org/ER/ProductUpdates/Complete2006.html>

LSTA Grants

The State Library of Ohio has just announced the latest round of LSTA grant funding for continuing education. The purpose of the Statewide Continuing Education Grant Program is to support costs associated in offering continuing education, professional development, seminars, and training programs that increase the competencies of library staff. For more information visit the state library site at: <http://winfo.state.oh.us/publib/lsta98.html>

INFOhio Open Lab Days

Thurs., Sept. 7	Wed., Oct. 18
Fri., Nov. 10	Tues., Jan. 9
Mon., Feb. 12	



Deb Dinnen, Tom Faulkner

The fiscal staff is excited about the good feedback we are receiving on the USASWEB application. Users are trying the different modules to create requisitions, purchase orders, receipts and invoices. Change is often difficult and the adjustment may be time consuming but will be beneficial in the long term. The migration from outdated COBOL programs to the web-based application provides the ability to integrate third-party software and allow districts to implement new technology such as time card processing and online approval. During the migration period, it will be necessary for you to run the Open VMS programs along with USASWEB. USASWEB and USPSWEB are not fully functional. However, MVECA will continue to install updates as we receive them and provide training. RCPROC, RECEDT, APE and VENSCN will not be available on the September, 2006 release of the software.

Monthly fiscal meetings are scheduled for the third Friday of each month. Our goal is to create a Best Practices manual for the Treasurer's Office. Each month we have a lively, open discussion about USAS and USPS. The September meeting is scheduled for September 15. Pari Swift from the Historical Society will present record retention guidelines and Chris Castle will be here from STRS.

Upcoming Events:

- 9/15/06 Fiscal Monthly Meeting
- 9/27/06 Staff EMIS 07K Reporting
- 10/20/06 Fiscal Monthly Meeting
- 11/17/06 Fiscal Monthly Meeting
- 12/15/06 Fiscal Monthly Meeting



Thor Sage, Steve Phipps

Network Update

In order to handle the increased bandwidth that will be available with the new TFN (Third Frontier Network) connection, the boarder router was replaced. MVECA's firewall will also be replaced by the end of August with a more powerful one, which also has failover capabilities. MVECA also just completed an IP address switchover. The K12 network in Ohio switched ISPs (Internet Service Provider) which required an IP address switch. MVECA has purchased a block of IP addresses from ARIN so any future changes will not require any re-numbering. We also took over primary DNS (Domain Name Service) for all of the district domains. By the end of September we should be connected to our new TFN connection. The new connection is an OC-3, which is 155mb, and it replaces our DS-3, which is 45mb. We will not have a full 155mb of internet bandwidth but we will be able to make use of all of it for traffic inside of the K12 network. Initially we will have 40mb of Internet bandwidth, which we will monitor and increase as needed. Future plans are to install a second dedicated internal DNS server. The server is configured and ready to go, we just need to change the IP address of some systems. Those changes should be made by mid September. A bit further out is a change from the TFN OC-3 connection to a Gigabit Ethernet connection. This will be at least 6 months in the future.

The **Ohio K-12 Network application** is now available online at [<http://www.etech.ohio.gov/go/ohiok12networkfy07>]. Districts will again need to use their Hall Pass accounts to apply for the subsidy.

Districts will still need to complete the online application including an updated WAN diagram, and applicants are still required to have completed an eligible Funding Year 2006 E-Rate application. Schools submit a WAN (wide area network) diagram which will be reviewed this year by the ITCs for the first time. The per-building allocation for FY07 remains at \$3,000 per eligible building. Eligible entities include all Public Schools, Community Schools, Educational Service Centers, Joint Vocational Schools, Ohio School for the Deaf, Ohio School for the Blind, and the Dept. of Youth Services.

The application deadline for this year is Tuesday, October 31, 2006, and there will be **NO LATE APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED**. Should you have any questions concerning the application process, please contact program manager Scott Gaughan at scott.gaughan@etech.ohio.gov or by phone at 614.485.6004.

OnBase Document Management System

MVECA's solution for paperless document management is now configured and ready for widespread use. The OnBase software provides users with opportunities to archive old files and documents in a digital format, and import new documents by way of data processes that can make printing unnecessary. The security features in the software can ensure that only authorized users can use or view various documents. A web based interface can be accessed from any desktop and provides search tools that makes finding the documents you need quick and easy. If you'd like more information about OnBase, please call Thor at MVECA.

Authorized Override Accounts

The use of authorized override accounts is sometimes a quick and easy way to screen websites that are blocked by the content filter. It is unlikely, however, that every member of your staff needs an override. If an educationally valuable site is blocked, you can send the address of that site to helpdesk@mveca.org (or create a new request in CA Unicenter). Sites that are blocked under broad categories, but contain valuable educational content can be "unblocked" quickly. By creating large numbers of override accounts, districts increase the chances that account information will be compromised. Instead, consider having a single override account holder for each building that can help teachers screen sites, and can work with MVECA to edit the content filter for the benefit of everyone.

CA Unicenter ServiceDesk (Helpdesk)

If you are a person in your building or district that contacts MVECA for technical, fiscal, or INFOhio services, then you should find out how to logon to the helpdesk software. Doing so will provide you with a place where you can easily log a problem for the MVECA staff and will allow you to track progress on all your requests. Your login will also provide you with a complete record of all your past requests. Everything from password resets and content filter edits to questions about fiscal applications can be placed in helpdesk. Currently, only the service areas mentioned above have implemented the software, but soon all of MVECA services will be accessible through the easy to use interface. If you're interested in taking a look at the new helpdesk, give your MVECA representative a call or send an email.



EMIS UPDATE

The ODE website has been redesigned effective August 21. To get to the EMIS homepage, go to the ODE homepage, <http://www.ode.state.oh.us> and select EMIS under the Data and Statistics menu option located on the left-hand side of the page. We are working on updating all EMIS links at the EMIS Information section of the MVECA website. An announcement will be made when the website updates have been completed.

FY 2007 EMIS Manual – Final

The final FY07 EMIS manual is now available at the ODE website. Areas of change are highlighted on the Word version, while the PDF version does not contain any highlights indicating changes. This final version of the manual incorporates all known changes for the FY 2007 school year.

New for FY07 – Community School Reporting

Students who attended a community school in FY06 or prior, and who do not return to the resident district by the end of October Count Week, should be reported with a withdrawal code of 41 and a withdrawal date of 20060701 during the FY07 October (K) reporting period. Building personnel can begin now updating SIS with the withdrawal information and running UNCLEMIS to update the EMIS records for these students.

The Community School Attending/Home IRN Indicator of “M” is to be used only in the October (K) reporting period to report students who leave their resident district to attend a community school. These students were not withdrawn during the previous school year and have not re-enrolled in their resident district during October Count Week. These students will have a withdrawal date of July 1 and a withdrawal reason of “41”. No students should be reported with an Attending/Home IRN Indicator of “M” after the end of October Count Week.

Beginning in FY 2007 (7-1-06), when a resident student transfers to a community school the resident district should follow the normal withdrawal procedure - withdraw the student using the appropriate withdrawal date and a withdrawal code of 41. If the student returns to the resident district, the resident district should use the same procedure and coding that they would use for any student returning to the district. These students would not be reported with an “M” Attending/Home IRN Indicator.

Concerning the CSADM - the resident district will still be responsible for checking the CSADM for any resident students, and flagging them as your residents out at the CSADM website. This is because funding for community schools is still tied to the student’s district of residence. Please contact your area coordinator for more information on that if needed, since this is not stated in any documentation from ODE.

New KG Withdrawal Code 37 – Clarification

The intent behind the new withdrawal code of “37” was to identify students who began KG but it was later determined that the student was not ready and a decision is made to withdraw the student after the first day of school. Decisions made prior to the start of school are not affected by this new code. For students who did not attend at all, you should continue to send requests to helpdesk@mveca.org to have them wiped out of EMIS.

UNCLEMIS!!! UNCLEMIS!!! UNCLEMIS!!!

The EMIS LIVE cleanups were completed for all districts early August. Everyone should be running UNCLEMIS daily. Please email helpdesk@mveca.org for assistance with UNCLEMIS errors.

Important EMIS Dates:

- *September 19 thru 21, 2006 – OEDSA Fall 2006 Conference
- *September 28, 2006 – FY07 EMIS October (K) Reporting Requirements Meeting.
- *September 29, 2006 – Data Accuracy/Completeness Signoff deadline for FY06 Period N (forms available at ODE website: <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODEODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=755&Content=15160>)
- *October 13, 2006 – First processing of period K FY07 data. Deadline for initial Period K data to be at TIC (per Ohio Revised Code).
- *October 27, 2006 – Deadline for initial period K FY07 data to be submitted to ODE.
- *November 11, 2006 – (FY07 Period K) Districts which are currently out of compliance will be sent a warning letter on 11/14/2006 to inform them that the 45 day corrective action cycle will begin for period K on 12/05/2006 and any district out of compliance will receive a letter based upon data submitted on 12/01/2006
- *November 11, 2006 – Data submitted used for the December #1 foundation payment