

# MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

December 2015

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## President's Report - Susan Hafner

Welcome Back-

Before break, the board approved a motion to extend Lanty McGuire's tenure as superintendent for the 2016-2017 school year. This comes as good news to our district, for Lanty has been a positive change this year. I think we can all remember the positive atmosphere that permeated the auditorium on that warm first day in August. Now, even though the days have turned colder, the overall positivity continues.

Most teachers have been off to a great start this year, and we have had very few concerns from the ARs at our monthly meetings. I think we set a record in November when we didn't have any official concerns from your representatives. However, this doesn't mean that everything is perfect in our district. We are always trying to make things better for students and teachers; and Lanty, Todd, and Matt have been very receptive to our thoughts and concerns. We continue to have discussions concerning co-teaching, special education, curriculum, and testing. The nice thing is that we are having a true discussion with respected views on both sides.

Also, the calendar options for the 2016-2017 school year are posted on the district website. Please look at the options and cast your vote.

As a person who appreciates brevity, I wish you all a very happy 2016. We are nearly finished with the first semester, and if the second goes as quickly as the first, summer will be here before we know it.

With warm thoughts-  
Susie

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## AR Secretary's Report - Emily Roberts

Moline Education Association  
Association Representative Meeting  
Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The MEA Association Representatives met Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at the IEA Office, Moline. President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:50pm. There was no quorum present.

In the absence of Treasurer Mary Nelson, Heidi Norcross reported balances in all accounts. It was voted (January 2015) to not publish the dollar amounts in the MEA budget in neither the minutes nor the Monitor. Members with questions regarding the MEA account balances are asked to contact Treasurer Mary Nelson.

### Committee Chair Reports:

- Membership – Heidi Norcross reported membership stands at 437.
- Elections – no report.
- Legislative – Dave Strafford will attend a training session in Springfield.
- Region 18 – no report.
- Public Relations – Kim Anderson reported that the MEA blog was updated and the Years of Service pins and certificates completed.
- Social – no report.
- Grievance/Negotiations – no report.

### Old Business:

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- President Hafner reported hearing positive feedback regarding the co-teaching rounds, and noted that more teachers would be involved next semester.
  - President Hafner noted that, while the number of CHIs and paras hired in the district was slightly down this year, this issue still needs to be addressed during contract negotiations.
  - There was no plan announced for a superintendent search at the BOE meeting.

New Business:

- President Hafner and Vice-President Christine Watts addressed concerns with co-teaching and special education students in a meeting with Superintendent McGuire. President Hafner informed members that Mr. McGuire wanted staff to know that he hears and understands the concerns.

A.R. Concerns:

- It was voted (2010-2011) to not publish AR concerns in the Monitor. ARs were reminded to communicate concerns discussed at the meeting with the other MEA members they represent. President Hafner will discuss most issues in the "President's Corner" section of the Monitor or send superintendent's responses directly to the ARs for dissemination to members.


There was no further business. The meeting adjourned at 4:01pm.

Respectfully submitted, Emily Roberts, MEA Secretary



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## Folger Shakespeare Library

1. You have the most important job on Earth. More important than what any brilliantly talented actor or director or anybody does in the Festival, or any scientist in any lab, or any government official in any country. You have the most important job on Earth....
  2. The work you do is hard, hard work.
  3. And it's not a solitary activity. The more we collaborate, the more we learn and the better we get.
  4. You have to put up with all kinds of people who are "experts" in K-12 education-policy makers, parents, textbook publishers, whomever- experts because they too went through those grades. Sigh!
  5. Your classroom is where the magic happens, and that's because you are dedicated, and creative and funny. Don't give that up.
  6. Some people who teach are lovely people but they just shouldn't be teachers. They should have another kind of job because they're not so good at teaching.
  7. Good teachers take risks. All the time. And partly that's because you are always looking for a better way to do it, another way to get to that kid.
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8. People who think that teachers finish up work every day at 2:30 or 3:00 and have their weekends off and summers off are complete idiots.

9. You don't just teach literature, grammar, drama. You teach curiosity, respect, the excitement and discipline of learning. the leading of a good life. You show what the light inside a good person looks like.

10. What you are asked to do- in a school, in your classroom- every day is absolutely impossible. And you do it, every single day.

Next AR Meeting: January 14th, 2016  
Next Executive Board Meeting: February 4th, 2016

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