

# MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

December 2019

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## President's Report - Susan Hafner

Hello Everyone-

We have nearly survived these last days before break. This time of year is so busy with music programs, holiday parties, Share Joys, and so much more. Beyond all that, we are teaching and hopefully our students are learning--if they can stay focused. That seems to be an issue for some of my students, especially those who will be graduating in January. Another year has come and gone--and on this New Year's Eve, we will say goodbye to another decade. Is that possible?!

In the upcoming year, the District is hoping to hire additional counselors, and the positions have already been posted on the website. For the 2020-2021 year, our middle schools will each have two counselors and our elementary buildings will each have one--no more traveling for our elementary counselors! This is exciting news because our children need more support than ever, for many of them have lives that are more difficult than we can imagine. With the additional support at the earlier stages, our students can learn strategies on dealing with stress, frustration, sadness, and so many other emotions that are a part of their everyday lives. We are definitely moving in the right direction as a district.

The K-5 ELA pilot is continuing to the end of second quarter, so no decisions will be made until the new year. The teachers on this committee have been working hard and want to provide the best feedback possible before making any final recommendations on the future ELA curriculum. I want to thank everyone involved because I know that piloting a new text can be very time consuming and demanding, but, in the end, your work will result in a better understanding of what is needed for our students' success.

I know that the news for this Monitor is brief, but what is included is very important to everyone in our district. In the decade ahead, our students will be getting more help for their emotional and mental well being, which will have a positive effect in more ways than one and for years to

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come. I hope you all have a wonderful break and take time to relax, which is difficult with the busy holidays. However, it has to be a bit more calm than this last week of joyous chaos, right?!

Enjoy these last days of 2019, and I will see you next year-  
Susie

## AR Secretary's Report - Emily Roberts

Moline Education Association  
Association Representatives Meeting  
Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The MEA Association representatives met Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at the IEA office, Moline. President Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:45pm. There were 23 ARs and 11 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Marlene DeLong, seconded by Sally Krantz, to approve the minutes of the September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, and October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, AR meetings. **Motion** approved.

Treasurer Steve Sundberg reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Lori Wesemann, seconded by Marlene DeLong. **Motion** passed. 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 Steve Sundberg.

### Committee Chair Reports:

- Membership – in the absence of chair Heidi Norcross, President Hafner reported membership stands at 459.
- Elections – in the absence of chair Raegan Jones, President Hafner reported one member is currently on the ballot as a delegate for the IEA/RA Convention. Any member interested in being a delegate is asked to contact Raegan Jones or President Hafner before December 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Legislative – no report.
- Region 18 – Lori Wesemann reported that the new para law had passed.

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- Public Relations – in the absence of chair Kim Anderson, President Hafner reported that the MEA blog was updated.
  - Social – in the absence of chair Aubree Kroll, Christine Watts reported that a social event was scheduled for Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 3:30pm., at the Steel Plow in Moline.
  - Grievance/Negotiations – no report.

Old Business:

- President Hafner reported that hard copies of the new contract were not yet available.
- President Hafner reported that the concern over lack of deans at the middle school level had been discussed with Dr. Savage.
- President Hafner reported that every elementary school would have a full-time counselor beginning next school year; middle schools will each have two full-time counselors.
- President Hafner e-mailed a list of AR duties to each AR. She discussed the addition of duty #13 – the role of the AR during a disciplinary meeting.

A motion was made by Christine Watts, seconded by Dinah Leibovitz, to cancel the December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, AR meeting. **Motion** approved.

A.R. Concerns:

- It was voted (2010-2011) to not publish the 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 being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Matt Perkins, seconded by Robin McConnell. **Motion** approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Roberts  
MEA Secretary

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Moline Education Association  
Association Representatives Meeting  
Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The MEA Association Representatives met Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at the IEA office, Moline. President Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:47pm. There were 21 ARs and 9 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was not present.

Committee Chair Reports:

- Membership – in the absence of Heidi Norcross, President Hafner reported membership stands at 459, an increase of 10 members from last year.
- Elections – Marigrace Alonso reported nominations for the IEA RA convention open in November.
- Legislative – President Hafner noted that chair Raegan Jones still needed members on her legislative team.
- Region 18 – no report.
- Public Relations – no report.
- Social – no report.
- Grievance/Negotiations – no report.

Old Business:

- President Hafner addressed the issue of chromebooks for subs in the September/October Monitor. She noted chromebooks could now be used with the document cameras, but were still not SmartBoard compatible.
- Streaming issues were addressed in the Monitor.
- President Hafner noted she is working to have better communication regarding special education (Allendale). There is still a shortage of special education teachers, and there are waiting lists for both Blackhawk Area Special Ed and Camelot.
- President Hafner will address the issue of computer labs on carts with the individual building members.

New Business:

- President Hafner noted the new MEA contract would be available on-line by Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Members wanting a hard copy are asked to contact President Hafner.
  - Dr. Savage will be sending a school climate survey to staff. Members are encouraged to be candid when completing the form. President Hafner noted she had received positive comments from Dr. Savage regarding MSD teachers.
  - The ELA pilot is starting.
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A.R. Concerns:

- It was voted (2010-2011) to not publish the 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.

The meeting adjourned at 4:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Roberts  
MEA Secretary

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# MEA Member News

## Condolences to:

- Sue Iverson (JDMS) – death of her father.
- Cori Dobereiner – (Jefferson ECH) – death of her father.