

# MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

February 2020

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## President's Report - Susan Hafner

Hello Everyone-

It is cold outside today! I thought that little groundhog promised an early spring!! Luckily, the weather has been pretty timid until now and we haven't had any snow/cold days so far. I hope that continues. I also hope the new year is going well and that your students have settled back in after the much needed winter break. To be honest, I can't believe that it is already the middle of February. Time goes by so quickly.

At the last board meeting, several teachers and Matt DeBaene updated the board on the K-5 ELA pilot. It was interesting to see the positives and some of the struggles that have been a part of this trial period. Once again, I want to thank all of the teachers involved in the pilot, for this was no easy task and demanded a lot of those individuals. I am anxious to see the end results.

On another note, at the last AR meeting Christine discussed my Classroom Visit Protocol proposal, which requests that visitors be escorted when visiting a classroom--to drop off a lunch, talk to a teacher, observe the class, etc. We have had a number of parents who have been abusive to teachers and administrators, so I feel that we need to take this extra precaution. I discussed this with Todd DeTaeye and Kristin Sanders, who thought it was a good idea. Kristin said that she would share with the principals at the next meeting. Their swift action is much appreciated.

The hiring of the elementary counselors is underway, which is great news. I know that we heard of the plan to have a counselor in every elementary school, but to know it is a reality is awesome. This will be such a valuable addition to the schools and will benefit everyone involved--students, teachers, administrators, and parents. This definitely shows the District's commitment to our students' social and emotional well being.

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Another positive move by the District is the hiring of a dean at the middle school level. I am hopeful that the district will see the benefit of this position and work toward a full time position at each school, rather than one person sharing the time between the two schools. Discipline has been a major issue over the past two years, and hopefully, we will see a difference next year.

With the winter months, I tend to check the weather app daily and today shows a positive forecast with 40 and even 50 degree weather in the next two weeks. Let's hope the groundhog was correct and we really do have an early spring. It is amazing how quickly things can change--from snow to flowers in a matter of weeks. Soon our students won't have to get bundled up to go outside, which is a major event if you teach those early grades, and we won't have to change out the tissue boxes every other day. Think warm thoughts and enjoy this Valentine's Day.

Have a wonderful long weekend-  
Susie

## **AR Secretary's Report - Emily Roberts**

Moline Education Association  
Association Representatives Meeting  
Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The MEA Association representatives met Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at the IEA office, Moline. President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:45pm. There were 20 ARs and 6 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was not present.

### Committee Chair Reports:

- **Membership** – no report.
- **Elections** – In the absence of chair MariGrace Alonso, Lori Wesemann reported that Kathleen MacLennan and Julie Bender would be the delegates for the IEA RA Convention. Nominations for delegates to the NEA RA open February 10<sup>th</sup> and close approximately March 10<sup>th</sup>; the vote would be March 31<sup>st</sup>. She noted there would also be a special election at that time for an ethnic minority representative. Any interested in a nomination form is asked to contact Lori Wesemann, President Hafner, or Leslie Kahler at the IEA office in Moline. President Hafner reminded the ARs to not write a candidate's name on a ballot without prior approval from that person.

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- **Legislative** – President Hafner noted there was still discussion on changing Tier 2.
  - **Region 18** – Lori Wesemann reported there would be a delegate briefing on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - **Public Relations** – no report.
  - **Social** – Aubree Kroll noted there had been a good turnout for the last social.
  - **Grievance/Negotiations** – no report.

### **Old Business:**

- President Hafner noted there would be one Dean, to start, with the position shared between the middle schools; there would also be two counselors at each middle school and one counselor at each elementary school.

### **New Business:**

- President Hafner expressed her positive opinion regarding the January 6<sup>th</sup> in-service presenter. She noted the district's security updates, including visitors "buzzed in," working security cameras, and a check on drivers' licenses at MHS. There was discussion on possible topics for future in-services.

There were now 23 ARs and 6 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.


A motion was made by Robin McConnell, seconded by Marlene DeLong, to approve the minutes of the November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, AR meeting. **Motion** passed.

Treasurer Steve Sundberg reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Lisa Welvaert, 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.

### **New Business continued:**

- President Hafner reported that, per Todd DeTaeye, there would be no cuts in teaching staff for the next school year. Pink slips would be sent to temporary late hires.

### **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"
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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 Marlene DeLong, seconded by Lisa Welvaert. **Motion** approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Roberts  
MEA Secretary

## MEA Member News

### **Condolences to:**

- Anna Bousson (Jane Addams) on the death of her father.
- Alina Schafman (Franklin) on the death of her aunt.
- Jenny Densberger (Franklin) on the death of her father-in-law

### **Congratulations to:**

- Jamie Kovacic (Hamilton) on the birth of her son
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**Teachers giving their students  
a pep talk in February about  
the rest of the school year.**

NOTHING  
TEACHERS

