

MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

January 2017

President's Report - Susan Hafner

Hello Everyone-

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I can't believe that it is 2017! We are nearly halfway through the school year. Time flies when you are having fun. I feel like the entire month of December was gone in a flash. It was such a busy time of winter music programs, Share Joys, staff parties, shopping, and the list goes on. How did we fit it all into one month?!

An update on the Co-teaching Survey: Administration decided to give the survey this spring rather than November. They thought it would be more accurate in comparison to last year's. Once again, please make sure you are honest and specific in your responses.

Technology: The decision to replace the desktop computers with laptops is still an ongoing discussion. Thank you to the technology committee for all of your research and input during this process. We should have more information shortly.

ELA Units: The units are being revisited and revised. I have conveyed to the administration some of the issues that need to be addressed and I will update the ARs at the January 12th meeting.

Middle School Schedule: Colette and the middle school representatives have been meeting and discussing options for the schedule. Hopefully, the committee will have a final option that will please both staff and administration before contract negotiations begin.

Negotiations: If you are interested in being on the negotiations committee, please email me. Remember that formal negotiations will begin at the very end of the spring semester and will most likely go into the summer. I will have the list of the final committee members by February 1, so we can begin the early stages of surveying staff.

School Board: Eight candidates are running for the three positions that will be up for this year's election in April. During the first week of March, the MEA plans on co-hosting a forum for the candidates, so the staff and public can meet them and hear their views. I hope that many of you will be able to attend. I will email the final date and additional details as soon as possible.

As we begin this new year, I hope everyone has a wonderful second semester. If it goes as quickly as the first, summer will be here before we know it. I like the thought of warm weather as my fingers are freezing typing this.

Have an awesome 2017-
Susie

AR Secretary's Report - Emily Roberts

Moline Education Association

Association Representatives Meeting

Wednesday, November 9th, 2016

The MEA Association Representatives met Wednesday, November 9th, 2016, at the IEA Office, Moline. President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:48pm. There not being a quorum present, President Hafner proceeded to the Committee Chair reports.

Committee Chair Reports:




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- Membership – in the absence of chair Heidi Norcross, President Hafner reported membership stands at 445. Envelopes containing MEA membership cards were given to the ARs to take and distribute at their buildings. Cards containing information on a new MY IEA app were also given to the ARs.
 - Elections – in the absence of chair Christine Watts, President Hafner asked that anyone interested in being nominated to attend an IEA event during spring break to contact Christine Watts. More information will be included in the Monitor.
 - Legislative – in the absence of chair Dave Strafford, President Hafner noted that Representative Mike Halpin was re-elected and that the 1% school tax had passed.
 - Region 18 – no report.
 - Public Relations – no report.
 - Social – Aubree Krol reported a social event would be planned for the end of January.
 - Grievance/Negotiations – in the absence of chair Colette Guerdet, President Hafner informed ARs that an e-mail request for serving on the negotiations team would be sent to MEA members.

There were now 26 representatives and 6 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Molly Forbes, seconded by Tricia Leibovitz, to approve the minutes of the October 13th, 2016, AR meeting. **Motion** passed.

Treasurer Mary Nelson reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Lisa Polito, seconded by Karri Dies. **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 Mary Nelson.

Old Business:

- Evaluations - President Hafner reminded members to ask for a “to date” rating. Administrators must answer with a numerical rating and give specific feedback on what is needed to improve the rating. President Hafner asked to be notified if administrators do not follow this procedure.

New Business:

- A motion was made by Rachel Moore, seconded by Lisa Polito, to appoint Liz O’Hern and Debbie Sturges as members of the MEA Audit Committee. **Motion** passed.
- President Hafner reminded members that the TRS .4% money remains in the district’s Educational Fund. Members should receive notice from TRS and IEA on when they may apply to receive money back from TRS.
- President Hafner reported that she and Colette Guerdet had discussed special education and co-teaching with Kristin Sanders. A survey with new questions will be sent this month to involved teachers. President Hafner encouraged teachers to respond with honest answers and opinions.
- ELA units – members were asked to e-mail President Hafner with specifics on what needs to be improved upon in the units.
- President Hafner noted that the middle schools schedules were still being worked on.
- Laptops for staff - President Hafner encouraged members to discuss questions and concerns with members of the technology committee.

A motion was made by Lori Wesemann, seconded by Lisa Polito, to cancel the December 8th, 2016, AR meeting. **Motion** passed.

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.

President Hafner thanked Roosevelt Elementary School for providing treats for the meeting.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Molly Forbes, seconded by David Brown. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.


Respectfully submitted,

Emily Roberts

MEA Secretary

Nominations for IEA Delegates for the NEA Convention

The National Education Association Representative Assembly will convene in Boston, Massachusetts on June 30 - July 5, 2017. On January 25th, nominations will open. They will close by 4:30 pm on February 8th. The election will be held



on March 8th. Any member may nominate him/herself by calling the Moline IEA Office at 797-4126. Telephone notice must be made to the Moline IEA Office by 4:30 pm. Thank you!

May the new year bring you an abundance of amazing opportunities, beautiful moments, and joyful experiences. May your positive actions & attitude inspire others. May you be brave enough to take on and overcome rewarding challenges. May you find yourself in high spirits & excellent health. May you love with all your heart and find peace in even the most turbulent of times. May the love you give always find its way back to you multiplied. And may you forever be filled with the hope & strength necessary to make your dreams a reality.

-Zero Dean -

Moline Education Association

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