

MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

May 2016

President's Report - Susan Hafner

Hello Everyone-

Just a few more hours and the 2015-2016 school year will officially end. I know that all of you are working frantically to finish up the school year. At this point, the day doesn't seem long enough to accomplish all of the last minute tasks. What happened to those really long days of my childhood?!

As we depart the school year, I want to express my gratitude to the ARs and the Executive Board for all of their hard work during the year. The Executive Board remains the same for next year, and I know that we will continue to work diligently for everyone we represent. As we took this year's concerns to administration, we truly appreciated a superintendent who was open to regular communication with the MEA and listened to teachers when they had concerns. The change in climate could be felt at nearly every level.

This year we had a major focus on co-teaching and class sizes. On a positive note, I have had principals contacting me to ensure that they are addressing the co-taught class size correctly. I am hopeful that we will no longer see the huge co-taught classes next year.

Another update concerns the new insurance rates. Please make sure you read the MSD40 Wellness email to see the specifics of the change in your cost, which goes into effect July 1, 2016. The increased rate is due to the recommendation of the Insurance Committee, which has both MEA and administration representation.

As we close the year, I can't help but think back on these past nine months. At the beginning of the year, excited and nervous young people entered our classrooms, and they leave us as excited young people, who are a bit more mature and still even a little bit nervous as they go to the next class or school in the fall. We have helped prepare them for the challenges--or tests--that they will encounter, and hopefully, they had some fun along the way. The excitement of summer is nearly palpable, and when we come back for the 2016-2017, may we feel refreshed and motivated to take on the challenges of making a difference for the students of the Moline-Coal Valley School District.

The long days of our childhood have morphed into adult days, which now seem to get shorter and shorter--fall will be here before we know it. Take time during these next three months to enjoy your families, friends, and most importantly, life in general.


Enjoy your summer-
Susie

AR Secretary's Report - Emily Roberts

Moline Education Association
Association Representatives Meeting
Thursday, May 12th, 2016

The MEA Association Representatives met Thursday, May 12th, 2016, at the IEA office, Moline. In the temporary absence of President Susie Hafner, Vice-President Christine Watts welcomed and thanked Sue Krismanits, a member of the MEA Scholarship Committee, who then announced and introduced the recipients of the 2015-2016 MEA Scholarships: Emmy Ehlers, daughter of Scott and Mary Ehlers, and Jordan Polito, daughter of Lisa Polito. Emily Ehlers told the ARs of her plans to attend the University of Iowa, majoring in education. Jordan Polito was unable to attend due to a conflict, so Lisa Polito told the ARs of Jordan's plans to attend Mount Mercy College, planning to become an orthopedic surgeon.

President Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:50pm. There were 26 ARs and 8 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.



A motion was made by Colette Guerdet, seconded by Kim Anderson, to approve the minutes of the February 11th, 2016, March 10th, 2016, and April 12th, 2016, AR meetings. **Motion** passed.

Treasurer Mary Nelson reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Sherri Martin, seconded by Heidi Norcross. **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.

Committee Chair Reports:

- Membership – Heidi Norcross reported membership stands at 437.
- Elections – in the absence of Doug Bodeen, President Hafner accepted MEA election ballots and reminded ARs of the ballot return date.
- Legislative – no report.
- Region 18 – Scott Ehlers reported a meeting scheduled for May 13th.
- Public Relations – Kim Anderson reported that 75 blank Years of Service pins had been ordered.
- Social – Tina Ferreri reminded ARs of the social event scheduled for Friday, May 13th, 3:30pm, at the Barrelhouse, Moline.
- Grievance/Negotiations – Colette Guerdet asked members to forward any ideas for contract negotiations to her.

Old Business:

- Colette Guerdet read and explained the proposed Bylaw change for the creation of an MEA Audit Committee under Article XI: Committees. A motion to approve the Bylaw change was made by Kim Anderson, seconded by Sherri Martin. **Motion** passed.
- Colette Guerdet read and explained the proposed Bylaw change for the clarification of wording under Grievance/Negotiations, Article II, section 3. A motion to approve the Bylaw change was made by Heidi Norcross, seconded by Tricia Leibovitz. **Motion** passed.
- Treasurer Mary Nelson distributed copies and discussed the proposed 2016-2017 MEA budget. A motion to approve the proposed budget was made by Colette Guerdet, seconded by Liz Finch. **Motion** passed.
- Elementary Resources – Vice-President Christine Watts explained to ARs that after curriculum units are completed, a list of resources would be presented at the first 2016-2017 grade level meeting. After group discussion, the grade level chairs will take the

prioritized resources lists to Allendale. Purchase money for the resources will be distributed through the curriculum office at Allendale.

- President Hafner and Colette Guerdet met with Superintendent Lanty McGuire and building principals and discussed scheduling/teams/co-teaching and meeting the MEA contract guidelines. Colette Guerdet reminded the ARs to contact her the first day of the 2016-2017 school year if there are any concerns or violations.
- President Hafner reminded ARs of the need to find good candidates for the three possible vacancies on the Board of Education.

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 being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Colette Guerdet, seconded by Heidi Norcross. **Motion** passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:37pm.

For the Good of the Order:

- Door prizes – winning names were drawn for gift cards.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Roberts
MEA Secretary



MEA Member News

Congratulations to:

- Lindsey Roberts (John Deere) on the birth of her son, Sawyer
- Aubree Savage (Bicentennial) on her May 21st wedding
- Kelly Mulcahy (Franklin) on her engagement
- Rebecca Villareal Miller (Lincoln-Irving) on her marriage
- Erica Rettig (Roosevelt) on the birth of her son
- Bre Allerdyce (Hamilton) on the birth of her daughter

Condolences to:

- Laura Masias (Roosevelt) on the loss of her grandfather
- Lori Clancy (MHS) on the loss of her father
- Marty Mahieu (MHS) on the loss of his father
- Colleen Kurtz (Roosevelt) on the loss of her sister
- Dave Strafford (Wilson) on the loss of his aunt

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