

MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

November 2016

President's Report - Susan Hafner

Hello Everyone-

Can you believe that we are already to November? Those dreams I had of Thanksgiving Break last month are almost a reality. I hope that your conferences went well and that you survived Halloween. I know how crazy it can be at some of our schools--but it is a fun crazy.

At this point, I hope people who are on year one of the evaluation cycle have met with their evaluators if they want to use this year's data for student growth. The evaluation process is a bit daunting at first but seems to be a bit more manageable after meeting with one's evaluator. By this point, you should have access to or a copy of the checklist that walks through the evaluation steps; Lanty informed us that all principals have been given a copy. Remember, the process should be an ongoing discussion, and you are allowed to ask your "to date" rating after an observation. If you have any special concerns about your student growth, such as a student teacher or extended absence, please talk to your evaluator. In future evaluation cycles, you might not want to have a student teacher during the time period where you will be measuring student growth. One more thing to think about.

As for the co-teaching, which seems to be a never-ending discussion, we will be meeting with Kristin Sanders next week to discuss a few additional questions for the co-teaching survey. Hopefully, we can get the survey out to staff by the end of the month and then know the results by the January AR meeting. The more input the administration has from our teachers, the better it is for everyone, including the students.

An update for the middle school RTI for this month is that Tom Ryerson has been talking with teachers about possible programs to make the interventions more effective. These programs would also lead to more equity at the middle schools since the job would not fall on the same teachers every year. I am glad that he is meeting with staff to address these RTI concerns.

We have had some other issues for Tom at the elementary level, and once again, I am pleased that he is meeting with teachers to discuss their frustrations. When we feel that something is not working well for the students, we need to let our principals know so that steps can be made to improve the situation. If by chance, you speak to your principal and feel that your concerns are not being addressed, please let me know, either directly or through your AR.

The technology committee will be meeting for the first time this school year and the members will be discussing the transition to laptops for staff. This has been an ongoing discussion with administration, and Lanty has decided that the technology committee will have more say as to the types of computers that will be issued. I encourage you to talk to your representatives to offer input about the transition, so they can convey the thoughts and opinions of the staff to administration at the meeting. I would like to thank all of the members on the committee for volunteering to be a part of this process, and hopefully, most everyone will be happy with the final decisions concerning our computers. The members are as follows:

MHS - Jeff Adams, Jay Bohnsack,
Carolyn Mesick, Heidi Norcross

Coolidge Campus - Katrina Brown

JDMS - Tom Slininger, Lindsey Roberts

WMS - Michele McKee, Brooke Klein

Jane Addams - Laurie Capan

Bicentennial - Christine Spindel

Butterworth - Julie Pitra

Franklin - Markaye Eastman

Hamilton - Heather McDermott, Lori Sedlock

Jefferson - Cori Dobereiner

Lincoln-Irving - Sherri Martin

Logan - Maggie Dykstra

Roosevelt - Christine Watts

Washington - Heidi Neels

Willard - Arika Faith

As we enter November, things will be even crazier than ever. Thankfully, we have a three day weekend and an entire week off to collect our thoughts as we head into the holidays. Enjoy the craziness and stay sane in the process.

Enjoy-
Susie



AR Secretary's Report - Emily Roberts

Moline Education Association
Association Representatives Meeting
Thursday, October 13th, 2016

The MEA Association Representatives met Thursday, October 13th, 2016, at the IEA Office, Moline. In the absence of President Susie Hafner, Vice-President Christine Watts called the meeting to order at 3:45pm. There were 31 representatives and 12 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Shelly Rumler, seconded by Tricia Engstrom-Gehring, to approve the minutes of the September 15th, 2016, AR meeting. **Motion** passed.

Treasurer Mary Nelson reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Shelly Rumler, seconded by Debbie Sturges. **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 445. IEA is implementing a 1:1 campaign to talk with new teachers, answering their questions and addressing their concerns; Heidi asked that ARs take these “new hire” forms back to the buildings and distribute to the new teachers. ARs should forward the completed forms to Lisa Mihalopoulos (Lincoln-Irving).

- Elections – Christine Watts reported that there would be an election in December.

- Legislative – Dave Strafford reported that both Representative Mike Smiddy's and Representative Mike Halpin's campaigns would appreciate help from teachers canvassing voters and addressing envelopes.

- Region 18 – no report.



- Public Relations – Kim Anderson reported that the MEA blog was updated; she requested that anyone inadvertently missed for Years of Service pins contact her.

- Social – no report.

- Grievance/Negotiations – Colette Guerdet reported that she and President Susie Hafner had met with Dave McDermott to discuss the effects of the elimination of the 9.4% Early Retirement Option. She reported that the “.4” percentage of the money reverts back to the district General Education Fund and would not be distributed to teachers as a refund or bonus. President Hafner discussed the issue with UniServ Director Jeff Conrad, whose opinion was that MEA contract language would only allow the MEA to enforce the Board of Education’s payment of the “.4” to TRS; the enforced payment would not adversely affect or benefit anyone’s pension.

Old Business:

- President Hafner and Vice-President Watts discussed the issue of testing with Matt DeBaene and Tom Ryerson; this is an on-going discussion.


New Business: - Negotiations – members were asked to contact Chief Negotiator Colette Guerdet with suggestions and/or concerns for the new contract. A survey will be sent to members in the future.

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.

Vice-President Watts thanked Logan Elementary School for providing treats for the meeting. There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Tricia Leibovitz, seconded by Jill Bogart. **Motion** passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Roberts
MEA Secretary



Nominations for IEA RA Delegates

The 163rd Illinois Education Association Representative Assembly (RA) will convene on March 30, 2017. The debates and decisions made by the assembled delegates will set the direction of IEA for the coming year. Nominations will be accepted until November 15th. If you are interested in being a representative or would like to nominate someone, please contact Christine Watts at cwatts@molineschools.org. Thank you!

MEA Member News

Congratulations to:

- Kate Brooks (Wilson) on the birth of her daughter

Condolences to:

- Jeff Levin (John Deere and Wilson) on the death of his grandfather
- DeAnn Kerr (Willard) on the loss of her father
- Barb Craver (John Deere) on the death of her husband
- Cheryl Rasche (Roosevelt) on the death of her stepmother
- Lori Sedlock (Hamilton) on the death of her mother
- Ron and Zack Morton (MHS) on the death of their wife and mother

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