

MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

October 2015

President's Report - Susan Hafner

Greetings-

We have already finished first quarter and survived conferences. Where has the time gone? Hopefully, you had fun learning all of your students' names and their individual attributes. With larger classes, that seems to be harder and harder--maybe it's just old age for me. As we work tirelessly to come up with new and exciting ideas for our classrooms and grade the endless papers, the days fly by, and with that, we sometimes forget to appreciate everyone and everything in our busy lives.

In my last letter to you, I wrote about the changing seasons and appreciating all of the glory that comes with the fall colors. However, today I look at the fall with another perspective--not taking life for granted. Traditionally in literature, fall symbolizes loss and for many of our staff, this has been sadly true. Teachers, administrators, and support staff at multiple schools have been directly affected by the loss of individuals who were dedicated to their communities and to education. As part of the Moline-Coal Valley School District community, we share in the grief of our co-workers. We are there to support one another during these difficult times, whether it is to provide an ear for listening or a shoulder to cry on, because that is who we are--caring, compassionate people who want to help others. That is part of the reason we chose the field of education in the first place.

On a personal note, the loss of KC Griesenbeck cannot be expressed appropriately in words. She was an amazing talent, who cared about students, other teachers, and most of all, her family. She was always there for others, and she let students know they had someone who would listen, no matter what the problem may be. In the ever-changing world of education, KC was what a teacher should aspire to be, and she made it look easy, always with her amazing smile. I am in awe of KC's impact on the people she came in contact with, and fortunately, I was able to be one of those people.

As fall and winter pass, we must remember that spring will be here. It may be tough months ahead, but ultimately, the trees will bloom again, bringing new life to the world. I, for one, will not take that life for granted, and I hope all of you will see the beauty too.

In appreciation-
Susie

Some MEA issues include:

● **Testing**

- Teachers have had various concerns over the common assessments, and we need to remember that they are works in progress. When you meet with the members of your grade level committees, please discuss any possible changes that the assessments may need to be more effective. Also, in our attempts to cut back on the number of tests that students need to take each year, we proposed the elimination of the language section of the MAP test since it is not used for RTI purposes.

● **Instructional Rounds**

- Showing the dedication of our teachers, numerous people asked if they could be a part of the instructional rounds that are a feature of the co-teaching professional development. Currently, teams of four from each school have been chosen to observe co-taught classrooms and report back to their peers. After discussing the interest from non-team members, Matt and Todd have agreed to expand the program starting in the spring. If you are a co-teacher and would like to be a part of the instructional rounds, please let your principal know.

● **Key Cards and School Access**

- Teachers from various schools mentioned the difference in the times that they are able to enter their schools. Daryl Snyder said that it is up to the principal to determine the hours of availability. Please talk to your principal if you feel your school's access should be expanded.

AR Secretary's Report - Emily Roberts

The MEA Association Representatives met Thursday, October 8th, 2015, at the IEA Office, Moline. President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:48pm. There not being a quorum present, the meeting commenced with the Committee Chair reports.


Committee Chair Reports:

- Membership – Heidi Norcross reported membership stands at 449.
- Elections – Doug Bodeen reminded members of an upcoming election in November.
- Legislative – no report.
- Region 18 – no report.
- Public Relations – no report.
- Social – Aubree Savage asked representatives to sign-up to bring treats to the November AR meeting. ARs were given entry slips to sign for a door prize drawing at the end of the meeting.
- Grievance – no report.
- Negotiations – President Hafner asked ARs to consider topics to be included in the upcoming negotiations.

Old Business:

- Common Assessments – assessments are works in progress. After being informed that teachers were purchasing supplemental materials for the new curriculum with personal funds, Assistant Superintendent Todd DeTaeye said teachers should bring receipts to their administrator for reimbursement. Teachers were encouraged to share ideas at grade level meetings.
- MAP – President Hafner asked the ARs to discuss with colleagues the possible elimination of the language portion of the test and inform her if teachers agreed with eliminating the language portion.
- Administration discussed with the creator of EduClimber the possibility of allowing teachers to input their own data. Assistant Superintendent Matt DeBane will inform staff when/if this is available. President Hafner informed the members that if teachers are uncomfortable completing the on-line forms for Evaluwise, the evaluator must help walk them through the process of completing the forms.
- President Hafner noted that Co-Teaching with Dr. Kimberly Landrum was going well, and that all student and teachers transfers were completed.

New Business:

- President Hafner informed the members that at the semester, other teachers would be brought in to participate in the co-teaching instructional rounds.
 - President Hafner requested and is awaiting the number of CHIs and Paras employed by the district.
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President's Report:

- Superintendent Search - members are encouraged to contact the Board of Education with opinions regarding the current Superintendent and Assistant Superintendents.
- Grading – differentiation, especially in co-teaching classes, has a big impact on student grades. Since it is not noted on student report cards if grades are differentiated, there could be a possible negative effect on a student's college admittance. Members were asked to contact President Hafner with additional information or ideas.

At this time, there were 21 ARs and 12 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Christine Watts, seconded by Tricia Leibovitz, to approve the minutes of the September 10th, 2015, AR meeting. **Motion** passed.

Treasurer Mary Nelson reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Jill Bogart, seconded by Liz Finch. **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.

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 Jay Bohnsack. **Motion** passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:25pm.

For the Good of the Order:

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

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Roberts
MEA Secretary



MEA Member News

Congratulations to:

- Laura Wells (Franklin) on the birth of her new granddaughter, Kinleigh
- Sarah Thompson on her marriage
- Ann Spence (Hamilton) on her marriage this summer
- Breanna Baker (Hamilton) on her marriage this summer
- Lincoln Rasche (Wilson) on the birth of his daughter, Tess
- Annette Teslik (Jefferson) to Fred R Jones, March 2015. Annette is now Annette Sirek Jones
- Leslie (Jefferson) and Matt Perkins (Wilson) on the birth of their son, Lucas Grant Robert Perkins, born June 23rd

Condolences to:

- Julie Reed on the loss of her husband
- Katie Holgersson (Roosevelt) on the loss of her grandfather
- Diane McLaughlin (Jefferson) on the loss of her father-in-law
- the MHS Staff on the loss of K.C. Griesenbeck

Next Executive Board Meeting: November 5th, 2015
Next AR Meeting: November 12th, 2015

www.mea40.org

Email: slhafner@molineschools.org

Phone:(309)764-0811