

# MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

October 2018

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## President's Report - Susan Hafner

Hello Everyone-

Our first full month of school is now complete and time seems to be going at hyper speed. The cooler days have begun, yet we still are getting the unexpected warm days. Who thought we would be dealing with temperatures in the 90s in October?

I want to thank all of the individuals who have taken on the AR roles at our schools. You did an amazing job of getting all of the MEA membership forms filled out and returned, and I know you will be a great support to your staffs throughout the year. If your school still does not have a representative, please see if you have any volunteers or hold an election to choose your AR. If you have any questions, please email me.

The district hired a number of new teachers after the beginning of the school year, so I would like to say, "Welcome to Moline." Our district has an amazing staff, and our teachers are always there to help or answer any questions.

The process of hiring after the beginning of the school year is something we would like to see improved upon for next year. It is difficult for new teachers to have to begin teaching just days after being hired, and it is difficult for the students as well. This is a conversation that we are having with administration, so we can have the best possible beginning to the new year in the future.

The Curriculum Council has met two times this fall and has helped develop our professional development for the year. We are hoping that we can get curriculum ideas/issues addressed, as well as safety concerns at our schools. Please be honest when evaluating the PD, so it can continue to improve.

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The superintendent search has begun, and I hope you took the time to fill in the survey that was on the district website. Not many people attended the staff forum that was held at Wilson, so I hope the online surveys will provide the firm with what our MEA members hope for in a superintendent. At the forum, staff members suggested what they would like to see in our future superintendent: good communicator/listener, someone who works collaboratively, someone who does not have a predetermined agenda, someone who is invested in the community, and someone who is approachable. The proposed deadline for approving the next superintendent is the January Board of Education meeting. This is exciting and a bit frightening at the same time.

Finally, I would like to say how proud I am of our union. Our membership is over 99% and we are stronger than ever. We have encountered some difficulties and changes over this past year; however, we know we are stronger as a unified voice, which is proven by our amazing membership percentage rate. Some things may change, as can be seen by the colors of the leaves outside our windows, but our foundations remain strong, like the trees that stand tall all winter long.

Have a great day and enjoy October-  
Susie

## AR Secretary's Report - Emily Roberts

Moline Education Association  
Association Representatives Meeting  
Thursday, September 13th, 2018

The MEA Association Representatives met Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at the IEA office, Moline. President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:50pm. There were 22 ARs and 11 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Jill Bogart, seconded by Debbie Sturges, to approve the minutes of the April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, AR meetings. **Motion** approved.

Treasurer Steve Sundberg 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

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the minutes nor the Monitor. Members with questions regarding the MEA account balances are asked to contact Treasurer Steve Sundberg.

A motion was made by Rachel Moore, seconded by Jamie Kovacic, to approve the proposed 2018-2019 MEA budget. **Motion** passed.

President Susie Hafner yielded the floor to Treasurer Steve Sundberg. Treasurer Sundberg read the names of the appointed Committee Chairs: Membership – Heidi Norcross; Elections – Lori Wesemann and Val Hays; Legislative – Dave Strafford; Public Relations – Kim Anderson; Social – Aubree Krol and Tina Ferreri; Grievance/Negotiations – Colette Guerdet and Susie Hafner. A motion was made by Jen Sondgeroth, seconded by Sherri Martin, to approve the appointed Committee Chairs. **Motion** passed.

President Susie Hafner resumed the floor.

Committee Chair Reports:

- **Membership** – Heidi Norcross and Steve Sundberg will be taking an Association Day to process membership forms and member count. Heidi explained that members would sign the new blue form for payroll deduction only once in their career; in the future, only new hires will sign the blue form.

- **Elections** – Lori Wesemann reported there would be two upcoming elections.

- **Legislative** – no report.

- **Region 18** – no report.

- **Public Relations** – Kim Anderson reported that the MEA40.org blog includes archived Monitors, AR expectations, and a list of ARs and Executive Board members. She asked members send her any good news to be included on the blog. The Years of Service pins and certificates were delivered to buildings via the principals; anyone inadvertently missed on a pin or certificate is asked to contact Kim.

- **Social** – Aubree Krol announced a there would be a drawing for Whitey's gift cards at the end of the meeting, and an MEA fall social event was being planned.

- **Grievance/Negotiation** – no report.

**Old Business:**

- President Hafner shared some results of the technical survey sent to teachers last spring.

- President Hafner reported that there were no changes to the salary schedule as of this time.

- As a result of the Janus decision, non-union teachers should be aware that if an incident occurs that is not covered within the language of the MEA contract, the non-union teacher will be without union representation and legal aid.

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### **New Business:**

- President Hafner reported there had been good discussion with the curriculum council regarding vertical alignment as a professional development session at the January in-service.
- President Hafner noted that the district took a positive step in hiring new classroom teachers in order to reduce class size. She informed the ARs that a course of action was being planned where a group of four to five new teachers would not receive pink slips in the spring; rather, they would be guaranteed a job somewhere in the district. The hope is to reduce the lengthy process now in place to hire classroom reduction teachers.
- President Hafner noted that this was Superintendent Lanty McGuire's last year of service. The district hired a consulting firm for a superintendent search; the plan is to approve a new superintendent by the January Board of Education meeting. President Hafner has asked a select, diverse, group of teachers to be part of a focus group for the superintendent search.
- President Hafner reported that the salary statements should be forthcoming and reminded members to check the employee portal.
- President Hafner noted that, due to the Janus decision, a conservative group (anti-union) had sent a FOIA request to the district for access to Executive Board members e-mails; she noted this request was being made to school districts all over the state of Illinois.

### **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 Lisa Welvaert, seconded by Kim Anderson. **Motion** passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:22pm.

Good of the order:

- Winners of the Whitey's gift cards were: Raquel Cross, Chris Ballard, Betsy Osborn, Shannon Dudek, and Christine Watts.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Roberts  
MEA Secretary

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## Meet Our New Teachers!!!!!!



Megan Radosevich - 4th Grade - Bicentennial



Melissa McNaught - 1st Grade - Butterworth



Catherine Anderson - 2nd - Butterworth



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# MEA Member News

## **Congratulations to:**

- Matt Armstrong (Wilson) on his marriage over the summer
- Hanna Etheridge (Hamilton) on the birth of her daughter
- Molly Forbes (Bicentennial) on the birth of her son
- Ben Holmes (Wilson) on the birth of his daughter
- Marte Johnson (Wilson) on the birth of his grandson
- Kim & Mike Resler (Wilson) on the birth of their grandson
- Abby Thrasher (Franklin) on the birth of her son

## **Condolences to:**

- Stephanie Bergstrand (Butterworth) on the death of her grandmother
  - Calesia House (John Deere) on the death of her mother
  - Sarah Leslein (Butterworth) on the death of her father-in-law
  - Ashley Motika-Roome (Jane Addams) on the death of her grandmother
  - Wendy Pfaff (MHS) on the death of her grandmother
  - Jane Winston (Roosevelt) on the death of her father
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