



MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

September 2015

President's Report – Susan Hafner

Greetings-

We have completed our first month of school, and fortunately, the heat hasn't been too unbearable. This year feels a bit cooler in more ways than one.

The first days were a bit chaotic due to the new boundaries, but I want to say how amazing everyone has been in handling the fluctuating class sizes and schedule changes. Your ability to deal with change in such a positive manner definitely has an impact on how our students deal with the numerous changes that occur in their young lives.

I want to thank the ARs and Executive Board members for the hard work they do to support the rest of the MEA members. Specifically, I want to thank Kim Anderson for overseeing the years of service certificates and pins that were given out on the first day of work. The staff at Allendale also helped with this process, and I would like to thank Lanty for taking the time to acknowledge the recipients on our first day. If you know someone who didn't get recognized and should have, please email Kim. We want to make sure that everyone receives his or her deserved recognition.

Heidi Norcross and Mary Nelson have been working diligently to update our membership this year, which has not been easy with all of the new hires and building changes. They would like to thank everyone for returning the dues forms in a timely manner, and I would like to thank Heidi and Mary for being so dedicated to a relatively "thankless" job. Thank you, ladies.

As we move forward into this new year, we need to remember the power of our voices. For example, if you are pleased with the changes that have occurred this year, please share that with your leadership and the school board. If you have concerns, please go through the proper lines of communication in your building, so that those concerns can be addressed appropriately. Hopefully, we will not need to take any of these concerns to the board. Through the efforts of our MEA members, we can ensure that our students are getting the best education possible.

Enjoy the changing colors of the season (literally and figuratively)-
Susie

Some MEA issues include:

- **Student Transfers**
 - This year has been an anomaly in regards to the number of student transfer requests, and the district does look at class size numbers before granting a transfer request. The fact that we do not have specific class size caps seems to play a part in teacher frustrations. This is something we need to keep in mind when we are in negotiations for our next contract.
- **Registration**
 - Late registration continues to be an issue for our district, and we need to look at other options that will encourage parents to register their children in a timely manner. The administration and the board are also concerned with registration and are trying to develop a better process for next year. Several suggestions, which I shared with our superintendent, were made by ARs-- students who register late need to come to school on Day 2 rather than interrupting Day 1, the district could offer additional days to register, and the district might want to look at other area districts to see what their registration process is.
- **Student Support Services**
 - There is a shortage of CHIs (certified hourly instructors) and some schools do not have the support services that their students need. The district is trying to find more qualified people to fill these positions, but not enough people are applying for the jobs.
- **Substitute Teachers**
 - The lack of substitute teachers also continues to be a problem for the district. This issue is going to be addressed by Lanty when he meets with the other area superintendents. Our district is not alone when it comes to this ongoing problem.

Public Relations- Kim Anderson

Attention members! Did you know that the MEA has its own website (<http://mea40.org/>)? On this website, you can find archived copies of past Monitors and Connecting Lines. In addition, you can find lists of who the MEA Exec Board members and ARs are and when their meetings are held, MEA election applications and bios, how to access our contract and your Weingarten rights, tax info, John Deere-Moline / Moline Schools Special Recognition Awards, MEA Scholarship info, and links to the District, IEA, and NEA. But there is more we can do with this site!

In a section called Good News, we will feature fun, planned events by the newly formed MEA Social Committee. In addition, I would be willing to post other things such as special classroom or events or school fundraisers, outstanding awards or achievements of students or staff etc. Please feel free to send me text and pictures of anything you would like to share that you believe would qualify!

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AR Secretary's Report – Emily Roberts

The MEA Association Representatives met Thursday, September 10th, 2015, at IEA Office, Moline. President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:50pm. There were 33 representatives, 2 alternates, and 12 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Debbie Sturges, seconded by Sherri Martin, to approve the minutes of the May 15th, 2015, AR Meeting. **Motion passed.**

President Susie Hafner yielded the floor to Vice-President Christine Watts for the appointment of Executive Board chair positions. Nominations were: Chief Negotiator/Grievance Co-Chairs – Colette Guerdet and Susie Hafner; Elections – Doug Bodeen; Public Relations – Kim Anderson; Legislative – Dave Strafford; Social Co-Chairs – Tina Ferreri and Aubree Savage; Membership – Heidi Norcross. There were no other nominations from the floor. A motion was made by Dave Strafford, seconded by Rachel Moore, to approve the appointment of Executive Board chair positions. Motion passed. President Hafner resumed the meeting.

Treasurer Mary Nelson reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Jennifer Cook Gregory, seconded by Colette Guerdet. **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.

At this time, President Hafner asked that the ARs introduce themselves and identify the school they represent.

Committee Chair Reports:

- Membership – Heidi Norcross reported that the committee is completing paperwork on membership.
- Elections – no report.
- Legislative – Dave Strafford reminded ARs to notice the IEA/NEA “call to action” e-mails and encouraged teachers to invite and host legislators in the classrooms. ARs were reminded that teachers should not respond to “call to action” e-mails during contract time.
- Region 18 – no report.
- Public Relations – in the absence of Kim Anderson, President Hafner informed members that additional Years of Service pins were being ordered. Any staff members who should have received a Years of Service pin and certificate and did not were asked to contact Kim Anderson.
- Social – Aubree Savage reported the committee is planning two social events for the school year. A sign-up sheet will be available at the next AR meeting for volunteers to bring treats to an AR meeting.
- Grievance/Negotiations – Colette Guerdet reported there are no grievances, and noted that we are in the “information gathering” phase for new negotiations.

Old Business:

- President Hafner reminded the ARs that Bob Dyer is the Vice-President for BOE, and that the new math series, originally denied by the BOE, was approved and purchased.
- President Hafner informed the ARs that the BlackBlack Contract was not renewed and the consultants were no longer with the district.
- President Hafner reminded the ARs of the new evaluation process. Colette Guerdet recommended that teachers ask their evaluator for a “to date” rating, and then ask the evaluator what needs to be done to improve the rating. Teachers may also request a second formal observation.

New Business:

- It was noted that the Common Assessments are “works in progress” and can be changed. Teachers should discuss the assessments at grade level meetings.
- President Hafner noted that some of the MAP scores are non-essentials, and will discuss the possibility of eliminating those portions of the tests with Mr. McGuire.
- EduClimber and Evaluwise are new data collection tools the district is considering using.
- Co-Teaching facilitator is Dr. Kimberly Landrum.
- President Hafner noted the effect of the new boundaries created some difficulties at the beginning of the school year and that student transfers were completed.

President’s Report:

- President Hafner provided the ARs with a list of representative duties and her business card. She encouraged communication between teachers and administrators.

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 Christine Watts. **Motion** passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Roberts
MEA Secretary

**Moline Education Association
2015-2016 Meeting Schedule**

To: MEA Association Representatives and Executive Board Members
 From: Susie Hafner, President
 Subject: Meeting Schedules for 2015-2016 School Year

Please note these meeting dates on your calendars. All **Association Representative** meetings will be at the **IEA office (1530 - 46th Avenue, Suite 1)** at 3:45 p.m. There is parking behind the building.

Executive Board meetings are at the **MEA Office, Coolidge Building, Room 123** at 3:45 p.m.

Executive Board meetings with the **Superintendent** are at the **Professional Development Room, Coolidge Building**, at 3:45 p.m.

| <u>Executive Board</u> | <u>Assoc. Representatives</u> | <u>Superintendent</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| TH September 3 | TH September 10 | |
| TH October 1 | TH October 8 | TH October 15 |
| TH November 5 | TH November 12 | |
| TH December 4 | TH December 10 (if needed) | TH December 17 |
| TH January 7 (2016) | TH January 14 | |
| TH February 4 | TH February 11 | TH February 18 |
| TH March 3 | TH March 10 | |
| TH April 7 | TU April 12 | TH April 21 |
| TH May 5 | TH May 12 | |

MEA MONITOR

MOLINE EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

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WEB SITE:
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Executive Board

President-Susan Hafner
Vice President-Christine Watts
Secretary-Emily Roberts
Treasurer-Mary Nelson

MHS at Large
Scott Ehlers
Katie MacLennan

Middle School at Large
Jill Bogart
Dave Strafford

Elementary at Large
Chris Ballard
Dinah Leibovitz
Shelly Rumler

Appointed Committee Chairs
Elections-Doug Bodeen
Legislative-Dave Strafford
Membership-Heidi Norcross
Public Relations-Kim Anderson
Social-Tina Ferreri & Aubree
Savage
Grievance/Negotiations-
Colette Guerdet & Susan Hafner

MEA Member News:

Congratulations to:

Abby Thrasher (Franklin) on the birth of her son.

Cindy Hanft (Butterworth, Franklin & Willard) on the birth of her grandson.

Breanna Allardyce (Logan) on her recent marriage.

Condolences to:

Brad Stribling (Lincoln-Irving) on the death of his mother-in-law.

Megan Ramirez (Roosevelt) on the death of her father.



NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: OCTOBER 1 AT 3:45 AT MEA OFFICE

NEXT AR MEETING: OCTOBER 8 AT 3:45 AT IEA OFFICE

NEXT SUPERINTENDENT MEETING: OCTOBER 15 AT 3:45 AT COOLIDGE

About Our Organization...