

MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

September/October 2019

President's Report - Susan Hafner

Hello Everyone-

It is nice to be writing this on a sunny day that is not over 95 degrees. We finally have our cool down, and I must say it feels good. The year has been off to a great start with fun events, such as school carnivals, Kid's Trivia, Homecoming, and the many interesting things you do everyday in your classrooms. Hopefully, you have met Dr. Savage, who has been trying to visit all of the schools numerous times throughout this semester. She brings fresh insight to the District, but seems very appreciative of how hard we work and what we have accomplished as educators.

One recent accomplishment involves our insurance coverage. The insurance committee met and voted to approve the coverage of hearing aids for minor children. Surprisingly, this was not part of our plan, even though other plans in the state were required to provide this coverage. I am glad that we could do something to help children and their families, who are a part of our union and district.

Additionally, I spoke at the recent board meeting about the District re-evaluating our early release for heat requirements. The current policy is that we are released if the heat index reaches 98 degrees, which is the ISBE recommendation. I pointed out that other districts do not adhere to those guidelines and have a lower heat index as the requirement, specifically 93 degrees. The District is currently looking at possible changes, and hopefully, we will see a change if the heat returns in the spring.

Something that we are in continuous discussions about with administration is the incompatibility of the ChromeBooks, which are given to substitutes, with the Smart Boards and projectors. For video/movie viewing, teachers will be provided with DVD players that can be hooked up to the projectors; however, the Smart Boards remain an issue. This makes it very difficult when you have a sub for the day.

The language of the contract was finalized and we are expecting hard copies soon. If you would like a contract booklet, please let me know. Otherwise, it will be available on the District website, specifically the Human Resources page.

I would like to say "Congratulations" to Teresa Tittle at Logan Elementary, who received a \$1000 grant from the IEA Foundation's Schools and Community Outreach by Educators program. Teresa is beginning a new program titled Girls on the Run and is for 3rd-5th grade girls. Over ten weeks, the girls will be encouraged to be strong, caring, confident, empowered, and healthy individuals, which are all very important qualities in today's world. To conclude the program, the girls will participate in a 5K race in their community. This is very exciting for all involved.

As we get settled in for the year, I hope your days will be exciting as well. They go so fast that sometimes we forget to appreciate our accomplishments and those of our students. Take the time and realize that you are making a difference and your students are learning something new everyday, just as we all are.

Enjoy the loveliness outside and the successes inside-
Susie

AR Secretary's Report - Emily Roberts

Moline Education Association
Association Representatives Meeting
Tuesday, September 17th , 2019

The MEA Association Representatives met Tuesday, September 17th , 2019, at the IEA office, Moline. President Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:45pm. There were 24 ARs and 10 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present. Pizza was provided for the members.

President Hafner welcomed the members and asked the new ARs to introduce themselves.

A motion was made by Raegan Jones, seconded by Marlene DeLong, to approve the minutes of the March 14 th , 2019, April 11 th , 2019, and May 9 th , 2019, AR meetings.

Motion approved.

Treasurer Steve Sundberg reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Lisa Welvaert, seconded by Marlene DeLong. 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 Steve Sundberg. President Hafner yielded the floor to Secretary Emily Roberts who read the names of the appointed Committee Chairs: Membership – Heidi Norcross; Elections – Marigrace Alonso; Legislative – Raegan Jones; Public Relations – Kim Anderson; Social – Aubree Krol and Tina Ferreri; Grievance/Negotiations – Colette Guerdet and Susie Hafner.

Committee Chair Reports:

- Membership – Heidi Norcross reported that she and Treasurer Sundberg would take an Association Day to review and finalize the membership roster. At the time of the meeting, she noted that all new teachers, except one, had joined MEA. The 14 payroll deductions for membership dues begin October 15 th .

- Elections – In the absence of Marigrace Alonso, President Hafner reported the IEA RA nomination window would open in October, with the election to be held in December.

- Legislative – Raegan Jones noted that the anti-union organization Illinois Policy Institute (IPI) had sent mailings to Illinois teachers. She encouraged MEA members to ignore the mailings.

- Region 18 – Julie Bender noted the group would meet the following week.

- Public Relations – President Hafner thanked Kim Anderson for her diligence in having the Years of Service certificates and pins ready on the first in-service day.

- Social – Aubree Krol reported a social event was being planned for October.

- Grievance/Negotiations – President Hafner noted that a contract and salary schedule should be posted on-line by the end of the month. Any member requiring a hard copy is asked to contact President Hafner.

Old Business:

- President Hafner noted that, contractually, student attendance on the last day is a half-day at the elementary and middle school levels.

- President Hafner had not received the results of the calendar survey sent to members, and noted the on-line calendar could still be altered.

New Business:

- It was noted that chromebooks used by substitute teachers were not compatible with Smart Boards and could not play DVDs; Ed Tech is working to solve the problem. President Hafner noted that the old desktop computers might become available for purchase by teachers. Members are encouraged to e-mail Ed Tech regarding technology problems.

- President Hafner reported streaming issues – Hulu is blocked and Amazon Prime does not always stream. The district maintains that it has not blocked access to these sites.

- President Hafner noted that administrators at Allendale had agreed to make the process forms for special education referrals, found on the district's intranet site, more user-friendly.

- President Hafner is talking with elementary administrators about whether or not computer labs on carts are in the students' best interest.

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- President Hafner noted that the topic of heat index had been discussed at a Cabinet meeting; administration is monitoring the heat issue.
 - President Hafner thanked teachers who had participated in the ELA pilot.

A.R. Concerns:

- It was voted (2010-2011) to not publish the 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 Robin McConnell, seconded by Heidi Norcross. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.


Respectfully submitted,
Emily Roberts

MEA Member News

Congratulations to:

- Beth Burke (Jefferson) on her marriage in June
- Katie Hallstrom (Butterworth) on the birth of her daughter
- Justin Lebo (Roosevelt & Butterworth) on his marriage in June
- Derek Lindauer (JDMS) and Luann Lindauer (Franklin) on the birth of their first grandson
- Stacey Reed (Roosevelt PFAE) on the birth of her grandson

Condolences to:

- Kara Banfield (Jefferson) on the death of her mother
 - Megan Culley (Hamilton) on the death of her grandmother
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Logan's First Girls on the Run Participants

