

MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

December 2020

President's Report - Susan Hafner

Hello Everyone-

It is the last week before winter break and it feels so different. This year, we are sitting in front of computer screens, talking to avatars rather than faces, and wondering how we can help our struggling students without seeing them each day. Normally, we spend this week getting the students ready for their music programs, trying to stay in control of the classroom holiday parties, and enjoying the overwhelming excitement of the season. I wish this year could be like that; hopefully, next year will be again.

Dr. Savage emailed the staff a survey that addresses whether we should stay in remote learning until January 11th or the 19th. Please make sure you fill it out as soon as possible since the final decision will be made Friday. A lot of you have reached out to Christine and me with your thoughts, which were conveyed to administration. The survey also gives you an opportunity to share your ideas/concerns, which will be read and considered as we go forward.

English and ELA teachers from the high school and middle schools are piloting a possible new text next quarter. We must take our hats off to these individuals who are trying a new curriculum during these challenging times. It is hard enough to try something new in a regular classroom setting, let alone a hybrid or remote one.

With our students going to remote learning in November, the high school students and staff wondered how we would ever have Share Joys. How would we be able to help the children in need in our district? Fortunately, a small group of teachers and staff organized an online portal where the community could make donations, a donut eating contest featuring principals from all levels, and community events where businesses shared their profits. (If you were up really early, you probably saw Heidi Norcross on the local morning programs; fortunately, they replayed it later in the day.) All in all, our community, which included former students and staff members who have moved to different locations across the country, donated over \$40,000 to

Share Joys and 300 children were able to buy clothes, coats, and shoes for the colder months. This is such an amazing and joyful piece of news during this difficult time.

I hope that all of you find other pieces of joy during this holiday season. The future seems so much brighter with the distribution of the vaccine across our country. One day, we will look back and think, “How did we do it?!” We learned how to teach via a computer, we worked endless hours figuring out how to create engaging lessons, we graded non-stop since the turned in assignments seemed to miss the deadline more often than not, and we survived. We did it because that is who we are. We are educators who are devoted to our students, and this year proved that more than ever before. Boy, will we have stories to tell someday!

Take care and Relax during break (You deserve it!!)-
Susie

AR Secretary's Report - Emily Roberts

Moline Education Association
Association Representatives Meeting
Thursday, November 12th, 2020

The MEA Association Representatives met via Google Meets on Thursday, November 12th, 2020. President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. There were 30 ARs and 12 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Christine Watts, seconded by Marlene Delong, to approve the minutes of the October 8th, 2020, AR meeting. **Motion** approved.

Treasurer Steve Sundberg reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Marlene Delong, seconded by Matt Perkins. **Motion** approved. 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.

Committee Chair Reports:

Membership – in the absence of chair Heidi Norcross, President Hafner reported that members is at 99%.

Elections – Marigrace Alonso reported that since there were no nominations for delegates to the IEA/RA Convention, but there was one member who might be interested in attending, no elections would be held in December.

Legislative – Raegan Jones noted there would be municipal elections in March for the Moline Board of Education.

Region 18 – Lori Wesemann reported that since none of the clusters in Region 18 had contested delegates, there would be no election. Ramona Trout is the new Region 18 ethnic minority person.

Social – Aubree Krol drew names for Whitey’s gift cards. Winners were: Angela Sheese, Deb Sturges, Kari Dies, Rachel Moore, and Derek Lindauer.

Grievance/Negotiations – no report.

Old Business:

President Hafner reported she had no additional information regarding the district’s purchase of the rapid COVID test kits.

Remote Only Expectations – President Hafner noted that the teaching time during this period was from 8:00-3:00 with a window for lunch. She reminded the ARs to be professional and to use personal days if traveling. She and Vice-President Christine Watts met with Allendale administration to discuss the expectations. Administration wants students to see teachers (each day, ideally) via recorded videos or live meets. Teachers may teach the curriculum and give grades.

New Business:

The district will be remote until January 5th, 2021. The BOE will meet in December to determine if that date will be extended.

President Hafner noted the concern about retaining non-participating elementary students had been discussed with Matt DeBaene and Brian Prybil, who agreed this needed to be worked on. Vice-President Watts noted that every elementary school should have a spreadsheet of non-participating students so that the principal could contact those families.

Share Joys is accepting on-line donations.

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” of the Monitor or send superintendent’s responses directly to the ARs for dissemination to members.

A motion was made by Matt Perkins, seconded by Raegan Jones, to cancel the December AR meeting. **Motion** approved.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Marigrace Alonso, seconded by Kim Anderson. **Motion** approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Roberts
MEA Secretary

Moline Education Association
Association Representatives Meeting
Thursday, October 8th, 2020

The MEA Association Representatives met via Google Meets on Thursday, October 8th, 2020. President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:01pm. There were 26 ARs and 14 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Christine Watts, seconded by Raegan Jones, to approve the minutes of the September 10th, 2020, AR meeting. **Motion** approved.

Treasurer Steve Sundberg reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Heidi Norcross, seconded by Marigrace Alonso. **Motion** approved. 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.

Committee Chair Reports:

Membership – Heidi Norcross reported membership stands at 457, with the potential of 4 additional members. She will have a gift card drawing for members who joined this year.

Elections – Marigrace Alonso reported that nominations for delegates to the IEA/RA convention would open October 19th. Members interested in being a delegate are asked to contact Marigrace or President Hafner. Nominations close November 9th, and the election will be held December 2nd. If MSD #40 is remote at that time, drive-through elections will be held.

Legislative – Raegan Jones reported that early voting would begin October 19th at Western Illinois University (QC campus), and encouraged members to support the Fair Tax vote. Members with questions regarding the Fair Tax are asked to contact Raegan or Lori Wesemann.

Region 18 – Lori Wesemann reported the budget and election schedule had been passed. If MEA ever must hold a mail-in election, the union is encouraged to contact Region 18 and ask for monetary aid. It was noted that Sarah Bird would be the acting Uni-Serv Director, taking over for Jeff Conrad.

Public Relations – Kim Anderson reported the blog was working. Members who did not receive their Years of Service pins and certificates are asked to contact Kim.

Social – President Hafner reported that gift card drawings would be held in lieu of a social gathering.

Grievance/Negotiations – no report.

Old Business:

President Hafner encouraged members to continue with the good communication; please contact her with any issues or concerns.

President Hafner noted that the adjustments survey results are a conversation to be had at the different buildings.

New Business:

President Hafner and Vice-President Watts have been in communication with Allendale administrators regarding remote only expectations. If the district moves to remote only, the workday would be from 8:00 – 3:00 with a half-hour lunch; student attendance in the morning with teacher C & P in the afternoon. Allendale administrators are working to create a clear and concise document of these expectations.

Rapid Covid-19 tests have been ordered for the district. Details are still being determined.

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” 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 Heidi Norcross, seconded by Marlene Delong. **Motion** approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Roberts
MEA Secretary

MEA Member News

Congratulations to.....

- Zack Morton (MHS) and Jen Hays (Elem. inst) on their wedding
- Calesia House (WMS) for her article in the Fall 2020 Illinois Music Educator Journal
- Heidi Neels (Wash)for receiving the Meritorious Service Award after being nominated for ISBE Educator of the Year

Condolences to.....

- Kim McMaster (Roos & BIC) for the passing of her mother-in-law
- Lisa Dellitt (BIC) on the passing of her grandmother

*Please send any member news to
cwatts@molineschools.org

