

MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

February 2021

President's Report - Susan Hafner

Good Morning-

It is Friday, we are finishing conferences, and February is nearly halfway complete. On the other hand, it is extremely cold, we are still in the midst of a pandemic, and spring feels very far away. Yet, change is happening. We have begun getting our vaccine shots, which lets us know that maybe life will seem more normal in the not so distant future. The warm weather will come--eventually--and we will see new life of green grass, budding leaves, and sprouting flowers. Those little things seem to have such greater meaning this year, and we will also see change in our work lives as we finish this year. We will get to see our students more often, which will bring us one more step closer to the normalcy we all crave.

As we are moving forward this spring, the MEA has been asked to put forward options for our future schedule. When deciding on possible schedules, the following factors are taken into consideration:

- Safety of teachers and students
- Over 2000 remote students
- Hundreds of struggling students at each level, needing skill/credit recovery
- Ability to safely and effectively serve lunch
- The restrictions of the current block schedule at the secondary level
- Need of extra C & P time to ensure the success of all students

Currently, Jane Addams is piloting the A/B four-day schedule, where the A and B students are attending Monday through Thursday. On a personal note, my daughter attends Jane Addams and is SO excited to start going four days--kids are definitely appreciating school and their teachers more.

When the final schedule options are decided on, the staff and community will be surveyed for their input as well. This will lead to any further changes for the end of the school year. Please make sure you fill in the survey when it is released in the next few weeks.

The end of the year also brings negotiations. We will be sending out surveys to all members to get your feedback on concerns, issues, and priorities that should be addressed in the next contract. A number of you have shown interest in being a part of that team, and I thank you for letting me know. If you are interested and haven't reached out yet, please email me by the end of the month. Being part of negotiations requires work beyond the regular classroom day and may also require work in the summer. The final team will be formed in March.

As we finish second semester, we are facing some possible changes that may seem daunting at this point; however, we have faced so many changes this past year and have been successful at each step. We just have to remember that the sun will come out and we will feel its warmth, raising our spirits that may seem challenged at the end of this long, hard winter. Those rays of sunshine can't get here soon enough.

Take care-
Susie

AR Secretary's Report - Emily Roberts

Moline Education Association
Association Representatives Meeting
Thursday, January 14th, 2021

The MEA Association Representatives met via Google Meets on Thursday, January 14th, 2021. President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. There not being a quorum present, President Hafner began the meeting with Committee Chair Reports.

Committee Chair Reports:

- Membership – in the absence of chair Heidi Norcross, President Hafner reported that membership stands at 459 members, with only 2 non-members in the district.
- Elections – Marigrace Alonso reported that nominations were open for the delegates to the NEA/RA Convention, to be held virtually July 2nd - July 6th, 2021. Also in this

election will be Region Council Elections for Region Chair (NEA/RA State Delegate), Region Vice-Chair (NEA/RA Successor Delegate), and Ethnic Minority at large Representative to Regional Council (2021-2024 term). The nomination window closes February 3rd, with the election to be held March 3rd, 2021. Anyone interested in becoming a delegate is asked to contact Marigrace Alonso or Leslie Kahler at the IEA office (Leslie.Kahler@ieanea.org or 797-4126).

There were now 25 ARs and 15 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Marlene DeLong, seconded by Lisa Welvaert, to approve the minutes of the November 12th, 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 Lori Wesemann. 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.

- Legislative – Raegan Jones corrected misinformation regarding the recently passed Police Reform Bill, noting that school resource officers would not be affected and would still be a presence in the buildings.

- Region 18 – Lori Wesemann reported that a dues increase would be voted on at the March IEA/RA (virtual) Convention. The dues increase for certified staff would increase \$18.00 the first year, and \$23.00 the second year for a total dues increase of \$41.00. The increase would help fund IEA employee pensions. Both President Hafner and Region Chair Wesemann noted how IEA had fought for educators to be paid during this time of COVID teaching and for educators to be included in Tier 1b for vaccines. Lori noted that our area still has among the lowest dues payments.

- Public Relations - Kim Anderson noted the blog was updated and is in the process of ordering Years of Services pins with new logos.

- Social – Aubrey Kroll drew names for QC Fuel gift cards. Winners were: Michelle Timmer, Liz O'Hern, Laura Polizzi, Christine Church, and Lisa Welvaert.

- Grievance/Negotiations – Colette Guerdet reported that she would start assembling a negotiations team by next month, and a survey would be sent to members before Spring Break.

Old Business:

- No report.



New Business:

- Hybrid Expectations - President Hafner noted that principals should be forwarding PD from Shannon Harding on hosting live meets. It is the expectation that educators continue live meets.

- President Hafner noted that administration is addressing the issue of failing students. Dr. Savage sent an email to staff just prior to this AR meeting. The district will try to meet student needs in different ways: MHS - grad credits; middle schools - "incompletes" would be forgotten but would do other recovery.

At this time, President Hafner had to leave the meeting; Vice-President Christine Watts assumed the floor.

- Discussion for helping failing elementary students included: keeping students after dismissal, which has a potential for teachers to have an overload, and would therefore require a stipend; summer school or "jump start" might be a requirement. Vice-President Watts noted it is a multi-faceted approach with options to help students.

- Teachers will receive new laptops over the summer or at the beginning of next school year. Per the district's lawyer, laptops must go to the school auction.

- i3Boards, which are compatible with SMARTBoard technology and are much less expensive, might be the district's new choice to replace SMARTBoards.

- With the passing of the SOPA Law (law protects student privacy and data), companies for the apps and extensions used by the district must provide a privacy agreement. Learned Platform, an outside company, will manage obtaining these agreements for the district.


It was noted that Linda Davis, past teacher, MEA President, Chief Negotiator, and BOE member had recently passed away. A plant from MEA was sent to the family.

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 Marlene Delong, seconded by Steve Sundberg. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Roberts
MEA Secretary



MEA Member News

Congratulations to.....

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Condolences to.....

- Kitty Hillyer (JA) for the passing of her father
- Matt Perkins (Wilson) on the passing of his mother-in-law

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

