

MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

May 2021

President's Report - Susan Hafner

Hello Everyone-

I'm going to begin by showing my age and my nerdiness by quoting none other than Barry Manilow: "Looks like we made it!" I have never felt so relieved to see the last day of school as I am this year, and we did make it--through some of the most difficult times of our country and world. We rose to the challenge and made sure our students received the best possible education under the circumstances, and we can be proud as they leave our classrooms and go on to the next class or chapter of their lives.

Two students who will have a little extra help in that next chapter are our MEA Scholarship recipients for this year: Kaitlyn Anderson, daughter of Kim Anderson (MHS), and Natalie Jacocks, daughter of Kathleen Jacocks (Bicentennial). These two young women were among a distinguished group of applicants, who were all amazing in their accomplishments at high school. I know that all of them will have great success in their next endeavors. We definitely have some proud parents working in our district.

Our negotiations process is ongoing and will continue into June. The results from our MEA survey were varied, but the overwhelming priority was compensation, which is not surprising. We had a lot of entries in the "other" option, including credit recovery, COVID concerns, and remote learning. We are addressing as many of these concerns as possible, some of which are part of contract negotiations and others that are part of our discussions with administration that are non-contractual. With everything, our priority is the best possible working environment for our membership and the best possible education for our students. Hopefully, we will have a tentative agreement that we can proudly present to you when we return in the fall.

When we do return, I hope it is to a school year that looks much more normal than this year. I have my fingers crossed that we will be maskless, have full classrooms, and be able to have our


kids sit in groups again--the rows were not the most conducive to class discussions. It would be awesome to return from our summer break and see everyone at our opening day presentation. The idea seems so nice right now--but I don't want to rush it. Summer hasn't even begun yet!

As we leave our schools, we can look back and think of our strength as educators and as humans. We survived a year like no other, and we go into summer with the hopes of decompressing and enjoying a new normal in our country. All of you were amazing, and I hope you know how valuable you are to this district, our community, and most importantly, our students. You are appreciated.

Enjoy your summer and Take care-
Susie

MEA Member News

Congratulations to.....

- Anna Bousson (Jane Addams) on her WQAD award for My Favorite Teacher
 - Calesia House (WMS) on receiving B100's Award for "Teacher of the Week"
 - Becky Kennelly (Willard) on the birth of her daughter
 - Zach Morton (MHS) on receiving B100's Award for "Teacher of the Week"
 - Heidi Neels (Washington) for receiving Region #49 Teacher of the Year award
 - All of the Moline Retirees - Congratulations and enjoy your retirement! You DESERVE it!
- 

Condolences to.....

- Diane McLaughlin (Jefferson) on the death of her mother

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

