

MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

October 2021

President's Report - Susan Hafner

Hi Everyone-

I am shocked that it is the middle of October---1. It seems like summer was just here. 2. Isn't it March already? This year has been off to a very hectic and overwhelming start. The learning loss is real for all students and that has been a challenge for many of us. I know that I have had to slow some things down, which then makes me worry if I will get to everything my students need. Sometimes, we just have to allow ourselves the permission to let some things go. That in itself can be a challenge. Fortunately, the sun is shining and it is the middle of October.

Christine has been heading up the discussions in regards to the number of digital minutes at the elementary level. She has worked closely with Brian and Tom, and I believe they are planning to look closely at the current programs and assess their effectiveness. I am sure there will be more information about this in the coming months.

In respect to discipline, I know there have been issues across the district when it comes to consequences for unacceptable behavior. We have had a number of conversations with administration about these concerns, and I feel that we have made some progress recently. I will continue to communicate with the administration until we see some positive changes.

You may have noticed that I attached another form to this email regarding MEA Sick Bank donations. We were able to approve days for a colleague this week, and we will need to add additional days for future requests. Please give a day or two if you can because it can make a big difference to someone else.

I hope you are noticing the 3% increase from the new contract, which is posted on the District website, specifically on the Human Resources page. If you would like a hard copy of the contract, please let me know and I will get one to you.

As we near the end of the week, I hope you are allowing yourself time to relax and take a break from school. Sometimes, we just have to turn off the email notifications and not look at our computers or papers until Monday. I know how hard that can be, but this year it feels like a necessity. Enjoy the sunshine this weekend and even the sweater weather tomorrow.

Take care-
Susie

Moline Education Association
Association Representatives Meeting
Thursday, September 9th, 2021

The MEA Association Representatives met via Google Meets on Thursday, September 9th, 2021. In the absence of President Susie Hafner, Vice-President Christine Watts called the meeting to order at 3:45pm. There were 27 ARs and 11 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present. The building ARs introduced themselves.

Vice-President Watts ceded the floor to Treasurer Steve Sundberg who read the names of the appointed Committee Chairs: Membership - Heidi Norcross; Elections - Marigrace Alonso; Legislative - Raegan Jones; Region 18 - Lisa Mihalopoulos, Raegan Jones, Julie Bender; Public Relations - Kim Anderson; Social - Aubree Krol; Grievance/Negotiations - Colette Guerdet and Susie Hafner. A motion was made by Jill Bogart, seconded by Lisa Welvaert, to approve the appointed Committee Chairs. **Motion** approved.

Vice-President Watts resumed the floor. A motion was made by Alina Schafman, seconded by Marigrace Alonso, to approve the minutes of the May 13th, 2021, AR meeting. **Motion** approved.

Treasurer Steve Sundberg reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Lori Wesemann, seconded by Tricia Leibovitz. **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, Vice-President Watts reported that membership was still being updated, and that 49 new teachers had already joined MEA.
- Elections - Marigrace Alonso reported tentative election dates would be December 1, 2021, and March 2, 2022.
- Legislative - no report.
- Region 18 - no report.
- Public Relations - Kim Anderson reported the MEA blog was updated and requested that positive news be sent to her to post. Please contact Kim if there are any corrections for the Years of Service pins and certificates.
- Social - no report.
- Grievance/Negotiations - Colette Guerdet noted the email from President Hafner regarding the contract approval rating. She noted the new provisions in the contract that provide time for special education staff on Wednesdays; if a building is not giving time, ARs are asked to talk with the building administrator. If the issue is not resolved, ARs are asked to contact Colette Guerdet or President Hafner. She also suggested that ARs "front load" the administrator by informing him/her if the AR is talking with them as a teacher or as an AR.

Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

- Covid 19 Updates - a reminder was given that copies of Covid Vaccination cards were due to Allendale by Friday, September 17. New guidance from Kristen Sanders was issued regarding "Q" versus "ill" on

student attendance. The district is still working on this issue. Vice-President Watts noted that there was planning for a student/parent expectation of work letter that would be sent home with quarantined students. Teachers should tell administrators if a quarantined student is not doing the work.

- Vice-President Watts noted that the new contract is available on the MSD website and MEA 40 blog. Members are asked to contact President Hafner if they want a hard copy of the contract.
- ARs were reminded of their responsibilities; a copy of AR responsibilities was emailed along with the meeting link and minutes.

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.

Winners of the \$5.00 Whitey's gift cards were: Dylan Cross, Karen Jennings, Colette Guerdet, Laura Polizzi, and Julie Bender.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Lisa Welvaert, seconded by Liz O'Hern. **Motion** approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Roberts
MEA Secretary

MEA Member News

Congratulations to.....

- Ellen Garcia (MHS) on the birth of her child

Condolences to.....

- Sue Caldwell (Jefferson) on the death of her mother
- Shelly Palmer (Wilson) on the death of her father

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

