

# MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

January 2022

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## President's Report - Susan Hafner

Hi Everyone-

We are finishing first semester and the year is nearly half over. In some ways, it seems we were just beginning, and in other ways, it seems like summer was so long ago. The coldness of January has been felt in a multitude of ways this year, as we have faced a surge in the number of Covid-19 infections, the uncertainty of the next few months in terms of the virus, and sadly, the loss of one of our own. Derek Lindauer was a colleague and friend to many of us, and he made an undeniable impact on so many young people, either as a teacher or a coach. He and his wife Luann have been devoted teachers in our district, and they have contributed so much to Moline in not only their professional lives, but also their personal lives. They have been great supporters of their children as the boys attended our schools and participated in sports and theater. We need more people like Derek and Luann. He will be missed.

On a completely different note, the school board passed a substitute incentive Monday night that will hopefully help with our sub shortage. Beginning second semester, a substitute teacher will receive a \$300 bonus for every 20 days worked. Basically, they are getting a raise from \$110 to \$125, which is long overdue. Not only does this help the subs, but it also helps our membership because we will not have to be covering for such a high number of unfilled positions—hopefully.

A number of people have asked about what determines the closing of a school and going full remote due to Covid, and the most important element is staffing. Our administration wants to keep our classrooms open so that our students get the best education possible. We learned last year that many of the kids did not do well when they were fully remote, so we want to avoid shutting down a school if possible. As long as we have enough staff, the schools will remain open.

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On a more positive note, if you are planning on taking advantage of our maternity/paternity leave of 10 working days, please submit your request to Todd DeTaeye as soon as possible. The contract states that notice should be given at least 30 days in advance of the expected due date or day of adoption. Expecting a new life is such an exciting time, and we want to make sure that you get those extra days to enjoy those first moments.

As we begin the second half of the school year next week, I hope that we can feel proud of what we accomplished this past semester. It has been an interesting year—to say the least—and we have been working harder than ever to help our students have success. I know that this year has been overwhelming at times, but please know that your hard work makes a difference. You make a difference, and our students are lucky to have you.

Take care-  
Susie

Moline Education Association  
Association Representatives Meeting  
Tuesday, November 9th, 2021

The MEA Association Representatives met via Google Meets on Tuesday, November 9th, 2021. President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:45pm. There were 20 ARs and 9 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was not present.

Committee Chair Reports:

- Membership - Heidi Norcross reported membership had increased to 487 members, with possibly two additional members. Membership cards will be sent in interdistrict mail on Wednesday, November 10th. ARs were asked to distribute cards and instructed to discard retired teachers' cards. Membership cards for a teacher not in that building should be returned to Heidi Norcross.
- Elections - Marigrace Alonso reported an election for the minority representative for the IEA/RA Convention would be held December 1st; ballots will be in the district mail by November 26th, and need to be returned by December 3rd.

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- Region 18 - no report.
  - Public Relations - in the absence of chair Kim Anderson, Secretary Emily Roberts asked that good news be sent to Kim for the blog, and anyone who thought they should have received a Years of Service pin and certificate and did not are asked to contact Kim.
  - Social - Aubree Krol drew names for Lagomarcino's gift card. Winners were: Rebecca Morrissey, Steve Sundberg, Stacy Replinger, Susie Hafner, and Laura Polizzi.
  - Grievance/Negotiations - no report.


There were now 23 ARs and 10 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 14th, 2021, AR meeting. **Motion** passed.

Treasurer Steve Sundberg reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Marlene Delong, seconded by Tricia Leibovitz. **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.

Heidi Norcross noted that MEA dues deductions are from October 15th, 2021, through April 30th, 2022, pay periods.

#### Old Business:

- President Hafner noted that Vice-President Watts had been in constant conversation with Mr. Pribyl and Mr. Ryerson regarding the amount of digital minutes required by the district.
  - President Hafner thanked members for their donations to the MEA Sick Bank, and expressed the desire for a few more donated days.
  - It was noted that discipline is still an issue at some buildings; Mr. Ryerson is helping and looking at different ideas on how to address this concern. Members were asked to contact President Hafner with any other concerns.
  - Curriculum requests should start with the building principal.
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New Business:

- President Hafner stressed the importance of completing the Climate Survey, and encouraged members to answer honestly. The survey closes on Friday, November 19th.
- The Pfizer COVID booster clinic will be Wednesday, November 17th. It was noted that the link to register was not working; President Hafner will contact Allendale.
- President Hafner reported that employment for long-term substitutes would be extended through the end of the year. She also noted that Mr. DeTaeye was working on creative ideas and incentives in order to hire and retain subs.
- Heidi Norcross announced that Share Joys would again be held in person this year. Share Joys will not have the shopping day at JC Penney's for elementary school students; instead, students will shop with their families on their own over a 2-week period. Metrolink is providing free bus passes. Middle schools and MHS will follow the same procedure. MHS activities will be in person, with a "Principal Cookie Cram" at the Bartlett Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, December 8th, at 7:00pm. An on-line portal with a drop-down menu will be available for donations; donations will also be accepted at the event.

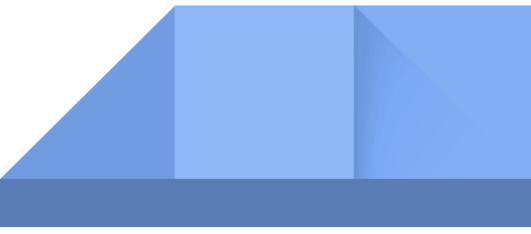
A.R. Concerns:

- 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.

A motion was made by Christine Watts, seconded by Rebecca Morrisey, to cancel the December 9th, 2021, AR meeting. **Motion** passed.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Christine Watts, seconded by Colette Guerdet. **Motion** approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Roberts  
MEA Secretary



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## MEA Member News

### **Congratulations to.....**

- Megan Bennett (Hamilton) on the birth of her child

### **Condolences to.....**

- The staff at Deere and Luann Lindauer on the death of Derek Lindauer

\*Please send any member news to  
[cwatts@molineschools.org](mailto:cwatts@molineschools.org)

