

MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

April 2022

President's Report - Susan Hafner

Hi Everyone-

It is almost the middle of April, the seniors' ABC countdown has begun, and the sun is shining. It is a good day! I think all of us, including our students, are looking forward to a positive ending to the school year, an ending that looks much more like normal than last year.

For next year, the MEA and our district's administration hope to improve the current discipline policies, which were challenging for many this year. Having consistent rules and expectations for the schools in our district will be helpful to our students, teachers, administrators, and parents. Hopefully, we will all have a clear message before our students return, and then that message will be conveyed to them from the very beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.

I would like to remind everyone that the MEA Scholarship deadline is April 22, 2022. Once again, if you have a child graduating this year, please check out the MEA website: <http://www.me40.org/> From the applicants, we will choose two recipients, who will receive \$1000.00 each. What a great way to end the year!

Today's letter is short and sweet, which is how I would like to think of the ending of the school year. 😊 It may seem like a long six weeks right now, but those days go fast, especially when they are filled with amazing activities and fun for our students. All of you have shown your resilience and professionalism this year, which was not always easy due to the continued impact of Covid. Our kids had to readjust—and many still are—and we even had to readjust, which is easier said than done. However, you did it and we are able to look forward to even more sunny days—especially summer!

I hope everyone has a great long weekend-
Susie

Moline Education Association
Association Representatives Meeting
Thursday, March 10th, 2022

The MEA Association Representatives met via Google Meets on Thursday, March 10th, 2022. President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:52pm. There were 23 ARs and 13 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Marlene DeLong, seconded by Liz O'Hern, to approve the minutes of the February 10th, 2022, AR meeting. **Motion** approved.

Treasurer Steve Sundberg reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Christine Watts, seconded by Heidi Norcross. **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 487.
- Elections - In the absence of chair Marigrace Alonso, President Hafner reported that Lori Wesemann and Raya Knight will be the delegates to the NEA Convention.
- Legislative - no report.
- Region 18 - no report.
- Public Relations - Kim Anderson reported the MEA scholarship form was available on the MEA blog. 200 Years of Service pins will be engraved (10-30 years), with a cost of \$5.00 set-up fee, \$0.50 per pin, plus tax.
- Social - Sarah Dembosky drew names for Country Style gift cards. Winners were: Jen Ulam, Abby Thrasher, Christine Chuich, Laura Polizzi, and Lori Wesemann.

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- Grievance/Negotiations - President Hafner noted that negotiations would begin next year.

Old Business:

- President Hafner reported the district insurance fund was looking healthy, and that masks mandates had been lifted.

New Business:

- President Hafner has talked with Todd DeTaeye regarding communication, and requested that information sent by Dr. Savage to parents also be sent to staff.
- President Hafner reminded ARs of protocol with MEA concerns. ARs are to discuss concerns with the building administrator first; if no action appears to be taken, then the concerns should be brought to MEA, who will work with Allendale administration to resolve the issues.

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 4:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Roberts
MEA Secretary

Moline Education Association
Association Representatives Meeting
Thursday, February 10th, 2022

The MEA Association Representatives met via Google Meet on Thursday, February 10th, 2022. President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:46pm. There were 22 ARs and 11 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Karri Dies, seconded by Lisa Welvaert, to approve the minutes of the January 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 Marlene Delong, seconded by Trisha 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 - no report.
- Elections - Marigrace Alonso reported that the election for delegates to the NEA Convention and Region Council Offices positions will be held March 2nd, 2022. Ballots will be available next week. MEA had one nomination - Lori Wesemann.
- Legislative -Raegan Jones reported that Governor Pritzker vetoes bill 2778. The compromise was an agreement between the IEA and the governor that only fully vaccinated staff could receive their sick days back if out due to COVID. SB3689 is a potential bill that would adjust and fix Tier 2. It would change the age and year requirement as well as adjust the salary.
- Region 18 - no report.
- Public Relations -Kim Anderson reported that the setup fee is \$5, the engraving cost per pin is 50 cents per pin. If we get 200 pins engraved, that would be $\$5+(0.50 \times 200)=\105 plus 7% tax would be \$112.35. That will leave 100 blanks yet to engrave at a future date. Please also send good news to Kim for the MEA Blog.

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- Social - Sarah Dembosky drew names for \$5 QC Fuel gift cards. The winners were Steve Sundberg, Karri Dies, Kara Banfield, Liz O'Hern, and Rachel Moore.
 - Grievance/Negotiations - no report.


Old Business:

- President Hafner reported that the donation to Moline Baseball in memory of Derek Lindauer was sent off.
- President Hafner reported that the snow day is intended to be low stress for both students and teaches.
- The BOE passed a substitute incentive that will begin second semester. A substitute teacher will receive a \$300 bonus for every 20 days worked.

New Business:

- President Hafner reported that insurance rates do go up every calendar year, so the increase in rates took place in January 2022. Our insurance fund is headed in the right direction. There are a handful of 55-65 year old retirees still on our plan, and there are 5 retirees over 65 that are also on our insurance plan.
- Sarah Dembosky informed the group that you can get your prescriptions mailed to you through Walgreens.
- President Hafner reported that she had spoken with district administration about the wearing of masks with the recent court ruling. The district is planning on staying the course for now until the appeals process is completed. If a student refuses to wear a mask, have them sit 6 feet away from other students. If they continue to cause a distraction, treat it like any other behavior issue.

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.
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There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Colette Guerdet, seconded by Lisa Welvaert. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:07pm.


Respectfully submitted,
Christine Watts
MEA Vice President

MEA Member News

Congratulations to.....

- Hannah Allison (Washington) for the birth of a baby boy
- Aubree Krol (Bicentennial) for the birth of a baby boy
- Arika Faith (Willard) for the birth of a baby boy
- Kara Banfield (Jefferson) on her marriage to Dr. Jon Vermeire

Condolences to.....

- Tami Clifton (Butterworth) for the death of her father
 - Emily Roberts (Franklin) for the death of her mother
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*Please send any member news to
cwatts@molineschools.org

