

MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

October 2016

President's Report - Susan Hafner

Greetings-

I hope your year is going well. It doesn't seem possible that we have already posted our progress report grades. Fortunately, the weather has gone from hot and muggy to cool and breezy, which makes students and teachers much happier.

A topic of concern at the beginning of the year was the number and length of assessments, especially at the elementary school level. Christine Watts and I talked with Matt DeBaene and Tom Ryerson about this issue and found that a good number of the assessments are requirements, but we can look at our common assessments and see how they may be revised to become more manageable. The idea of mid-year assessments was brought up since evaluations are due by February and the end of the year assessments cannot be used for student growth. I felt that a mid-year assessment was a good idea for evaluation purposes, but I stressed that the tests must be scaled back in length and implementation time so that no more instructional time is lost to assessments. They will be emailing staff a link to a survey that asks for feedback on the common assessments, providing a good opportunity for everyone to express their thoughts openly. We just need to remember that the common assessments are fluid documents that may be changed as needed.

Speaking of evaluations, I asked Todd DeTaeye about Evaluwise and its capability to link your documents to the standards in an off year. He said that he had talked to the people at Evaluwise and that specific capability is not available at this time. Personally, I see the document upload as only necessary if your evaluator needs more evidence for your evaluation.

Todd agreed and said that they told principals to take the approach of making this manageable for staff. I requested that principals speak to their staffs about the evaluation process at a Wednesday meeting if they have not done so already.

An issue from last year that continues again this year is co-teaching. I informed Matt DeBaene that some teachers are feeling burnt out by the requirements that accompany co-teaching a class. I think that we will be sending a survey to staff again, so please be honest in your responses. Hopefully, this will lead to some changes for those co-teachers.

Besides co-teaching, the requirements for the RTI teachers at the middle schools are also a concern. Currently, there is no provided curriculum for those teachers. I talked to Tom Ryerson, who said he would try to find an online program for math and a program for ELA, which may be a scripted program that may require some training before using it. I said that we need to offer these to teachers to have as a resource that they can use if they need or not if they are already doing something that they feel is successful. I wanted it so teachers do not need to create curriculum for RTI. Additionally, this would also enable the RTI to be rotated in future years since teachers will be provided with a specific curriculum that anyone can teach.

In attempting to achieve equity at the middle schools, we currently formed a committee that will look at a future schedule for the middle schools. On a side note, I would like to thank all of the teachers who volunteered to be a part of the committee. Your involvement is greatly appreciated. The administrators are also creating a schedule with which we will compare ours, finally deciding on one or the other or a combination of the two. Colette Guerdet, our lead negotiator, is heading up the committee and, hopefully, this issue can be settled before negotiations begin next spring.

Since this is a negotiations year, we will be forming a negotiations team later this semester, so please think of being a part of this process. The requirements include meetings after school and most likely during the summer. It is a long process, but it is also an enlightening one.

In closing, I want to thank the ARs and Executive Board members for the hard work they do to support the rest of the MEA members. Once again, Kim Anderson helped honor teachers on our first day by ensuring that teachers received their pins and certificates of service. In addition, Mary Nelson and Heidi Norcross have once again been working diligently on



membership, trying to make sure the IEA rosters are accurate. This is definitely not an easy task since the original rosters from the state were completely wrong. In all of your buildings, people have stepped up to take on a job that is for the betterment of all teachers, not just themselves, and again, I would like to thank them for their commitment.

As we go forward into the school year, I hope that the heat has permanently subsided and that the cooler fall days lie ahead. Before we know it, the leaves will be falling and the warm summer days will seem like a distant memory. Is it wrong that I am already looking forward to having Thanksgiving week off?!

Enjoy the year and all that it brings-
Susie

AR Secretary's Report - Emily Roberts

Moline Education Association
Association Representatives Meeting
Thursday, September 15th, 2016

The MEA Association Representatives met Thursday, September 15th 2016, at the IEA Office, Moline. President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:55pm. There were 30 representatives and 11 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Colette Guerdet, seconded by Rebecca Sunken, to approve the minutes of the May 12th, 2016, AR meeting. **Motion** passed.

Treasurer Mary Nelson reported balances in all accounts. She asked that anyone interested in serving on the MEA audit committee contact her. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Christine Watts, seconded by Colette Guerdet. **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 Mary Nelson.

Committee Chair Reports:

- Membership – Heidi Norcross reported that the committee would be taking an Association Day on Friday, September 16th, to complete paperwork.
- Legislative – Dave Strafford reminded ARs of the support that Representative Mike Smiddy has shown to education. He asked that members contact him if interested in volunteering (phone canvass) to support the Democratic Nominee for President.
- Region 18 – no report.
- Public Relations – in the absence of Kim Anderson, President Hafner reported that the MEA blog was updated and asked members to send news to Kim Anderson for the blog.
- Social – ARs were asked to complete a ticket for a door prize drawing and to sign-up if their schools would provide treats for future AR meetings. A social event is to be announced.
- Grievance/Negotiations – Colette Guerdet reminded ARs that MEA would be in contract negotiations at the end of this school year and asked members to e-mail her with ideas, issues, and corrections to the current contract. President Hafner will send an e-mail to MEA members asking for submission of names of those members interested in serving on the MEA negotiations team. Colette Guerdet informed the ARs that the committee was in Step One of a grievance regarding class size.

Old Business:

- President Hafner reported there was on-going discussions with administration regarding: scheduling; co-teaching, with administration aware that there was not enough support; and cluster grouping, which, she noted, did not seem to work as well at smaller schools.
- President Hafner encouraged ARs to remind members to be involved in the upcoming National and Board of Education elections. She noted that candidates for the BOE vacancies would need to apply at the County Board Office by Thursday, September 22nd, with signatures due by December 1st.

New Business:

- President Hafner yielded the floor to Vice-President Christine Watts for the appointment of Executive Board chair positions. Nominations were: Membership – Heidi Norcross; Legislative – Dave Strafford; Region 18 – Scott Ehlers; Public Relations – Kim Anderson; Social Co-Chairs – Tina Ferreri and Aubree Kroll; and Chief Negotiator/Grievance Co-Chairs Colette Guerdet and Susie Hafner. A motion was made by Liz Finch, seconded by Alina Schafman, to approve the appointment of Executive Board chair positions. **Motion** passed.
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- President Hafner resumed the floor for the appointment of Executive Board chair position. Nomination was: Elections – Christine Watts. A motion was made by Alina Schafman, seconded by Shannon Dudek, to approve the appointment. **Motion** passed.
 - President Hafner noted that contract negotiations would start after the Board of Education election.
 - President Hafner noted that the ERO (Early Retirement Option) had been eliminated in Illinois. **Educators will need to apply to get a refund.** It was noted that the money refunded may be left in TRS, rolled over into a 403 B account, or taken as a cash refund (which would be taxed). Colette Guerdet will contact the area Met Life representative to set up a group meeting for those interested in a 403 B account.

A.R. Concerns:

- It was voted (2010-2011) to not publish 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.

Winning tickets were drawn for Whitey’s gift card door prizes.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Heidi Norcross, seconded by Jill Bogart. **Motion** passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Roberts
MEA Secretary

MEA Member News

Congratulations to:

- Markaye Eastman (Franklin) on her marriage
- Cindy Hanft (Franklin) on the birth of her granddaughter
- Amy Lowrance (Roosevelt) on her marriage
- Beth Koberstein (Roosevelt) on the birth of her granddaughter
- Paul Mills (Hamilton) on his marriage
- Maggie and Darren Dykstra (Logan) on the birth of their son
- Joe Ehlers (MHS) on his marriage
- Ellen Garcia (MHS) on her marriage
- Raegen Jones (Wilson) on the birth of her daughter
- Leah Trevor on the birth of her son
- Kaylee Lance (Butterworth) on her marriage

Condolences to:

- Wendy Pilichowski (MHS) on the loss of her aunt
- Kerry Ossian (Jane Addams) on the loss of her father

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