

MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

February 2017

President's Report - Susan Hafner

Hello Everyone-

It's Monday. What a game last night! I hope everyone had a great weekend, enjoying time with family, friends, and even rivals. It's amazing how good food and an exciting game can bring people together. As we look forward to the rest of the month, we will continue to be busy--teaching all of the standards, celebrating Valentine's Day with chaotic parties, meeting with parents for conferences, and grading all of the many assessments. How do we do it all?

Technology Update: The move to replace all of our desktop computers with laptops has been put on hold. The technology committee will continue to meet next year and, hopefully, will come up with a plan that meets our needs.

Middle School Schedule: The middle school MEA staff voted on the proposed schedule. Colette notified the committee members of the results, which were 57% in favor and 43% opposed. We will continue to move forward with the proposed schedule; however, we are open to possible modifications that can meet the specific parameters of the teacher priorities. For example, teachers expressed that they wanted to see the following continue: 8 period day, ELA block, the team concept, and rotational Encore classes. In addition, any modifications need to take into consideration that the District will not be hiring additional staff. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact me or Colette.

School Board Candidates: The MEA and the Moline Public Schools Foundation have partnered together to put on a public forum for the current school board candidates. This will provide the candidates the opportunity to introduce themselves and answer questions that are of importance to our district. The forum will be at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 6th, at the Wilson Middle School cafeteria. We hope that you can attend.

Negotiations: The negotiations committee will begin the initial stages of finding out the priorities of our members for the upcoming negotiations. The committee consists of:

Susan Hafner--President
Colette Geurdet--Lead Negotiator
Christine Watts--Vice President/Intermediate/Elementary
David Brown--Special Education/Elementary
Marlene DeLong--Math/Middle School
Jill Bogart--ELA/John Deere
Lori Weseman--Math Co-Teacher/MHS
Meghan Meier--SPL/Middle Schools
Tina Ferreri--Primary/ Elementary

I would like to thank everyone who showed interest in being on the committee and look forward to meeting with the members later this month. With negotiations, this will be a busy spring, but as we all know, we can do it. All of us make our incredibly hectic lives look relatively easy--at least to our students.

Have a great week-
Susie



Nominations for IEA Delegates for the NEA Convention

The National Education Association Representative Assembly will convene in Boston, Massachusetts on June 30 - July 5, 2017. On January 25th, nominations will open. They will close by 4:30 pm on February 8th. The election will be held on March 8th. Any member may nominate him/herself by calling the Moline IEA Office at 797-4126. Telephone notice must be made to the Moline IEA Office by 4:30 pm. Thank you!

AR Secretary's Report - Emily Roberts

Moline Education Association
Association Representatives Meeting
Thursday, January 12th, 2017

The MEA Association Representatives met Thursday, January 12th, 2017, at the IEA Office, Moline. Sangeetha Rayapati, Erin Waldron-Smith, and Andy Waeyaert, candidates running for the Moline Board of Education, were present, having asked to meet and address the representatives prior to the meeting.

President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 4:15pm. There were 30 ARs and 8 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Colette Guerdet, seconded by Lisa Welvaert, to approve the minutes of the November 9th, 2016, AR meeting. **Motion** passed.

Treasurer Mary Nelson reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Shelly Rumler, seconded by Tricia Engstrom-Gehring.



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 membership stands at 445.
- Elections – Christine Watts reported that Dave Strafford and Lori Wesemann would be the representatives for the IEA convention. She reminded members that nomination forms for delegates to the NEA convention need to be returned to the IEA office by February.
- Legislative – Dave Strafford asked that anyone interested in attending the February 3-4 GPA mini-convention in Springfield to contact him by January 18th.
- Region 18 – Scott Ehlers noted there was nothing new to report.
- Social – Aubree Krol informed members that the social event was scheduled for Friday, January 27th, at 4:00, at the Barrelhouse, Moline. Appetizers will be provided.
- Grievance/Negotiations – Colette Guerdet reported there were no grievances.

Old Business:

- President Hafner noted that she had reminded administration of the additional monies available in the education fund due to the TRS .4%.
 - The survey for co-teaching will be delayed until spring, per administrative request, in order to more accurately reflect data. President Hafner encouraged teachers to be honest in their responses.
 - President Hafner noted that ELA units are a continuing conversation, and that a vertical articulation committee would meet at the end of January to discuss the units.
 - A committee is gathering information and feedback from middle school teachers in regard to schedules. President Hafner noted the future schedule change is to make things equitable for staff and beneficial to students.
 - No decision has been made regarding laptops for staff.
 - Negotiations will start after the seating of the new Board of Education. Any member interested in serving on the negotiation committee is asked to contact President Hafner.
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New Business:

- President Hafner noted there are eight candidates running for the three open seats on the Board of Education. A Meet the Candidates Forum is scheduled for Monday, March 6th, 2017, at Wilson Middle School cafeteria. The Moline Public Schools Foundation is partnering with MEA to run the forum. Members were asked to send forum ideas and/or questions to President Hafner.

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.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Colette Guerdet, seconded by Lisa Polito. **Motion** passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Roberts
MEA Secretary

MEA Member News

Congratulations to:

- Kelly Mulcahy (Franklin) and Bob Beem on their recent wedding
 - Allison Olson (Hamilton) on the birth of her daughter, Quinn on December 25th
 - Amy Graff (Lincoln-Irving) on the birth of her daughter
 - Leah Trevor (Lincoln-Irving) on the birth of her son
 - Tony Frakes (MHS) on his recent wedding
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Condolences to:

- Toni Pruett (Bicentennial) on the death of her father
- Sharon Menke (John Deere) on the death of her father-in-law
- Christine Chuich (Lincoln-Irving) on the death of her husband
- Mara Fanello (Lincoln-Irving) on the death of her grandmother and aunt
- Liz Nache (Lincoln-Irving) on the death of her grandmother
- Marlene DeLong (Wilson) on the death of her mother

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www.me40.org

slhafner@molineschools.org

