

MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

March 2017

President's Report - Susan Hafner

Hello Everyone-

Can you believe that it is March already? Did February even exist--I know that the freezing February of my past sure didn't. Where has the time gone? Before we know it, the school year will be coming to an end. Speaking of how quickly time flies, I hope everyone saw that the calendars for years 2018-2020 were approved by the board.

School Board Candidates Forum: The MEA and MPSF have partnered together to put on a school board candidates forum, which is at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 6th, at Wilson Middle School's cafeteria. All eight candidates will be in attendance and will be answering questions concerning the district. We hope that many of you can come, so you can hear the views of each candidate. This is a very important election and the more we can be informed the better.

Negotiations: The negotiations team shared a survey with all MEA members, so we could get as much input as possible. We will be grouping and narrowing down the responses for a follow-up survey that should be shared with you after spring break. Formal negotiations with the district will not begin until May.

MEA Scholarship: Do you have a child that is graduating this year? If so, please go to the MEA website (mea40.org) and check out the information regarding the MEA scholarship. We will be

awarding two students \$1000.00 each to help them with their tuition costs next year. The deadline is April 24th, 2017.

Co-Teaching Survey: The co-teaching survey will be going out to the staff in April. Once again, please be very honest with your thoughts about co-teaching and be specific in regards to what is or what is not working. We want to make sure that all of our students' needs are being met and that we are providing the best possible education to everyone.

Another survey?!: On a side note, I was informed by Matt DeBaene that he will be sending out a survey this spring as part of the research needed for his doctorate program. I want everyone to know that this is not required and you do not need to do it if you do not want to--it is completely voluntary. This message also comes from Matt in that he doesn't want anyone to feel that this survey is a requirement.

Finally, we had some good news--SB 100 was defeated, which gives all of us a moment to breathe a sigh of relief; however, I am sure that another bill concerning our retirement will be brought up in the future, so we must continue to be vigilant in our fight for what is right. Lastly, I hope that everyone will take some time to enjoy the warmer weather and longer days (we get to set the clocks ahead this month) as we head towards spring break. It feels like it was just the end of first semester!

See you at the forum-
Susie



AR Secretary's Report - Emily Roberts

Moline Education Association
Association Representatives Meeting
Thursday, February 9th, 2017

The MEA Association Representatives met Thursday, February 9th, 2017, at the IEA Office, Moline. President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:45pm. There not being a quorum present, President Hafner proceeded to the Committee Chair reports.

Committee Chair Reports:

- **Membership** – Heidi Norcross reported membership had increased to 446 members.
- **Elections** – no report.
- **Legislative** – Dave Strafford attended the GPA convention.
- **Public Relations** – in the absence of Kim Anderson, President Hafner reported that the on-line MEA Scholarship form would be updated.
- **Social** – Aubree Krol provided a sign-up sheet for schools to provide snacks for the next three AR meetings; she reminded ARs that schools could be reimbursed for the cost of the snacks.
- **Grievance/Negotiations** – no reports.

Old Business:

- President Hafner announced the members of the Negotiations Team: Susan Hafner, Colette Guerdet (Lead Negotiator), Christine Watts, David Brown, Marlene DeLong, Jill Bogart, Lori Wesemann, Meghan Meier, and Tina Ferreri. The team will send a staff survey asking members to prioritize concerns.
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- The MEA and Moline Public Schools Foundation have partnered together to hold a public forum to meet the candidates for the Board of Education. The forum will be held at 6:00pm, Monday, March 6th, at the Wilson Middle School cafeteria. President Hafner has received biographies from half of the candidates. Forum questions for the candidates may be sent to President Hafner.

New Business:

- Senate Bill 11 was defeated.
- President Hafner noted that the proposed middle school schedule was passed by a 57 to 43 vote. Please e-mail President Hafner with additional thoughts or concerns.
- MEA Scholarship Committee – Kathleen Maclennan and Sherri Martin volunteered to serve on the committee to replace retiring member Sue Krismanits.
- Members interested in donating to the Sick Leave Bank are asked to return the form to President Hafner.

There were now 25 representatives and 6 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Liz Finch, seconded by Jayne Woeber, to approve the minutes of the January 12th, 2017, AR meeting. **Motion** passed.

In the absence of Treasurer Mary Nelson, President Hafner reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Heidi Norcross, seconded by Debbie Sturges. **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.

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.

A motion was made by Shelly Rumler, seconded by Rachel Moore, that, in the event of a strike, a check in the amount of \$200 be sent from the MEA to the East Moline Teachers Union. **Motion** passed.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Sherri Martin, seconded by Tricia Leibovitz. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Roberts
MEA Secretary



MEA Member News

Congratulations to:

- Ashley Motika (Jane Addams) on her recent wedding

Condolences to:

- Angel Dearing (Jane Addams) on the death of her grandmother
- Amy Perry (Wilson) on the death of her father

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