

MEA Representative Council Meeting: December 14, 2009

President Molly Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

I. Information/Introductions

None

II. Agenda Revisions

None

III. Routine Matters

- A. The minutes of the November 23, 2009 Representative Council meeting were approved.
- B. The Financial Report was approved as submitted.

IV. Leadership/Staff Reports

- A. President's Report: Last week's District Wellness Committee meeting was cancelled due to weather, so they will meet after the beginning of the year. Some good resources for teachers: NEA Webpage for Teachers (online classes): <http://connected.waldenu.edu/>; Coventry: https://member.cvty.com:443/memberPortalWeb/appmanager/memberPortal/member?_nfpb=true&_portlet.async=false&_pageLabel=external_user_registration_page; NSEA benefit page: <http://www.nsea.org/join/benefits/nsea.htm>
There will be no Effective Schools Survey (AKA Climate Survey) in the spring due to the Gallup Survey teachers took in the fall. The Millard Public Schools Foundation Board is no longer sponsoring CCM1 and as a result that money will go back to schools; teachers supervising after school programs will get paid with this money. Molly met with Chad Meisgeier and he explained the change in insurance: Current insurance covers children through age 24; a new law states if said children are full-time students they can be covered through age 30 on a parents' insurance; children can't opt back in if they aren't currently on their parents' insurance. This will only affect kids over age 18; Coventry will be contacting members to see if they want to keep their children on their insurance. Contact Chad Meisgeier with questions.
- A. Vice President's Report: Mike Foyt will be retiring at the end of this year. He has one year left on his vice presidential term. Molly will be providing information on the election in the spring.
- B. UniServ Report: The mid-year membership drive wraps up on Friday, December 18th. When school is closed due to weather, the MEA office is closed as well.
- C. LCCC/Legislative Report: There is a pending lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the funding of the Learning Community. There is a tentative framework as to how kids will move between districts (a school fair is planned at UNO in the spring): by March 15th any parents moving students will have to submit a form from their home district to the destination district (free/reduced have priority, siblings are next); districts have to notify families by April 1st if a student has been accepted into the destination district; parents have to decide whether their child will actually be attending the destination district by the end of April. Another issue: Can districts reserve slots if they know a student will be entering the program at a later date?
- D. NCUEA Report: Becky Scherbring attended the NCUEA conference in Nashville. She can BRs a rundown of the speakers she heard and breakout sessions she attended. Additional information on can be found on the NCUEA website: <http://www.nea.org/home/1610.htm>
- E. GRC (Government Relations Committee) Report: Let Paul Schulte know if you are interested in serving on this committee. A reminder that the Health Care Concert is on December 18th. Paul will attend the Governor's Dinner January 11th in Lincoln.
- F. Communication Committee Report: Tom Whisinnand shared that the sCrystal Apple Award winner is Debra Sheldon from Cody Elementary.

V. Information Items

- A. Membership Prizes: Extra door prizes from the New Member Party will be distributed to BRs and new teachers in a random drawing.
- B. Date Reminders: The Health Care Concert is December 18th. Membership forms have to be in to Molly by the 18th. If you get forms **on** the 18th you need to let Molly know so they can be collected as soon as possible; new member information has to be entered by the end of the day.

- C. Wednesday Follow-Up: Molly talked with Dr. Lutz regarding Wednesday plan time for elementary teachers. No meetings are required during that time; teachers can choose to meet (i.e. with a literacy coach, with PLCs, etc.) if they want.
- D. Constitution Revision (First Reading): The board added Insurance and Communications to its list of standing committees.

VI. **Action Items**

The Action Items were tabled until our January BR meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

VII. **New Business/Questions**

- A. Do snow days have to be made up at the end of the school year? Can they be made up during winter break? spring break? Can the district add time to the remaining school days instead?

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Erin Shirmang-Ward, Secretary