

MEA Representative Council Meeting: November 23, 2009

President Molly Erickson called the meeting to order at 4: 24 p.m.

**I. Information/Introductions**

- A. Jeremy Stoll – Westside/NSEA GRC: Health Care Concert

**II. Agenda Revisions**

None

**III. Routine Matters**

- A. The minutes of the October 26, 2009 Representative Council meeting were approved.
- B. The Financial Report was approved as submitted.

**IV. Leadership/Staff Reports**

- A. President's Report: Molly and Matt Heys are involved in the district's Wellness Committee; this committee may have negotiations implications in a couple of years; Molly will keep us posted. There is no current agenda for December's ProCom meeting; there is a LCC meeting at Horizon High School that afternoon, so the meeting may be moved. The MPS Foundation has wrapped up; there was an increase in donations this year; all buildings should have received their prizes. Nurses: do not have to attend conferences because they start two days before the contract to do health screenings. The NSEA Retirement seminar was well attended. Lynette Dergan from Andersen Middle School received the Crystal Apple Award. Elementary teachers get to leave at 3:45 the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.
- B. Vice President's Report: There was a Workmen's Comp incident in Mike Foyt's building; 20 attorneys have contacted the teacher injured. How did that info get out when we work so hard to keep it private? Molly looked in to this; not much we can do about it. The Workmen's Comp form is filled out and sent in to the state (name and address are public information). If it happens to you there isn't much you can do about. Chad Meisgeier looked in to this as well to make sure only public information can be obtained by attorneys.
- C. UniServ Report: Last Thursday Brad Jupp, part of Department of Education had a meeting and wanted stories of how NCLB has affected classroom teachers; he will report back to Arne Duncan. There will be no increase to state aid for the 2010-11 school year, so some school districts will have less state aid than they had this year. NSEA is going to have another membership drive (dues will be prorated) because they feel there may be significant RIF s due to the budget situation. There is no guarantee further cuts won't be made in January. If you are asked to write a letter to your state senator you are encouraged to do so. Molly sends an MEA packet to people hired after the October membership deadline and encourages building reps to make contact with new hires. CADRE people can join the student organization.
- D. Metro District Board Report: Tom Whisinnand wants to know what the Metro District can do to support school districts and teachers.
- E. LCCC/Legislative Report: District 4 (Millard/Elkhorn) met on the November 12<sup>th</sup>. Quite a few parents, three principals, two members of LCCC, and superintendants attended. The Poverty Plan and LEP (Limited English Proficiency) plan were approved by LCCC members Dwight Peterson and Brad Burwell. The Millard Poverty Plan and LEP plans were passed by the LCCC as a whole. The LCCC has ability to work with private contractors.

**V. Information Items**

- A. Policy Change 2300 (First Reading) "President's Compensation Policy" Strike CCM language. How do we compensate the MEA president? Molly currently keeps track of hours and is compensated per diem. The Board has suggested a stipend of \$3500. There is no proposal to change the presidential comp section at this time. BRs are encouraged to share this information with their buildings and bring suggestions to the December meeting.
- B. Constitution Change VI and VII (First Reading): Language changes can be brought to the next meeting. Any member is able to attend Board meetings and participate and debate but cannot vote. BRs are encouraged to share this information with their buildings and bring suggestions to the December meeting.

- C. New Business Item (First Reading): Tom Whisinnand shared his proposal for presenting a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington on National Teacher Day by the NEA president.
- D. Health Care Concert: Jeremy Stoll from Westside shared information on the concert. It will be on Friday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Slowdown (729 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street). The purpose of the gathering is to help people get the facts on healthcare reform, give the people who come the chance to make a congressional contact, and make their opinions know, and to have good time listening to local musicians. Members and nonmembers are invited and are encouraged to arrive early for the issue education seminar at 6:00 p.m. Information on the concert is also available at [www.nsea.org](http://www.nsea.org). The concert is sponsored by the NSEA and Nebraska Change That Works.
- E. Western Region/NCUEA: Paul Markley, Paul Schulte, and Tom Whisinnand will represent MEA at Western Region in January in Phoenix; Becky Scherbring will represent MEA at NCUEA in Nashville next week.
- F. Year-End Financial Report: Molly shared the information in the year-end report that was provided by the MEA accountant. The board approved the report. No further action was needed.
- G. Date Reminders: MEA teacher scholarship spring applications need to be in by Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>; winners will be selected on December 8<sup>th</sup>. 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Crystal Apple nominations are due December 4<sup>th</sup>; only one person has been nominated thus far. People who are interested in the early retirement bonus from the district need to submit paperwork by December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- H. Elementary Plan Time: Elementary teachers (except for Abbott) now stay until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays so there is equitable planning time across all grade levels (these elementary teachers currently work 3.5 days more and are not compensated for their time). Some teachers shared that they have required building meetings during this time and do not always have their “own” time. Molly said PLC time is OK; other things that are not part of collaborative plan shouldn’t be done during that time.
- I. Day 194 Planning: If you would like to teach a class on day 194 you can get onto the MPS intranet, go to Office of Staff Development and submit your class idea. This needs to be done by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**VI. Action Items**

- A. Policy Change 1100 (second reading): Motion to adopt Policy language for 1100: Motion carried.
- B. MEA Teacher Scholarship Winners: 1-5 years experience: Ryan Mosely and Brooke Pecerao; 6 or more years experience: Sugar Thiessen and Lindsay Petersen

**VII. New Business/Questions**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Erin Shirmang-Ward, Secretary