

MEA Representative Council Meeting: December 13, 2010

President Molly Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m.

I. Information/Introductions

- A. Jerry Hoffman, NSEA lobbyist, asked members how they felt about being told cuts need to need to be made to education. He asked if we had voiced our concerns to our Senators, and he made suggestions on how we could connect with Senators and begin conversations about what kids need from the state. He suggested providing descriptions of the needs of students so Senators remember the face at the end of the dollar bill. Jerry also shared the NSEA's 2011 Legislative priorities. They are: Prioritizing funding for P-16 education, preserving the retirement system, enhancing the lottery-funded tuition reimbursement program, and preserving the integrity of the Commission of Industrial Relations.

II. Agenda Revisions

- A. None

III. Routine Matters

- A. The minutes of the November 8, 2010 Representative Council meeting were approved.
- B. The Financial Report was approved as submitted.

IV. Leadership Training

- A. Constituency Groups: Discuss Building/District Issues

V. Leadership/Staff Reports

- A. President's Report (Molly Erickson): Molly talked with Kim Saum-Mills about differentiating the IWB training to better serve teachers; there is a district tech team, and you can request that someone come out to your building to provide additional instruction. Dr. Feldhausen and Molly discussed the idea of holding kids accountable vs. being punitive in terms of the Ombudsmen Program; Molly shared teachers' concerns regarding loss of learning and the amount of re-teaching that goes on when students return to school with him. We still have an open position on the Board of Directors (High School Director); if you are interested, please contact Molly.
- B. Vice-President's Report (Paul Schulte): NCUEA—Paul attended the National Council of Urban Education Associations conference in Tulsa, OK. As part of the conference highlights, he heard Dennis Van Roekel speak about the upcoming challenges that NEA will be facing. One of the biggest concerns that he spoke about was in regards to the President and the Secretary of Education. The NEA supported the Obama campaign and his bid for the presidency, but now two years later feel that they haven't delivered on promises to improve the educational issues that are facing our nation. Paul also went to a workshop on a program called Sparks/Re-Ignite. This is a program that the Boise Education Association runs through a NCUEA grant and NEA grant, which focuses on new teacher members (Sparks) and experience teachers (Re-Ignite). This is a great program that he would like to look into and consider for MEA to do as we look for new leaders within our association. There were also 18 new business items that were voted on, which was a high number according to many that have attended before. Paul felt that from the conference focus on reclaiming the future of public education and the comments from NEA President Van Roekel, the Representative Assembly in Chicago will be exciting this summer. NSEA Lobby Day will be on March 7, 2011 in Lincoln and Paul will be attending. Legislative Corp—If you're interested in joining the Corp, go to the MPS website, click under Community Involvement, and then complete the application or contact Karla Sullivan for more information.
- C. UniServ Report (Mike Wiesen): If you are finishing a graduate class, make sure you get your transcripts in to the district. There will be changes in the district due to budget, so make sure you are prepared.
- D. LCCC/Legislative Report (Matt Heys): LCCC Caucus: Mike Pate is the Millard School Board representative for District 4.
- E. Communications Committee (Lynsey Sharon): Our second quarter Crystal Apple Award winner is Bonnie Skaff from Cather. So many people have been nominated we will be selecting Crystal Apple

winners each month. The Spring in to Books drive is coming together; we are working on making contact with book sellers to get donations. The January MEA Night Out will be bowling.

VI. Information Items

- A. Scholarship Policy (2450) Revision (First Reading): Molly discussed changing the due dates for scholarship applications to increase the number of people who can apply for scholarships. We will vote on this in January.
- B. Staff Development Update: See President's Report.
- C. Ombudsmen Update: See President's Report.
- D. ProCom Minutes: The Extra Duty Committee is reviewing a small number of areas and comparing them with other districts to see how duties have changed; it's not possible to review all extra duty positions this year but all will be reviewed in the next few years; the goal is to make this review cyclical and more frequent. We will not be receiving federal stimulus money next school year and as a result changes will need to be made to the district budget. Different groups of teachers, administrators, and community members have been surveyed to get their ideas on where potential cuts can be made.

VII. Action Items

- A. Negotiations Team: The team consists of Matt Heys (Chief Negotiator), Tyler Berzina (Statistician), Molly Erickson, Mike Wisen and Paul Schulte. Molly made a motion on behalf of the Board of Directors to approve the Negotiations Team. Motion carried. If you are interested in being part of the Negotiations Committee, please let Molly know.
- B. End-of-the-Year Financial Report: Molly made a motion on behalf of the Board of Directors to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

VIII. New Business/Questions

- A. None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Erin Shirmang-Ward, Secretary