

MEA Representative Council Meeting: January 25, 2010

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

I. Information/Introductions

None

II. Agenda Revisions

None

III. Routine Matters

- A. The minutes of the December 14, 2009 Representative Council meeting were approved.
- B. The Financial Report was approved as submitted.

IV. Leadership/Staff Reports

- A. President's Report: Rick Wilson, MEAs Rookie of the Year from last year, moved back to his hometown so we don't have anyone to nominate for the state Rookie of the Year award. If you have an exemplary second year teacher in your building, nominate him/her for Crystal Apple or let Molly know about this wonderful teacher; only second year teachers are eligible. The Extra Duty Committee will consist of three teachers (one each from elementary, middle, and high school) plus Matt Heys and Molly; their primary focus will be to work on revisions of extra duty descriptions. The committee will be calling in groups of people to share their extra duty job descriptions to see what changes need to be made; the district will also be sending out surveys to gather information.
- B. Vice-President's Report: Mike Foyt had no report.
- C. UniServ Report: Mike Wiesen wanted to remind members to "stop before you send". If you have a disagreement with your administrator(s)/supervisor(s), it's probably best you talk with them face to face rather than sending an email that could be misconstrued. If you do send an email: Does it say what you want it to say? Does it offer a solution to your problem? Is it written professionally and respectfully? Have you contacted MEA? Mike and Molly are willing to help members draft an email if assistance is needed.
- D. LCCC/Legislative Report: Matt Heys was absent. Molly shared that open enrollment issues are still being discussed.
- E. GRC Report: Paul Schulte, Becky Scherbring, and Mike Wiesen attended a legislative dinner on January 11th with 38 state senators, the lieutenant governor, and NSEA representatives from across the state. Senators Cook and Lathrop sat at the Millard table. Current national events and educational issues were discussed.
- F. WRLC Report: Paul Markley, Paul Schulte, and Tom Whisinnand attended the Western Region Leadership Conference in Phoenix in mid-January. Paul Schulte and Tom shared information on the presentations they attended.
- G. Membership Committee Report: The Membership Committee met last week. Items from the meeting: A gift will be sent to teachers during the first week of March (Nebraska Teacher Week). MEA is going to host a luncheon for the new teachers when they start in early August rather than a breakfast. There will be an opportunity for BR leadership training at the beginning of August. Molly presented an idea for all-MEA member event in August: If you bring a new teacher/nonmember, you will both be entered in a drawing. Molly shared information on an NEA Membership Grant; our membership is still considered "high", so she will hold off on this until next year.

V. Information Items

- A. Metro Board: There is an open Millard position on the Metro Board. The Board meets once a month; they discuss local and state issues and as well as issues relevant to the Learning Community Council. If you are interested in running, or know someone who might be, names need to be submitted to Molly as soon as possible.
- B. MEA Board: The following two-year terms will be up for election: President, Recording Secretary, Elementary Director (1 position), Middle Level Director (1 position), High School Director (1 position). There is also one year left on the Vice-President's term due to Mike Foyt's retirement.

- C. Election Procedures: If you are interested in running for an open board position you need to put your intent in writing and email it to Kathy Gibbs. Nominations will be accepted until the start of the February Building Rep meeting. If an election is contested at that time, the Board of Directors will set an election date for March.
- D. Policy 3200 (First Reading): Paul Schulte moved on behalf of the Board of Directors to adopt Policy 3200 as written. This is the first reading; we will vote on this change next month.

3200

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ATTENDANCE

Directors are expected to attend board of director and representative council meetings. Directors must notify the MEA Office **President, via email or phone**, if they are going to be absent from a regularly scheduled meeting.

- E. Policy 2450 (First Reading): Becky Scherbring moved on behalf of the Board of Directors to adopt Policy 2450 as written. This is the first reading; we will vote on this change next month.

We will have (4) \$500 scholarships for the fall, spring, and summer sessions. ~~Unofficial~~ Official transcripts will need to be sent to the MEA Office (4204 South 57th St. Omaha 68117). Money will be disbursed upon receipt of the transcripts indicating successful completion of the course with a C or better.

Rationale: The unofficial transcripts (from UNO) do not have a name on them. So, for book keeping purposes this would keep it much cleaner. I checked on the UNO website today and they do not charge to send an official transcript so this is no additional cost to the student. They do have to fill out a request but that can be done electronically.

- F. Snow Days: Discussion was moved to the end of the meeting without objection. School contact days and state funding now go hand and hand. Each day we don't make up due to inclement weather, the district loses approximately \$900,000 in state aid. The proposal going to the School Board at tonight's meeting: Change February 11th (staff development and conferences) and March 15th (teacher work day) to student days.

VI. **Unfinished Business/Action Items**

- A. Policy Change 2300 (Second Reading): Vote to accept language change; motion carried.

2300

PRESIDENT'S COMPENSATION POLICY

The MEA President shall be compensated on his/her contracted salary with the school district as per the negotiated agreement with the district. The president will have the option to take comp time in place of normal contract days or receive per diem pay not to exceed thirty-five (35) days. Per Diem pay is defined as extra days/nights, weekends, or summer hours worked beyond the district's teacher contract days. The number of non-contracted days worked will be verified by the board of directors. Such schedules will be presented by the president and reviewed on an as need basis at the monthly board of director's meetings. Upon approval of the board, payment will be issued to the president based upon his/her daily rate of pay for salary excluding benefits. The president must account for sick days used by recording and submitting them to the district to receive unused sick day pay. ~~The president can choose to participate by signing on to a building plan of his/her choice. If the building is successful, the president will receive CCM pay per rate received by all certified staff determined and paid by the district. If the building were not successful, no pay will be given.~~

- B. Constitution Change, Articles VI and VII (Second Reading)
 - 1. Article VI: Section 1C: Vote to accept language change; motion carried.

The recording secretary shall serve a term of two (2) years with a maximum of three (3) consecutive terms. The recording secretary shall be elected in even numbered years. The recording secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all board of director and representative

council meetings. **The recording secretary will be responsible for sending these minutes to the president electronically for distribution.**

2. Article VII: Motion presented: A director will be elected from the group of nurses, school psychologists, and speech pathologists. The director will be responsible for communication with that constituency, serve as a committee liaison and may be appointed as a member of an Ad Hoc committee and perform management duties of the Association. The director will serve as a voting representative of their group. Moved Montgomery/Janivek to accept the amendment. Moved (Scherbring) to modify the amendment to state: Designate one At-Large Director position to represent a non-classroom teacher. The maker accepted this as a friendly amendment. Moved (Gibbs/Whisinnand) to table the amendment until next month's meeting.
- C. New Business Item (Second Reading): Vote to request the current NEA president lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C. on National Teacher Day, motion carried.
- D. MEA Teacher Scholarship Winners: Andrea Comisar and Greg Schwanke (1-5 years experience). Kristen McKenney and Darren Meyers (6+ years experience). Vote to accept winners; motion carried.
- E. Constitution Revision, Article XI (Second Reading): Vote to accept language change to Section 2: G. Insurance, and H. Communications; Section 4: Reports to be given at board/building representative meetings. Motion carried.

VII. **New Business/Questions**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Erin Shirmang-Ward, Secretary