

MEA Representative Council Meeting: November 8, 2010

President Molly Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

**I. Information/Introductions**

**II. Agenda Revisions**

- A. None

**III. Routine Matters**

- A. The minutes of the October 18, 2010 Representative Council meeting were approved.
- B. The Financial Report was approved as submitted.

**IV. Leadership Training**

- A. The Face of MEA: We have three levels of membership 1). People who joined because it's their professional obligation; we want to get them more involved, 2). This is where BRs land, they are our problem solvers; these are the people members go to first with their questions, 3). Consists of members who are involved in committees, the Board of Directors. Leaders on Levels 2 and 3 need to be advocates for those on Level 1.

**V. Leadership/Staff Reports**

- A. President's Report (Molly Erickson): Former member Becky Torrens is almost done with chemo and will start radiation; so far she is cancer-free and doing very well. Eight members attended the Bargaining Conference in Grand Island on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>; presenters from Helena, Montana shared information on how performance pay works for them. If you have concerns in your building and you would like Molly to come out and talk, please let her know so she can make arrangements. Graduate classes have to be completed by September 1<sup>st</sup>, but transcripts can be sent in at any time. School Board member Linda Poole shared that the AWA will be going online; this will probably happen for 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades, not 4<sup>th</sup>, but nothing is final. A state senator will be working on advancing the bill to dissolve the Learning Community.
- B. Vice-President's Report (Paul Schulte): Nebraska is currently 4<sup>th</sup> in wind potential and 13<sup>th</sup> in solar potential in the nation. Senator Ken Harr, sponsor of LB 1014, is hopeful that when LB1014 takes effect in 2016, there will be at least 75% of Nebraska schools that will have performance pay language in their contract so they can access the monies generated from wind and solar farms. Currently there are no wind farms or solar farms on school-held grounds, but hopefully in six years that will have changed and there will be money available. Performance pay isn't just student test scores, it can also be what you volunteer for at school, Master's classes, peer evaluations, etc.
- C. UniServ Report (Mike Wiesen): We have great membership, but there is potential for more growth. There may be money available for a second semester membership drive for new hires; second semester hires get all services if they join within 30 days of their hire date and they pay half the dues.
- D. LCCC/Legislative Report: If you are interested in receiving copies of the LCCC minutes, contact Matt at [mheys@novia.net](mailto:mheys@novia.net). Millard accepted more open enrollment students than any other district; as a result, we have had to deal with more of the hiccups of kids not coming with the correct paperwork or finding out about IEPs in August, just before school starts. The LCCC is in transition right now: The COO moving to California, we've been through elections, and legislation in the unicameral is looking to take away some of their power. District 4 met on Thursday: Elkhorn and Millard ELC summer pilot program proposals were approved; they now need approval from LCCC.
- E. GRC Report: Paul Schulte shared election results. Molly will put these on the website and she will send a link.
- F. Communications Committee: The "Spring in to Books" project for the spring is rolling. Our goal is to collect books for all first graders in the district. Depending on the number of books we can get through donations, we may also collect books for preschoolers. We will need volunteers to help distribute books to buildings.

**VI. Information Items**

- A. Performance Pay Committee Update: They met after the Bargaining Conference at the beginning of November. NSEA is working on a sample survey to gather information from members. Make sure you read The Voice in the next few months to get information on the performance pay issue.
- B. MEA Shirts: The Board of Directors discussed whether or not members would want another shirt. Building Reps felt members would not be willing to pay for them.
- C. Board Vacancy: Chris Carroll, High School Director, resigned from the Board of Directors. Elections will take place to fill her position for the remainder of the year as well as another two-year term. If you are interested in running, please contact Molly.
- D. Test Score Reports: There is a rumor that administrators are sending the information from end-of-the-year teacher evaluations in to the state. This is true. Principals have to do this because we received stimulus money. The reports will only include rehire, conditional rehire and dismissal information. This is exactly what is currently checked on your end of the year evaluation. Millard's evaluation process is not changing. No other part of the evaluation is included in our report to the state. Ratings will be reported by building, not by individual teacher; they are not currently on the Nebraska Department of Education website.
- E. Membership Celebration: Elementary and middle level buildings that had three or more new members join and high schools that had 10 or more members received Target gift cards to help fund a member celebration at their buildings.

#### VII. Action Items

- A. Constitution Revision, Article IX- Elections (Second Reading)
  - a. Molly made the motion on behalf of the Board of Directors to accept the changes to the Constitution language regarding Elections. Motion carried.

#### VIII. New Business/Questions

- A. Vote for Paul Schulte or Rebecca Begley through the Metro Neighborhood News ([www.metroneighborhoodnews.com](http://www.metroneighborhoodnews.com)) as Teachers of the Month. You have to register and can vote once a day until November 10<sup>th</sup>.
- B. You should be receiving a copy of the Certificated Staff Absence Coverage Plan from building principals.
- C. Middle and high school teachers who teach Asian topics can attend a conference in Lincoln through the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA). Those who attend can then apply for work-study programs in China and Japan. Anyone wanting more information can contact Susan DeRoy at [slderoy@mpsomaha.org](mailto:slderoy@mpsomaha.org).
- D. Sheila Ertzner-Catton, a Science teacher from Millard North High School, passed away at the beginning of November. There will be a fundraiser at Momma's Pizza on Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Tell them you are a Millard employee and 20% of the proceeds will go to the family to help pay hospital bills.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Erin Shirmang-Ward, Secretary