

MEA Representative Council Meeting: October 18, 2010

President Molly Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. At 5:00 p.m. school board candidates Pat Ricketts and Dave Anderson arrived to speak with members and distribute yard signs. A reminder to those distributing yard signs to MEA members in your building: You cannot do this on school grounds or during school hours.

I. Information/Introductions

II. Agenda Revisions

- A. None

III. Routine Matters

- A. The minutes of the September 13, 2010 Representative Council meeting were approved.
- B. The Financial Report was approved as submitted.

IV. Leadership Training

- A. BR Expectations: Article VII of the MEA Constitution lists the duties of the Representative Council.
- B. Facebook: This issue was brought up at ProCom last month. If you have a Facebook account, there could be a conflict when “friending” parents and students (current and former). Some teachers are interested in using Facebook as a teaching tool; the district recommends using School Fusion instead because they monitor this. An additional piece of information: If you upload pictures to a district computer, they are the district’s property. Even if you delete them they are still there and can be accessed.

V. Leadership/Staff Reports

- A. President’s Report: Molly is a part of the District Strategic Plan and she shared that the plan has been updated; the section on LCCC was removed because the district doesn’t control it. They discussed budget implications due to a possible shortfall; one thing they are working on is how the district is going to infuse technology purchases into the budget without future bond issues. A December ProCom agenda item will be to discuss the potential implications of the cliff year and prioritization of programs. Molly met with Dr. Lutz regarding rumors some staff members have heard regarding the elimination of positions; no positions are being eliminated at this time. The Extra Duty Committee met last week; they are starting to research position descriptions which will allow them to combine positions together or eliminate them. Former MEA member Becky Torrens has undergone her second round of chemo and will be beginning radiation soon; she is feeling great and doing well.
- B. Vice-President’s Report: Paul Schulte was absent. Molly shared the minutes from ProCom. Governor Heineman sent a letter to all superintendents saying that if we don’t help pass legislation to repeal health care he will take our silence to mean he can cut state aid; the NSEA, State School Board, and State Administrator Board all wrote a letter to the Governor stating that they don’t support unfunded mandates. OEA asked NSEA to revoke their support of Governor Heineman in the governor’s race because of his letter; NSEA chose not to do this.
- C. UniServ Report: Mike Wiesen shared that he has had eight phone calls and 12 meetings with members; there are no current active member rights’ files. There has been a lot of discussion about changes in funding and budgets; most of the costs in a district are personnel related. All members are asked to update teaching certificates, if needed, to make sure they reflect current endorsements; when the district looks at who to cut, they look at endorsements. BRs should talk with probationary teachers who have not joined MEA and ask one more time if they are interested in joining.
- D. LCCC/Legislative Report: ELL and Poverty Plans were approved at the last meeting.
- E. GRC Report: Paul Schulte helped interview LCCC candidates; they are supporting Lorraine Chang and Paul Hartnett from District 3.
- F. Communications Committee: Lynsey Sharon shared that the Crystal Apple Award winner for first quarter was Helen Lykke- Wisler. MEA ordered 134 tickets for members to attend the October 28th Nighthawks game. December 9th is MEA Night Out with the UNO Mavericks, and they are looking in to getting tickets for an Omaha Beef game as well as coordinating a bowling night. The Committee would like to do a spring book drive and purchase MEA t-shirts; both of these items will go on to the Board of Directors for discussion.

VI. Information Items

- A. Western Region Leadership Conference, January 14-16 in Salt Lake City, Utah: If you are interested in attending, contact Molly as soon as possible.
- B. Performance Pay Committee Update: The NSEA Bargaining Conference will be held in Grand Island on November 5th and 6th; one purpose of the conference will be working to develop language school districts in the state can use in their contracts. The Metro District met and in their discussion of performance pay they asked how much money is coming from the wind farm? How many other states already have performance pay in their contracts? Metro District participants emphasized the importance of getting ahead of the eight ball and being a force in creating contract language rather than letting school districts create it for us. Performance pay is coming; the law goes in to effect in 2016.
- C. Constitution Revision, Article IX: Elections (first reading)
 - a. Share this with building members and bring feedback to November's meeting.

VII. Action Items

- A. Constitution Revision, Article XI: Committees (second reading)
 - a. We removed MEA Website and Insurance from standing committees and added Learning Community. Molly made the motion on behalf of the Board of Directors to accept the changes to the Constitution language. Motion carried.
- B. Focus Group: Membership Committee
 - a. The Board of Directors would like to organize focus groups to ask nonmembers why they haven't joined. Motion carried.

VIII. New Business/Questions

- A. New Access cards will be sent out in January.
- B. Molly will have building membership information at November's meeting.

IX. Future Agenda Items

- A. Test score reports

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Erin Shirmang-Ward, Secretary