

Millard Education Association
Board of Directors Meeting
MEA Office
October 25, 2010
Omaha, NE

Attending: Molly Erickson- President, Paul Schulte- Vice-President, Tom Whisinnand- Treasurer, Erin Shirmang-Ward- Recording Secretary, Melissa Brendel- Elementary Director, Becky Scherbring- Elementary Director, Reynee Shanahan- Elementary Director , Kathy Gibbs- Middle School Director, Jason Weber- Middle School Director, Tim Royers- High School Director, Kim Secora- At-Large Director, Sheryl Shannon- At-Large Director

Absent: Chris Carroll- High School Director, Mike Wiesen- UniServ Director

Vice- President Paul Schulte called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

I. Agenda Revisions/Adoption of Agenda

A. None

II. Routine Matters

- A. The minutes from the September meeting were approved electronically.
- B. The Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted.

III. Information Items

- A. Final List of Conference Participants: Paul Schulte, NCUEA; Reynee Shanahan and Erin Shirmang-Ward Western Region; Becky Scherbring, Women's Leadership Conference. Nine MEA members are attending the bargaining conference in Grand Island on November 5-6.
- B. AFLAC: Molly is going to see if they are endorsed by NSEA and collect more information on the program before surveying members to see if they are interested in supplemental insurance.
- C. 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. 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.
- D. Website: OEA and NSEA have been working through Turbine with Jason Petersen. He called and asked if MEA wanted to update and secure the website. There is a \$1200-\$4000 start-up fee as well as a monthly maintenance charge. We currently pay \$1000 a year for usernames, passwords, and tech support.
- E. BR Constituency Groups: Board members feel like these are going well. More members have the chance to talk and get their concerns heard.

IV. Action Items/Unfinished Business

- A. Board Member Request (Executive Session): Moved to go into Executive Session at 5:15 p.m. (Whisinnand/Shannon). Motion carried.
- B. Member Drop Request (Executive Session): Continued in Executive Session. Moved (Shirmang-Ward/Shannon) to come out of Executive Session at 5:44 p.m. Motion carried. Moved (Scherbring/Shanahan) to accept both requests. Motion carried.
- C. Communications Committee Requests: The Committee would like to organize a spring book drive for preschoolers and first graders and is requesting money from the Board of Directors to make this happen; the Board will look into grants to help fund the project and approach local booksellers for donations. The Committee would like members to donate a small amount of money to help purchase new MEA apparel. Molly is going to get information from the Shirt Shack and she will share it at the next BR meeting. Moved (Whisinnand/Gibbs) to create a Zoomerang survey to get feedback from members on what apparel they would like. Motion carried.
- D. Committee Structure: The majority of Committees are attended by the same people, usually Board members. We thought it would be a better use of time to merge all Committees together and meet once a month, or as necessary. We need to get more members and BRs involved in our Committees.

V. Reports

- A. President's Report: There is new legislation about absenteeism (LB 800) and letters are sent home once a student has had at least five absences (excused and unexcused). If work is requested for multiple days of absences, it is up to the child's teacher as to whether or not assignments are supplied for the entire time a child is absent from school; if multiple students from a family are in the same building, it is important that teachers coordinate with their colleagues to decide how much work will be sent home. Molly suggested that if you are on your building's School Improvement Team that you help coordinate what your building's policy will be. Giving out personal cell phone numbers to parents or students: It is your discretion; if you aren't comfortable doing this, request a cell phone from your school office for field trips.
- B. Vice President's Report: Paul did not have a report.
- C. UniServ Report: There is money available for a membership drive; Mary Jo Warren, our NSEA secretary, makes sure she makes contact with new teachers as they are hired during the school year. The bargaining conference agenda for November is set. NSEA is working to ensure that student test scores do not affect teacher evaluations.
- D. Metro District: Performance pay was discussed and what it should and shouldn't be. \$10 million from the wind farm initiative will be set aside for performance pay in the state. Each district will be responsible for setting up their own performance pay plan.
- E. GRC Report: NSEA election recommendations were sent out to members. Please encourage members to vote.
- F. LCCC/Legislative Report: The LCCC met last week, but minutes have not yet been sent out; Molly will report on this meeting at the next BR meeting. District 4 is meeting on November 4th to discuss a grant to get money for an elementary learning center at Holling Heights next summer. The MPS Foundation will provide an additional \$40,000 as an outside source to fund the project. This is a requirement for eligibility per the LCCC.

G. Membership Report- Final Numbers/Incentives/Celebration: We currently have 1080 members which is 66% of the teachers in the district. This year we had 72 people join, which is up from 69 from last year. We have a lot of gift cards as incentives for BRs; who should get them? Buildings with increased membership or each building that is above 70%?

VI. **Future Agenda Items**

A. Focus groups

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Erin Shirmang-Ward, Secretary