

MEA Representative Council Meeting: September 13, 2010

Brad Burwell and Kirsten Ricketts from Vintage Financial shared information on a new investment opportunity similar to a 403b as well as a long-term care discount available to MEA members through John Hancock. They will be presenting "Financial Chat Sessions" at the three high schools later in the month (September 27th at Millard North High School, September 28th at Millard West High School, and September 30th at Millard South High School). Three other sessions are scheduled for later in the year: Retirement Planning (October 26th), Tax Preparation (February 15th), and Four Steps to a Dream Retirement (March 29th).

President Molly Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:44 p.m.

I. Information/Introductions

II. Agenda Revisions

- A. Add letter B to Action Items, School Board Candidate Recommendations.

III. Routine Matters

- A. The minutes of the May 24, 2010 Representative Council meeting were approved.
- B. The Financial Report was approved as submitted.

IV. Leadership Training

- A. Membership Drive: Melissa Brendel let us know that we need to ask all nonmembers if they are interested in joining the MEA by October 1st; share the Top 10 Reasons to Join MEA and your story on why you joined the organization.
- B. Alcohol Policy: Molly asked BRs to remind members that if you are charged with multiple felonies stemming from alcohol-related issues you can lose your teaching certificate; if you have to serve jail time it will affect your time in the classroom and your career.

V. Leadership/Staff Reports

- A. President's Report: Molly thanked those 35 MEA members who volunteered for the STRIDES walk/run. The Millard Public Schools Foundation Board met on Thursday, August 26th; the staff campaign kick-off will be on Wednesday, September 29th. The Professional Committee (ProCom) will be meeting on Thursday, September 16th; you have anything you would like to add to the agenda, please email Molly. Learning Community District 4 will meet on September 7th. The Extra Duty Committee will be meeting again in September; we will get an update at the October BR meeting. Molly will be resuming building visits in September.
- B. Vice-President's Report: Paul Schulte attended the NSEA Performance Pay Committee meeting on August 28th; this committee was formed in response to the legislature passing LB1014 which earmarks wind and solar energy lease revenue from state-owned school land and then allocates that revenue for locally negotiated performance pay. Paul, Molly, and Tom Whisinnand serve on the NSEA Performance Pay Committee and will continue to research local and national performance pay plans. They will also attend the NSEA's 2010 fall bargaining conference which will focus on performance pay and contract language.
- C. UniServ Report: Mike Wiesen said that if you are subpoenaed you should contact your building administrator immediately then you can contact Mike if you have questions. If you need to be in court and have to miss a school day you should not be docked a personal or family illness day; this falls under the same category as jury duty. Governor Heineman sent a letter to the NSEA and other education associations urging them to repeal national health care claiming its costs to Nebraska, particularly to K-12 education, may be significant; NSEA plans on working with the School Board Association and the School Administrators Association to develop a response at the NSEA Board meeting on September 18th. All membership forms are due by October 1st in order for someone to receive legal services. There is a possibility that Nebraska teachers could face Reduction in Force notices in the spring of 2011, and NSEA can insure that if you receive a notice, they will work to make sure the district follows their policy if RIFs become necessary; NSEA also provides services if you choose to go to a hearing and fight to save your job.

- D. LCCC/Legislative Report: The Learning Community Coordinating Council met on 8/26/10. At this meeting the budget was passed. This includes the Common Levy, general fund, projects and the elementary learning centers. Part of this budget includes \$750,000 for districts 1, 3, 4 and 6 since they are not part of the elementary learning center budget. This money can be used on projects that center on student achievement and closing the achievement gap. This same topic was discussed at the Sub-Council District 4 meeting on September 7th, which was held at Cody Elementary School. The next scheduled meeting is on Thursday, September 16, 2010.
- E. GRC Report: Paul Schulte shared that the Government Relations Committee interviewed the four school board candidates on Saturday, September 11th.
- F. Membership Committee Report: Melissa Brendel shared that the Membership Committee is meeting immediately after the Building Rep meeting at Sam and Louie's at 180th and Q.

VI. Information Items

- A. Committee Update: The Membership Chair is Melissa Brendel, the Communications Chair is Lynsey Sharon, the Government Relations Chair is Paul Schulte, the Learning Community Chair/Chief Negotiator is Matt Heys, the Elections Chair is Kathy Gibbs, and the Budget Chair is Tom Whisinnand.
- B. Constitution Revision- Article IX, Committees: Remove MEA Website and Insurance from the list of standing committees and add Learning Community. BRs were asked to take this information back to members. We will vote on it in October.
- C. Western Region Leadership Conference: January 14-16 in Salt Lake City, UT. There will also be a bargaining conference through NSEA November 5-6 in Grand Island; if you are interested please let Molly know. You must be willing to volunteer for the MEA Negotiations Committee if you attend the bargaining conference.
- D. Contingency Fund: Member Nancy Vojtech from Rowher passed away over the summer; MEA made a donation to her daughter's scholarship fund. Former member Becky Torrens was diagnosed with breast cancer over the summer; her prognosis is good. MEA sent her a plant.
- E. Business Cards: The Board of Directors would like to order business cards for members however this project is turning out to be quite expensive and would require a lot of work on the MEAs part. If members are interested in getting their own cards, they can contact Vista Print (www.vistaprint.com) and get 250 cards for \$1.99; this is a one-time offer for individuals.

VII. Action Items

- A. Fall Scholarship Winners: Motion to accept the following as the fall scholarship winners: Jamie Seeman, Katie Hohnstein, Rachel Witte, and Nicole Berryman. Motion carried
- B. School Board Candidate Recommendations: Motion to endorse school board candidates Dave Anderson, Pat Ricketts, and Mike Kennedy. Motion carried.

VIII. New Business/Questions

- A. A reminder to nominate MEA colleagues for the Crystal Apple Award. The nomination form is available online at www.millardmea.org. Nominations are due on Friday, October 1st.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Erin Shirmang-Ward, Secretary