

MEA Representative Council Meeting: February 21, 2011

President Molly Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:28 p.m.

**I. Information/Introductions**

- A. None

**II. Agenda Revisions**

- A. None

**III. Routine Matters**

- A. The minutes of the January 17, 2011 Representative Council meeting were approved.
- B. The Financial Report was approved as submitted.

**IV. Leadership Training**

- A. Constituency Groups: All members should have received the Negotiations Survey. The Team will meet to discuss the results and then they will meet with the District. The Board of Directors and Negotiations Team have talked about the importance of keeping members in the loop on what transpires as negotiations begin. Molly will give updates at future BR meetings.

**V. Leadership/Staff Reports**

- A. President's Report:
  - a. Molly is on the NSEA Alternative Compensation Committee. NSEA is working on getting information to all districts on adding something to district contracts that reflects alternate compensation, i.e. performance pay.
  - b. The Extra Duty Committee has one more meeting in which they will share their recommendations with the Negotiations Team.
- B. Vice-President's Report: No report
- C. UniServ Report:
  - a. The district can increase a teacher's FTE without notice; that teacher then has to make a decision as to whether or not they want to go full-time. Any decrease in a teacher's FTE is considered a Reduction in Force (RIF). If this happens, contact Mike Wiesen, Millard's UniServ Director, to receive support. Also contact Mike with any other member rights' concerns you have.
  - b. If we lose collective bargaining rights, the district will be able to decide how much we get paid; they will also be able to do away with tenure. The Millard School Board is planning on voting tonight to support the Legislative Bills which abolish the authority of the Committee of Industrial Relations (CIR) and collective bargaining rights.
- D. LCCC Report (Matt Heys):
  - a. The LCCC is not supporting the focus school in South Sarpy (the green school).
  - b. District 4 is meeting this week.
- E. GRC Report (Paul Schulte):
  - a. Paul attended a NSEA Legislative Focus Session on January 21<sup>st</sup> which identified four main goals: Funding for Pre K-College education, preserving the retirement system, enhancing the lottery-funded tuition reimbursement, and preserving collective bargaining.
  - b. There are six state senators that represent Millard. NSEA is asking that we try and hold a meeting at the local level to discuss issues with our Senators. State Senator John Nelson is one of the main NSEA targets that they would like MEA to meet with. He represents Millard and has written a bill to abolish collective bargaining as well as introduced a constitutional amendment to abolish the CIR. We have a strong ally in State Senator Steve Lathrop, who also represents the Millard area. He's the chair of the Business and Labor Committee, which will be dealing directly with the CIR bills.
    - i. Brad Ashford, District 20, 402-471-2622, bashford@leg.ne.gov
    - ii. Steve Lathrop, District 12, 402-471-2623, slathrop@leg.ne.gov
    - iii. Beau McCoy, District 39, 402-471-2885, bmmcoy@leg.ne.gov
    - iv. John Nelson, District 6, 402-471-2714, jnelson@leg.ne.gov

- v. Rich Pahls, District 31, 402-471-2327, rpahls@leg.ne.gov
- vi. Pete Pirsch, District 4, 402-471-2621, ppirsch@leg.ne.gov
- c. On March 7th, Paul Schulte, Becky Scherbring, Tom Whisinnand, and Reynee Shanahan will attend a NSEA Legislative Dinner with all the state senators to discuss upcoming legislative bills.
- d. For more information on Legislative information, you can always go to <http://www.nsea.org/policy/LegUpdate.htm>.
- F. Communications Committee Report (Lynsey Sharon):
  - a. We are moving forward with our "Spring in to Reading" book collection; every 1<sup>st</sup> grader in the district will receive a book. We currently have donations from Horace Mann and First Nebraska Educators Credit Union. US Bank is also looking to donate.
  - b. The MEA March night out is the Omaha Beef game on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### VI. **Information Items**

- A. Western Region: Molly Erickson, Becky Scherbing, Reynee Shanahan, Lynsey Sharon, and Erin Shirmang-Ward attended the conference in Salt Lake City, Utah January 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. Sessions attended had to do with membership and political action.
- B. AFLAC Update: Molly will be sending out a survey to members in mid-March.
- C. Open Board Positions:
  - a. Vice-President, 2-year term
  - b. Treasurer, 2-year term
  - c. Elementary Director (2 positions), 2-year term
  - d. Middle Level Director, 2-year term
  - e. High School Director, 2-year term
  - f. At-Large Director, 2-year term
- D. DA/RA:
  - a. Delegate Assembly (DA) will be at the LaVista Embassy Suites April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>; 23 members can attend. Get your name to Kathy Gibbs, Election Chair, if you are interested in attending.
  - b. Representative Assembly (RA) will be in Chicago June 30<sup>th</sup>-July 7<sup>th</sup>; six members, in addition to the President and Vice-President, can attend. Get your name to Kathy Gibbs, Election Chair, if you are interested in attending. If you plan on attending RA, you must attend DA.
- E. Focus Group: The Board of Directors has invited various members and nonmembers to attend a meeting on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the MEA office from 4:30-6:30 p.m. to collect information on membership- why members have joined, why they have continued to stay involved and why nonmembers have not joined the organization.
- F. Metro Board Elections and NSEA Elections:
  - a. Metro Board: Tom Whisinnand (Reagan) is running unopposed for Vice President. Jenny Oddo (Reagan) and Marsha Edquist (Aldrich) are running for Millard's seat in District 5.
  - b. NSEA: Molly Erickson is running for NSEA Board of Directors against four others (three of whom are from OPS). Alan Bone is from Westside and is running as well; we are encouraged to support him because we need voices from districts other than Omaha. A voting email will come on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to say "Voting will start soon", and an email with a link to voting will come on March 9<sup>th</sup>; you will have until March 23 at midnight to vote. The link to information about the delegates is <http://nsea.org/2011Elections/2011CandsAndDelegs.htm#ANCHOR4>

#### VII. **Action Items**

- A. Election Dates:
  - a. January 31-March 4: Nominations are open
  - b. March 5-11: Voting takes place
  - c. March 12: President Erickson will share the results of the election with those on the ballot.
  - d. March 14: Board of Directors and Building reps will ratify voting results at the Rep Council meeting
  - e. March 15: President Erickson will pass on the names for DA/RA to the NSEA and begin making travel plans.
  - f. Molly made a motion on behalf of the Board of Directors to accept voting dates. Motion carried
- B. Spring Scholarship Recipients:

- a. Teachers with 1-5 years of experience: Vicky Munoz and Melissa Zeches
  - b. Teachers with 6 or more years of experience: Kristen McKenney and Ryan Moseley
  - c. Molly made a motion on behalf of Board of Directors to accept the scholarship winners. Motion carried.
- A. Gayle Jeffers made a motion (seconded by Tim Royers) to have Molly share the MEA's opinion on how we feel about the School Board supporting the Legislative Bills which abolish the authority of the Committee of Industrial Relations (CIR) and collective bargaining rights. Motion carried.

VIII. **New Business/Questions**

- A. None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Erin Shirmang-Ward, Secretary