

MEA Representative Council Meeting: January 17, 2011

President Molly Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

I. Information/Introductions

- A. None

II. Agenda Revisions

- A. None

III. Routine Matters

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

IV. Leadership Training

- A. MEA Website: Pertinent information for members is on the website (www.millardmea.org). You can access a calendar, meeting minutes, committee information, teacher and nurse contracts, and information on Delegate Assembly (April) and Representative Assembly (July), among other things. If there is something not currently on the site you would like to see, please contact Molly.

V. Leadership/Staff Reports

- A. President's Report (Molly Erickson): There is a legislative update from MPS called the Millard Legislative Core; if you would like this, you can get it through your Groupwise account (contact Karla Sullivan) or you can also access it on the MPS website under Community Involvement. You can also go to www.nsea.org and, using your personal email account, sign up for Legislative Alerts. Molly was asked if there is a "magic" number of students you need to have in your classroom to receive para support; paras are assigned based off of class size and the needs of the students. If you would like assistance in this area, ask your principal. There is an Extra Duty meeting this week and there will be one more meeting to finalize information before proposals are given to the Negotiations Team and ProCom. MSHS tragedy: Molly has received a lot of local association support. MEA is providing lunch for the MSHS staff on January 18th to express our condolences. MEA sent a condolence card to Dr. Kaspar's son, Ron, and made a donation in her name. Contact MEA if you are still in need of support.
- B. Vice-President's Report (Paul Schulte): No report
- C. UniServ Report (Mike Wiesen)
 - a. The governor has said that the state is fully funding state aid. In reality, schools received \$960 Million for the 2010-11 school year. The state contributed \$810 million of that and \$150 million came from stimulus funds. For 2011-12, the state will maintain its share of \$810 million, however \$150 million from stimulus funds from the Feds will be lost. \$59 million of that will be replaced by money from the jobs bill passed by Congress. Schools are down \$91 million for this year. For 2012-13, the state will increase its contribution to \$860 million but the \$59 million from the jobs bill will not be there. Schools will lose \$9 million more. So it is not true that schools have not been part of the cuts. These cuts could cost up to 1500 education jobs in Nebraska. Contact your senator to urge them to restore this funding.
 - b. The state retirement plan for school employees may come under fire again, and there are senators planning to introduce bills to reform the Commission of Industrial Relations. Both of these issues may impact negatively on our members. We cannot afford to stand on the sidelines and let this happen. It will be important that state senators and the governor hear from school employees. In order to receive important information and directions for contacting elected officials, we urge our members to sign up for legislative alerts which can be sent to e-mail or via text messages. Go to www.nsea.org to sign up.
- D. LCCC/Legislative Report (Molly): There will be links on our website to help you determine who your state senator is as well as a list of senators (you can also go to http://nebraska.legislature.gov/senators/senator_find.php). The South Sarpy Environmentally green school proposal has been presented to the LCCC; they are still looking at to how this could work. Millard will be getting an Elementary

Learning Center grant through the LCCC for summer literacy programs. If you are interested in LCCC minutes, contact Matt Heys through Groupwise.

- E. Communications Committee (Lynsey Sharon): The next meeting is on Monday, January 24th at 4:30 p.m. at the Millard Public Schools Foundation office; we will talk about the spring book drive and select a January winner for the Crystal Apple Award. The next MEA night out is bowling at Western Bowl on Friday, January 28th at 9:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending, contact Molly by January 21st.

VI. Information Items

- A. Medical Plan Changes: You should have received an email from Chad Meisgeier on December 29th regarding benefit changes. You are responsible for contacting Coventry (there is a 1-800 number on your insurance card) if you aren't sure if something is covered or if you need to be preapproved. If you have any questions, please contact Molly.
- B. AFLAC: An AFLAC representative contacted MEA and MPS to see if there is an interest. MPS said they were not interested but allowed AFLAC to contact MEA. There's a group plan available, so MEA is offering informational meetings on AFLAC to members. If members decide they want to go with this, it would require board action to implement AFLAC supplemental insurance. Meetings will be set up towards the end of February 2011. Look for more information to be shared.
- C. Negotiation's Time Line: We are working on getting the survey out before conferences. The Negotiations Team will be meeting late January or early February to finalize a plan; negotiations will begin with the district after that. Communication with members is a focus this year, so we will be holding informational meetings at the high schools to discuss the survey results. The team will continue to try and communicate as much information as possible to members, in cooperation with the district.

VII. Action Items

- A. Scholarship Policy (2450) Revision, Second Reading: The rationale is that members can enroll in classes and then be able to apply for the MEA scholarship. The dates would be updated on the website. Motion carried.

VIII. New Business/Questions

- A. Becky Scherbring reported that Molly Erickson was asked to speak about the Millard South shooting at the Western Regional Leadership Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah on January 14th. She did a great job representing Millard and MEA and sharing how the district is handling the crisis, as well as thanking everyone for their support.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Erin Shirmang-Ward, Secretary