

MEA Representative Council Meeting: March 14, 2011

Todd Adams from Horace Mann introduced himself at the meeting. He wanted to share the website [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org); teachers are encouraged to use this site to get funds for their classrooms. Todd is also setting up meetings in the spring and fall to educate teachers on state teacher retirement.

President Molly Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:25 p.m.

**I. Information/Introductions**

- A. None

**II. Agenda Revisions**

- A. None

**III. Routine Matters**

- A. The minutes of the February 21, 2011 Representative Council meeting were approved.
- B. The Financial Report was approved as submitted.

**IV. Leadership Training**

- A. Constituency Groups: Negotiations Survey Results

**V. Leadership/Staff Reports**

A. President's Report:

- a. There is an open position on the Board of Directors for a Middle Level Director.
- b. MEA is working closely with the district to make sure that everyone who currently has a job in Millard will have a job next year. School psychologists, middle level counselors, MEP Facilitators, and elementary band and orchestra teachers are being told the number of days they work will be reduced. Reduction in Force notices have to be received by staff members by April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Extra Duty Committee: Results will be shared at the next BR meeting.
- d. Molly shared an email from NEA President Dennis Van Roekel regarding the Wisconsin Senate stripping workers of their collective bargaining rights.
- e. NSEA Voting: If you didn't get an email from NSEA about elections, you should have gotten a postcard with your member number; this number is also on your copy of The Voice. If you still need your number, contact Molly.

B. Vice-President's Report:

- a. Paul Schulte, Tom Whisinnand, Reynee Shanahan, and Becky Scherbring attended a Legislative Dinner on March 7<sup>th</sup> and talked with state senators about educational issues.
- b. ProCom was held on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>:
  - i. Budget: Dr. Lutz explained that to make cuts due to the shortfall of \$7 million some of the expenditures that are being looked at include: increase class size, modify transportation, stretch-out the curriculum cycle, and eliminate elementary strings. These recommendations were brought forward from the program managers. Options, which are being considered to increase revenue include using the reserve funds, or raise the tax levy. In 2012-2013 the District may be looking at an additional \$4 million in cuts. The shortfalls have been anticipated for the last two years, and the district has been planning accordingly. In early April the District will be surveying the Millard community about their interest in a potential bond issue. A bond issue would be able to take care of many of the district's projects, and would decrease the need to take funds out of the general fund.
  - ii. CIR: Angelo Passarelli explained that Senator Lathrop is working on a compromise for LB 397, which relates to CIR and collective bargaining. He said the Board of Education would like to see some changes in how the CIR functions, but they want to continue their good working relationship with the MEA in regards to negotiations. MEA members expressed concerns from teachers in regards to the vote by the Board of Education on the NASB resolution about collective bargaining and the CIR.

- iii. School Safety: John Dudley, Crisis Management LLC, has concluded his audit of the schools and has given the confidential report to Dr. Lutz.
    - iv. Infinite Campus upgrade: Mark Feldhausen told the group a new version of Infinite Campus will be adopted into the District, because there will be no longer technical support for the old version, so this will have an impact on the Grade Book Upgrade. Educational Services will be working with the technology department to see what new training will be necessary for staff members. Continued discussion will be held on the Grade Book Upgrade at the next meeting on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.
  - c. Metro Elections: A number of MEA members are running for seats on the Board. Tom Whisinnand is running for Vice President, and Jenny Oddo and Marsha Edquist are running for Sub-District 5 (Millard). MEA President Molly Erickson is running for a seat on the NSEA Board.
  - d. Delegate Assembly:
    - i. DA will be held on April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at Embassy Suites in LaVista; if you are interested in attending let Molly know.
    - ii. The Metro Board Caucus meeting will be held on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at Lo Sole Mio.
  - e. Representative Assembly will be held in Chicago June 30<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup>; two positions are still available.
- C. UniServ Report:
  - a. The CIR bill is still in Committee. NSEA is doing everything they can to protect teachers' bargaining rights. They are not taking this lightly.
  - b. If you get a RIF notice, contact Mike Wisen immediately. Any reduction in days or FTEs is considered a Reduction in Force.
  - c. The 2011 NSEA Leadership Institute is being held in Lincoln in July. If you are interested in attending, contact Mike Wiesen.
- D. LCCC/Legislative Report (Matt Heys):
  - a. The legislative bill to dismantle the LCCC failed.
  - b. The LCCC is meeting on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and will discuss Millard's concerns with sharing student data.
  - c. The LCCC hired new CEO.
- E. Communications Committee Report (Lynsey Sharon):
  - a. Omaha Beef game on March 25th
  - b. Teacher Appreciation party on April 30<sup>th</sup> at Chalco
  - c. Spring into Reading is coming together.
  - d. The Crystal Apple Award winner for February was Patti Long

## VI. Information Items

- A. AFLAC Update: Informational meetings have been set up on March 15<sup>th</sup>, March 24<sup>th</sup>, and March 31<sup>st</sup>. Contact Molly if you are interested in attending and can't make one of the meetings.
- B. Negotiations Update:
  - a. The Negotiations Team has met three times. Their main goal: Teachers shouldn't be going backwards in terms of pay. Teacher retirement is going up, health insurance is increasing and they want pay to reflect those increases.
  - b. The Team is looking to make Business and Emergency days more flexible and they would like to update the language.
  - c. An additional survey may come out later in the spring.
  - d. District employees have ALWAYS paid their health insurance premiums.
- C. Focus Group Recap: Members of the Board of Directors met with four nonmembers and two members on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Discussions on what MEA does for its members and why nonmembers haven't joined were had.
- D. NSEA Resolution: The response the NSEA wrote regarding the abolishment of the CIR was shared.
- E. Budget Committee Meeting: The meeting has been moved to Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30 p.m. at the MPSF Office. All members are welcome to attend.
- F. Constitution Revision, Article VII, Representative Council (First Reading):

- a. There are currently no term limits on Building Representatives. Molly has heard concerns from members wanting to get more involved and not necessarily having the opportunity.
- b. Buildings can have as many BRs as they would like, but buildings have a certain number of votes at BR meetings.
- c. If there is more than one member interested in running in a building there will be an election.

VII. **Action Items**

A. Election Committee Report- Certify Election Results:

- a. Motion (Shanna Wilwerding/Sabine Fleshner) to certify the election results for Elementary Directors. Motion carried. Melissa Brendal and Marsha Edquist are your Elementary Directors.

VIII. **New Business/Questions**

A. None

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Erin Shirmang-Ward, Secretary