The President’s Take

September 28, 2016

TJ Riley from Lincoln Investment Planning spoke about member benefits. Lincoln Investment Planning is an affiliate of NEA. They are here to continue to educate membership about debt forgiveness and NEA retirement account (403b). TJ will be reaching out to building reps and head reps to schedule his visits to schools this year. Please make sure to inform your building about his visits and encourage them to have a talk with him. The Degrees Not Debt can be a game changer for teachers as well as the 403b accounts that can help with retirement. This will be done during lunches, and workshops can be scheduled to help members. If you would like to schedule something yourself, you can reach TJ at tjriley@lincolninvestment.com

We need to present a budget to the RA every year. This was presented. There was a question about why the budget appears to have a deficit. This is due to the budget is currently just a projection. In January, IEA will give us more accurate membership numbers, and there will not be a deficit. A copy of the budget is on [theeta.org](http://theeta.org/about/governance/representative-assembly/) website.

We need to present an apportionment every year. This was presented and similarly passed unanimously. A copy of the apportionment is on [theeta.org](http://theeta.org/about/governance/representative-assembly/) website.

Committees

**Professional Development**

There are still openings in the election committee (2). Doreen Roberts spoke about the professional development committee. To find this go through u46 website [Professional Development Website](https://sites.google.com/a/u-46.org/district-professional-development-committee/?pli=1). Members can apply for money to go to professional development. Your SIP team can also apply to bring professional development to your site. There are fillable documents and pdf rubrics to help with the process. [Site Based Professional Development](https://sites.google.com/a/u-46.org/district-professional-development-committee/home/site-based-pd-application)

All links from our university partners are also there [University Partners PD](https://sites.google.com/a/u-46.org/district-professional-development-committee/university-announcements). Departments may apply. ESC teachers may apply.

Teachers are able and encouraged to lead a professional development course at their site. If you would like to have teachers get CPDU’s for attending the PD, you must take the PD 101 course that is available through Coursewhere. Your PD can be listed on Coursewhere even if CPDU’s are not available. Any course can be listed on Coursewhere. There is a timeline on the website, applications must be turned in by March 17, 2017.

A question came up about turning in agendas from PPD meetings. By contract we are required to turn in an agenda 3 days after the PPD. The purpose of turning your agenda into SIP is so that SIP can understand member needs and schedule appropriate PD.

**TAP/Student Growth**

TAP/Student Growth was discussed by Kim Stancl and Alisha Wildermuth. Please have a conversation with other members regarding choosing your reflective partner(s). This partner can be any teacher or administrator. The TAP form will only take one name, but you can work with more than person. You do not need to use any district assessment. You do need to use a standards based assessment. It can be teacher created. You do not need to use a mirrored pre and post test. Social/Emotional standards are acceptable that address a specific standard. There might be instances where someone is the only one in their building with a certain assignment. If you are having a problem finding a reflective partner, reach out to TAP. You can reach Kim and Alisha at studentgrowth@u-46.org, or you can reach the TAP department at TAPADM@u-46.org

Please make sure to go to the Student Growth page from the U-46 website to learn more about student growth. Make sure to take the opportunity to attend available PD on the subject as well. [Student Growth Webpage](http://www.u-46.org/pages/SDU46/Faculty_Staff/Faculty___Staff_Resources/Student_Growth_Measurement_Com)

Missy went over the exceptions for SLO. Some exemptions are based on state law. Some are based on members who do not have a class roster or members who work only with adults. If you feel that you were missed and are concerned, please contact Missy Ross. There was no intent to try to get people “out of” doing SLO. We are asking that building reps to check in with new members to make sure that they understand this process.

**MTSS**

Barb Bettis, Tammy Reicha (Abbott), and Jerilyn Hoffman (Canton) talked about MTSS. The MTSS lead position was created this year at all the high schools, all the middle schools, and at three of the most at risk elementary schools. They work with teams to build/strengthen MTSS supports at all three tiers (prevention and intervention). They work with teams to track student progress and outcomes. They work with teams to help build school-wide investment in these supports through communication, PD journey, and data sharing. MTSS does the very hard work of trying to support our kids that have a variety of struggles in being successful. The district halted MTSS work temporarily, but they are back to working. There are some new policies and procedures that have been established for these members. Please have a conversation with your building administrator about the changes in these policies.

**Special Education Committee (SEC)**

September 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The committee heard an update from the Director of Specialized Student Services.  Due to the broad scope of the work of Special Education in U-46 and our new district Strategic Plan, the department has established [a four-part focus for FY17](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5ffXGeYeYOMUE4wVDZyYjdzQndxQk5KaW5IWVRITjFpUXZJ/view?usp=sharing): **Data Collection, Goal Writing, Progress Monitoring, Family Support**. As an SEC, we will commit to aligning our own work to these focus areas. Additionally, the department will now publish a quarterly newsletter for all SPED staff.

**Continued District Priorities:**

* **Eureka Math**: Cross Cat teacher collaboration with classroom teacher to support students with special needs; after school support sessions will be available
* **Citizens Advisory Council:** Encourage parents to become active participants in the Special Education CAC
* **District Mentors:** Consider supporting new special education staff through TMP.

**Legal Update from Luis Rodriguez: Reminder of IEP start/end dates for Service:** Within the law and what is required of us, when an IEP is written, all of the language listed is the academic program for the child. Whatever is in there, we are accountable to by law. Where we see consequences are when student data shows regression rather than growth. Please work hard to implement what is written. If time is missed, Luis advises that an IEP can updated or amended. **PER LUIS:** **ALWAYS FOLLOW THE FOUR CORNERS OF YOUR IEP. IT IS DESIGNED FOR THE STUDENT TO MAKE ACADEMIC PROGRESS.**

The committee received updates from all recent program forum meetings.

The committee was reminded of the upcoming program forum dates - November 9th and May 5th.

The committee had a calibrating discussion about social work and a misunderstanding about the number of times students can be seen. Clarification was provided.

The committee discussed Collab Reading in Middle Schools, the 70/30 threshold, and deviation form procedures.

The committee was briefed on open positions in the department: ELL CC Instructional, Divisional at South Elgin HS, Para positions in SPED and Gen Ed, 2 CSN positions, Speech and Language

The committee brainstormed guest speakers for the coming year’s meetings. Co-chairs sent out an invite for MTSS to visit in October.

SEC still has a need to fill an open rep spot in **ELL Gen Ed** (non SPED ELL teacher). Please reach out to Sandy Citron or Stephanie Hopkins if you’re interested!

**Submitting a Personal Communication:** U-46 Home page:Staff Resources:”Committee Reports” Special Education Committee

**Region 24**

Region 24 reported. The IEA annual meeting is in Chicago during our spring break. GPA spoke about the BOE meeting 11 days ago. We heard some brief clips from the meeting. Susan Collins, Joyce Juenger, Jen Bury, and Jeff Horler had a powerpoint.

On October 6th, there will be a meeting at Jen Bury’s home to gather and train members on canvassing. If you would like to be part of this crucial work, please email Jeff Horler (High School) etajeff.gpa@gmail.com, Joyce Juenger (Middle School) etajoyce.gpa@gmail.com, or Jen Bury (Elementary School) etajen.gpa@gmail.com

**Those Who Excel**

TWE is looking for community support to support our scholarship fund. If you know any local business or group that wishes to help our scholarship fund, please have them contact Gary Lorber at Spartan1990b@yahoo.com

**Officer Updates**

This year has already been a busy one for your leadership. Your officers met with Tony Sanders and Suzanne Johnson to discuss issues with membership. This first meeting was a chance to discuss issues with district. We discussed DCD and PPD days, communication between administration and our union, PreK concerns, full day kindergarten, concerns with CTE, problems with this year’s start-up, and resources for teachers. At our first Monthly Contract Meeting, our Board of Directors met with the Superintendent’s cabinet to discuss current and upcoming contractual issues. This was a different meeting than has taken place in the past. Past practice was that the President and UniServ Director met with a few members of the cabinet. It was great having all of us in the room at once, with section directors having a chance to talk about issues directly with district leadership. It was a productive and open discussion with a chance for all of us to learn a bit more about district practices. While this update is by no means exhaustive, we promised to help you to understand the work we are doing on your behalf. We take all of your concerns and issues seriously, and wish to do our best to be transparent with how we are trying to solve problems. Many of your issues have been addressed during our Union Board of Director meetings that have been held since June. Please continue to contact your head building reps about building level concerns. Your reps will work with section directors and the executive board to address your issues.

It is imperative that Head Reps get building lists to Kathy DiFatta asap. If you are experiencing any trouble with this, please reach out to her. Kathy.difatta@ieanea.org

There is ETA Rep Training on October 20th at the IEA office (2250 Point Blvd, Elgin) at 4:30pm. This is training to help with their advocacy skills and to help other develop those skills as well. Click on the link to be taken to the Eventbrite page to reserve your spot. [ETA Rep Training](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/eta-representative-training-tickets-27385383419)