



<http://www.fmea.org>

Happy Spring!

Notes from the President

By **Scott Shulimson**

Hello FMEA members,

It's been three years since the Common Core State Standards first appeared on the radar for most of us. Initially there was much support and excitement over what promised to be a less shallow and better organized curriculum than our state standards. Now as we get closer to implementation, there are more concerns around the Common Core, the impact on districts like ours with many ELLs, the technology needed, and ultimately the effect the new standards will have on teaching and learning.

After several years of preparing for the Common Core, the SBAC Common Core assessments are about to begin. Sort of. This year's testing of 3rd-8th graders will be a practice run with scores not released to teachers,

parents or administration. But at the very least we will get a chance to find out whether our technology is functional and sufficient. I have my doubts that it is.

While there's been much discussion about the improvements that the deeper Common Core standards offer over the shallower California standards, there is growing skepticism with many aspects of the Common Core. Concerns include whether problems can be fixed when identified, how ELLs will do on a test so focused on language, and whether the Common Core will simply deepen the divide between higher and lower performing districts.

Another concern with Common Core is that it is just continuing NCLB's focus on standardized testing; however, with the bar set even higher, there will likely be more schools "failing" than before Common Core. There is an NEA-endorsed bipartisan bill in the US Congress, HR-4172, that would drastically reduce the amount of federally required standardized testing, but I'm not optimistic it will pass.

The Common Core was created with backing from the NEA and other teacher groups, but as we get closer to actual implementation there has been more push back. Recently, NEA President Dennis Van Roekel called for a one-year delay because of what he refers to as a botched implementation, but such a delay seems unlikely at this point. One piece of good news is that it appears likely

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California will once again provide districts with a large amount of funding for Common Core. FMSD is likely to receive close to \$1M, and most of that will probably go towards meeting our technology needs.

It's been many years since spring came around without the tension caused by high-stakes testing. But with all the unknowns around the Common Core there's still plenty to be stressed out about, and with spring break coming unusually late, there's still a few weeks before relief. It's a big year of transition, but hopefully when the dust settles the improvements will outweigh any shortcomings. Hang in there!

Sincerely,
Scott Shulimson

CTA'S Raise Your Hand Virtual Campaign

On April 2, educators across the country are joining together for NEA's Raise Your Hand Day. This national day of action is aimed at raising public awareness about what our students and schools need to succeed.

As educators gather in states and communities across the country and a group of NEA members meet with members of Congress on Capitol Hill, please show your support by joining in CTA's virtual campaign to Raise Your Hand for Learning Over Testing.

Please visit nea.org/raiseyourhand for more tools and resources to help you organize and mobilize to raise your hands and voices for student success.



FMEA W.H.O. Award

Each year FMEA honors one member with our W.H.O. Award (We Honor Ours). This year Shanti Arnold is our recipient. Shanti is our current FMEA Secretary, State Council Rep, NEA RA State Delegate and much more. Thank you Shanti for all your contributions to the teachers and students of Franklin-McKinley!

State Council

There is a CTA State Council opening in our Electoral District. It is a three-year term to sit on State Council, the body that determines CTA positions and policy. This is a great opportunity to get involved and have an impact! For more details or a declaration of candidacy contact Scott Shulimson. Declarations are due April 14th.

Odds & Ends

- Do you get FMEA emails? If not make sure to email Scott Shulimson at fmeapresident@yahoo.com from a non-district email.
- Join the FMEA Facebook Group. It's easy; just search "FMEA" on Facebook and join!
- Mark your calendars: FMEA's end-of-the-year karaoke party is May 16th at Mt Hamilton!

Board Briefs

February 25th

- Employee Spirit awards were distributed.
- Global Learner students were recognized.
- Voices and Rocketship charter schools presented their annual reports.

March 11th

- In closed session the Board voted 3-2 against hiring someone for a communications position.
- The Board approved the 2014/15 calendar.
- The Board approved a \$35,000 contract with Hanover Research to coordinate district surveys.
- The Board approved an additional \$30,000 in the contract with Partners For School Innovation.

March 25th

- The Board honored winners of the district science fair.
- The 2% bonus was made permanent. When added to the 3% raise received in September it means all district employees received a 5% raise this year.



FMEA Events

- **Literacy Fair: April 11th at the District Office**
- **Spelling Bee: April 16th at Bridges**
- **Track Meet: May 17th at Sylvandale**

ATTENTION ALL TEACHERS!!

Is there something amazing you are doing in your classroom that you would like to share with other FMEA members? Do you know a teacher at your site that should be recognized for his or her outstanding work? Please let us know by emailing lkpitino@hotmail.com. Hopefully we can share some great ideas and acknowledge our members for the inspiring work they do!



Grievance Grove



- There is a step 1 district-wide air conditioning grievance.
- There is an arbitration at Stonegate regarding a reprimand.

Contract Corner

6.2.3

Unit members shall be surveyed by site administrators and shall indicate grade level and subject preferences by April 1. Site administrators shall publish the results of the survey, including names, within five days.

A tentative master schedule, including names, shall be posted and distributed April 15th. Whenever practicable, the unit member will be notified prior to publication of the on-site assignment and may request a conference with the site administrator and/or the Deputy Superintendent for Human Resources.

6.2.9 A unit member may appeal an assignment to the site administrator or Deputy Superintendent for Human resources. Upon request, specific reasons for the assignment shall be given by the Deputy Superintendent for Human Resources to the unit member.

Trading Post



Guidelines for Ads: Ad service is provided as a convenience for FMEA members and our parent community. Ads may be run two times.

For Sale: Oak veneer entertainment center. Can hold a TV up to 35" diagonal. Asking \$200 or best offer. Contact Teresa@408-799-8504.

FMEA Spring Calendar

April 8th School Board Meeting

April 11th FMEA Literacy Fair

April 16th FMEA Spelling Bee

April 18th-25th Spring Break

April 28th Rep Council

May 13th School Board Meeting

May 16th FMEA End Of The Year Party

May 17th FMEA Track Meet

May 19th Rep Council

May 26th Labor Day

May 27th School Board Meeting

June 10th School Board Meeting

June 13th Last Day Of School

FMEA ELECTION INFORMATION

FMEA officer elections are coming soon. This is your opportunity to take part in leading our association this coming school year. All FMEA officers are elected annually for one-year terms, except for the three Directors-At-Large, who serve three-year terms. Later this month FMEA will vote for next year's President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and the one Director-At-Large seat that is up this year. Below is a summary, taken from the FMEA By-Laws, of each FMEA Executive Board position and responsibilities.

The President shall:

- 1. Preside at all meetings of the Association, the Representative Council and the Executive Board;*
- 2. Prepare the agenda for the meetings of the Association, the Representative Council and the Executive Board;*
- 3. Be the official spokesperson for the Association;*
- 4. Be familiar with the governance documents of the Association, CTA, and NEA;*
- 5. Appoint all chairpersons and members of committees, and the bargaining team, with the approval of the Executive Board;*
- 6. Call meetings of the Association and the Executive Board;*
- 7. Suggest policies, plans and activities for the Association and be held responsible for the progress and work of the Association;*
- 8. Attend meetings of the Service Center Council of which the Associations is a part, &*
- 9. Attend other CTA/NEA meetings as directed by the Representative Council.*

The Vice-President shall:

- 1. Serve as assistant to the President in all duties of the President;*
- 2. Assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President;*
- 3. Be responsible for the formation and distribution of the Association's calendar of activities, and*
- 4. Serve as coordinator of committee activities at the direction of the President.*

The Secretary shall:

- 1. Keep a careful and accurate record of the proceedings of each meeting, regular or special, of the Association, Representative Council, and the Executive Board;*
- 2. Be responsible for the distribution of minutes, notice of meetings, and agendas for all meetings to members or the Representative Council and Executive Board, and to the membership when appropriate;*
- 3. Keep an accurate roster of the membership of the Association and of all committees; and*
- 4. Carry on the correspondence pertaining to the affairs of the Association as directed by the President.*



The **Treasurer** shall:

1. Receive all funds belonging to the Association and be responsible for their safekeeping and accounting;
2. Pay out such funds upon orders of the President;
3. Prepare a written financial report for each regular meeting of the Representative Council and Executive Board;
4. Be responsible for an annual audit of the books of the Association and distributing a summary of this audit to the membership; and
5. Submit membership and financial reports to CTA, NEA, and other agencies as required by law.

The duties of the **Executive Board** [Directors and Officers listed above] shall be to:

1. Coordinate the activities of the Association;
2. Act for the Representative Council when school is not in session;
3. Direct the bargaining activities and grievance procession of the Association, subject to policies set by the Representative Council;
4. Approve appointment and removal of bargaining team members;
5. Recommend a budget for the Association to the Representative Council;
6. Approve all appointments to committees, including chairpersons;
7. Adopt the Standing Rules for the Association;
8. Adopt grievance procedure;
9. Direct the grievance activities of the Association; and
10. Exercise all the business and organizational powers and duties for the Association as prescribed by law and these bylaws.

FMEA Officer Election Details

- Candidates must declare candidacy by April 14th. Voting will begin on April 29th and conclude May 2nd.
- All those who wish to declare their candidacy shall send a bio of 30 words or less to Elections Chair, Jeannie Martin by 4pm on April 14th.
- Ballots shall be prepared April 15th.
- Ballots shall be distributed to Site Reps April 28th.
- Monday May 7th at 5pm shall be the deadline for receiving all completed ballots. Site Reps shall deliver ballots to Elections Chair Jeannie Martin at Ramblewood School.
- Ballots shall be counted May 7th and 8th at Ramblewood.
- Results shall be announced by May 9th.
- The deadline for challenging elections results shall be May 20th.
- If run-off elections are needed they will take place the week of May 27th.

For anyone interested in running for any open position, send your name, school site, which office you're running for, and a bio of up to 30 words to Jeannie Martin at ninijeannie@yahoo.com by 4pm on April 14th.



Important Contacts

FMEA Contact Information

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School Site</u>	<u>Email</u>
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Shanti Arnold	Secretary	Ramblewood	shantiarnold@yahoo.com
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Please e-mail any articles and advertisements for the next issue of The Observer to lkpitino@hotmail.com. Please put "FMEA, The Observer" in the subject line.

Have any suggestions for The Observer? Please share your ideas with me at lkpitino@hotmail.com.

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