

Hope you are able to Relax, Reenergize, and Rejuvenate over the Summer!

JUST KIDDING



<http://www.fmea.org>

The FMEA OBSERVER

Notes from the President

By **Scott Shulimson**

Hello FMEA members,

Another school year has come and gone, and in many ways this one feels like the calm before the storm. After years of anticipation and preparation, the Common Core State Standards will finally be fully implemented this fall. The other big transition is that California is almost one year into the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), which is the new way public education is funded in our state. Our district has really hit the jackpot, but it remains to be seen how the new resources will be used. The 2014/15 school year is just around the bend and much of the landscape can be seen from here, but many unknowns remain.

Many things about this coming year are already settled: There will be a new math adoption for grades 6-8,

but younger grades will have to adapt current math texts to the Common Core. The district will finally have its own technology department, separate from the student enrollment duties that are currently handled by the I.T. department. Almost every site will have a Curriculum Support Specialist (CSS) to support PLCs, interventions, and assessments. There will be an increased number of Assistant Principals as well as full-day kinder classrooms. And lastly, ACE charter school will open up on the Bridges campus, and KIPP will open up at Stonegate, while Stonegate will begin transitioning to a K-8.

There is an equally long list of unknowns for the coming year: The district is looking at hiring a number of PE teachers to provide PLC planning time to some grade levels, but this program is still in the planning stages. Convocation is currently scheduled for Thursday, August 14th, but the district has been talking with FMEA about adding one extra day of PD for on-site grade-level teams to work on unit planning (to be paid at the per diem rate). This means convocation might actually be Wednesday August 13th. A final decision will be made on this in the coming weeks.

One of the biggest unknowns is the state budget. It appears there will be another big increase in funding to FMSD, based on our extremely high percentage of ELLs and students receiving free and reduced lunch. Like this year, there may be another big

Here's a sneak peek at what's inside this issue:

<i>President's Letter</i>	<i>Pages 1 & 2</i>
<i>Odds & Ends</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>Board Briefs</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Election Results</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Grievance Grove</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>Contract Corner</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>Trading Post</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>Calendar</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>Contact Information</i>	<i>Page 5</i>

Continued from pg. 1

round of Common Core funding included in next year's budget, which would be crucial since our district will need another set of technology purchases to get ready for SBAC testing next spring. The recent surprise in the budget is that Governor Brown is attempting to shore up the failing CalSTRS system by increasing the amount teachers, districts and the state pay in. The increase for teachers would be small for now and may not even make it into this year's final state budget, but it appears higher contributions are coming.

Lastly, we don't yet know how challenging this round of bargaining will be and what a settlement will ultimately look like. Class sizes are not likely to change now that 24/1 is the lowest class size the state will fund, but the issues of compensation, as well as instructional minutes, are very much up in the air. The district is offering another decent salary increase, but they are tying it to an increase of 15 instructional minutes every day but Thursday. Bargaining has been postponed until after a state budget is passed, which should be by June 15th, and bargaining will resume our first week of vacation. If a Tentative Agreement is reached, we will not vote over the summer as we did a few years back, but I will certainly send out all pertinent information as soon as possible.

This year had some great moments such as our FMEA Literacy Fair, Spelling Bee and Track Meet. Thank you to all the teachers who helped give our students a chance to participate in these hugely successful events. This year was also full of challenges, from the Illuminate assessment disaster in the fall, to the HVAC failures of the spring that left many rooms freezing or roasting. Next year will no doubt have its share of ups and downs, but at least we have a couple of months to recharge.

Have a great summer and see you in August!

Best regards,
Scott Shulimson

Placement Verification Form

Please note that the form that Human Resources sends out every year around this time is not a binding contract. Signing this does not obligate you to return, and not signing does not give the district notice you won't be returning. For anyone not returning next year, you must notify H.R. of your resignation by June 30th. An email, fax or letter to Rudy Herrera or Paula Boling stating your resignation as of June 30th is all that is needed.

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!
- The 2014 FMEA Track Meet, Spelling Bee and Literacy Fair were all terrific, well attended and exciting events. Thank you to the many teachers who helped make this happen. These are really special events that many unions don't take the time for. It's only possible because you are willing to do something extra for our students and our community. Thank you!

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!

Board Briefs

April 8

- The Board was presented with different options available for the Franklin School renovations.
- The Board approved the new Coordinator of Child Welfare position.
- The LCAP survey results were reviewed.

May 13th

- Teacher Of The Year awards were distributed.
- The Board was presented with a presentation regarding selling remaining bonds to pay for the Franklin renovations and other facilities projects.
- The Board approved the new Curriculum Support Specialist (CSS) position.

May 22nd

- The Board held a Special Budget Workshop on this date. An overview was presented on the LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula) and how the district plans to spend this money.

May 27th

- The Board honored SPIRIT award winners and teacher length-of-service awards were presented.
- The Board passed a large number of contracts for special and other services.

Congratulations to FMEA's Local Delegates to the NEA RA: Yvonne Tran and Nathan Irvine. They will be joining FMEA's State Delegates to the NEA RA, Lyn Irvine, Shanti Arnold and Jeannie Martin.

FMEA Officer Elections Results:

President: Scott Shulimson- 205

Write Ins: Lyn Irvine- 1

Rick (no last name)- 1

Antonio Gomez- 1

Vice President: Tim Barrington- 206

Secretary: Kristi Billings- 207

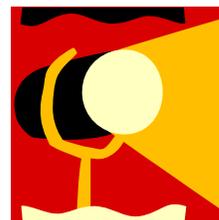
Treasurer: Lisa Pitino- 206

Director-At-Large: Shanti Arnold- 209

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 an arbitration at Ramblewood regarding safety.
- There is an arbitration at Stonegate regarding a reprimand.

Contract Corner

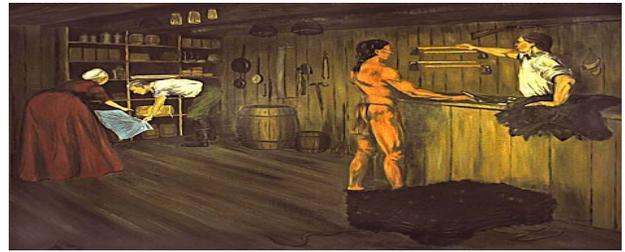
4.6.1.1

“Staff at K-5, K-6, K-7 K-8 and Middle Schools grade levels shall form a joint committee with the site administrator to prepare a plan for providing the daily instructional minutes. The plan for instructional minutes shall be presented to the local staff. Should the staff be unable to reach agreement through a majority vote, the issue shall be referred to the Assistant Superintendent of Education Services for a final decision.”

6.2.7

“No regular classroom teacher in an elementary school shall be required to serve in more than two classroom locations in one school year.”

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.

No ads were submitted for this issue

FMEA Spring Calendar

June 10th School Board Meeting

June 13th Last Day Of School

June 24th School Board Meeting

August 14th Convocation

August 20th First school day of the year.



Important Contacts

FMEA Contact Information

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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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