



<http://www.fmea.org>

The FMEA OBSERVER

Wishing you a restful and relaxing Spring Break!

Notes from the President

By Scott Shulimson

Hello FMEA members,

There is no shortage of news in Franklin-McKinley lately; the new Tentative Agreement (TA) was passed by FMEA last week, the Rocketship Board vote has been postponed, and Rudy Herrera will be retiring after 19 years in our district. As usual in our district, there are a lot of things in flux, and when the dust settles Franklin-McKinley will never be the same.

After a full year of bargaining a TA was reached and approved with overwhelming support from FMEA membership. The salary increase isn't quite as impressive as last year's, but when one looks at the last two years combined our settlements have been near the

higher end of what we've seen County-wide. Health benefits remain the area we are lagging in but FMEA leadership is committed to addressing this in the near future.

Like last year our final raise depends on financial factors not yet known at the this time. A 3% raise is assured, and for the current year an additional 1% is added. If the June state budget stays as flush as currently projected, then that 1% bonus will be permanently added to our salary. There are many other components to the TA and they can all be found detailed in this edition of The Observer.

Hopefully you have heard by now that Rocketship wants to open a third independent charter school in our district. Rocketship has had an aggressive campaign in our region and beyond. Their big-money, corporate-backed expansion has come at a cost as districts and communities have begun to stand up to their antagonistic growth model.

While our Board did approve the last two Rocketships, I believe we have a real chance to stop this one. But Rocketship pulls out all the stops to pressure school boards, so we will have to match their campaign. It's crucial that those effected by Rocketship, which is really everyone who works or lives

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here, comes out to sway the Board vote, which has now been postponed until April 14th. If you can't come out, at least call or email our Board members.

Our district has not seen a lot of leadership changes in top positions in recent years, but it now turns out that not only will Dr. Porter be retiring this year, but the number two in the district, Rudy Herrera, will be retiring from his position as Deputy Superintendent of Human Resources. Rudy has been an intrinsic part of this district for a lot longer than most of us have worked here and will be replaced by Paula Boling as of July 1st.

The School Board has hired a company to oversee the recruiting of a new superintendent to replace Dr. Porter, and the new superintendent will be here in June if all goes according to plan. It's going to be a big transition, and no less than the end of an era. Let's hope the next era is a new high-water mark for the students, teachers and community of Franklin-McKinley!

I know this has been a challenging year for many of you, and there is never enough appreciation and support for all you do, so I want to take this time to say "thank you" for all you do for the students and community of Franklin-McKinley.

As always, don't hesitate to get in contact with any questions, comments and concerns.

Sincerely,
Scott Shulimson

NEA RA ELECTION NEWS

NEA RA Election Results

NEA RA State Delegate: Both FMEA candidates running for NEA RA State Delegate were awarded a spot. Congratulations Shanti Arnold and Lyn Irvine!

NEA RA Local Delegate: Because there were only two candidates for NEA RA Local Delegate spots the election was waived and both have been awarded a spot. Congratulations Nathan Irvine and Shanti Arnold!

TENTATIVE AGREEMENT NEWS

TA Vote Results:

The Tentative Agreement passed earlier this week and goes to the Board to be ratified officially. Thanks again to our wonderful FMEA Bargaining Team!

Yes.....295

No.....15

Tentative Agreement Summary:

- A 3% raise and a 1% bonus (both retroactive to July 1st, 2014), and like last year, the bonus will become permanent if the money that's currently projected from the state comes through in the final budget.
- For the first time in over a decade longevity increments will be increasing by around 7%. (retroactive to July 1st)
- Hourly pay goes up to \$40.
- Masters and Doctorate stipends increase to \$1500. (retroactive to July 1st)
- BCLAD bonus increases to \$1500. (retroactive for those who received the bonus this year)
- Outdoor education overnight field trip pay goes up to \$100. (retroactive to July 1st)
- Middle school class size is limited to 32 other than PE which will have a cap of 44, and Band and Choral which will continue to have a daily cap of 200 contacts. In the past, middle schools had a ratio and daily contact limit, but no class size limits for individual classes.
- Staff meetings must be held on Tuesdays except in emergencies.

Board Briefs

February 10th

- The Board held a public hearing for the newly proposed Rocketship charter petition.
- The Board held a public hearing for the Cornerstone Charter renewal.
- The Gates Charter Compact was reviewed. The three focus areas were reviewed: Special education, teacher-leader training, and data and progress monitoring.

February 24th

- The Board discussed where to place KIPP charter school next year. Los Arboles was considered, but ultimately the Board voted to leave KIPP at Stonegate for one more year.
- The Board voted to integrate SUCCESS Academy into Meadows School.
- Student Global Learner award winners were honored.
- Employee recipients of SPIRIT awards were honored.
- Information was presented on the new Starting Smart and Strong program for TK and Pre-K students funded by a Packard Foundation grant.

March 10th

- The District was presented with the Second Interim budget update: The district started the year with \$9.3M and projects they will end 2014/15 with \$8.5, 2015/16 with \$10M and 2016/17 with \$9.3. These projections did not take into account the recent TA which had not yet been approved.
- ACE charter gave their annual update.
- The Board approved calendars for 2015/16 and 2016/17 school years.
- The Board approved a \$22,000 contract with a search firm to find a replacement for Dr. Porter.
- The Board approved the renewal of Cornerstone Academy.

CTA NEWS

Retiring or Changing Districts?

If you're retiring this year and you are already protecting yourself and your family with coverage under the CTA-endorsed Voluntary Life Insurance Plan, here's a special reminder. If you maintain a CTA-NEA Retired Lifetime Membership and apply within 120 days of retirement, you and your loved ones can continue a portion of your current, active Voluntary Life Insurance coverage. This is a limited-time opportunity so apply now by calling The Standard's CTA Customer Service Department at 800.522.0406.

If you are changing school districts, contact The Standard as soon as possible to ensure that your coverage information is up to date. Also, if you apply within 120 days of a district change or transfer, you can choose to continue your insurance coverage with The Standard at your current level, or you can apply for Disability Insurance and up to \$200,000 of Life Insurance.

CTA Member Benefits - There's an App for That

The "CTA Member Benefits" App is available for your Apple iPhone or iPad from the Apple App Store. The Android App is available for download from the Google Play Store.

1. Benefits: Review and share CTA and NEA Member Benefits information
2. Locations: Locate your CTA Primary Contact Staff for your district at a local CTA office or find a CTA Credit Union branch near you
3. Discounts: Access discounts to rental cars, hotels, entertainment and more
4. Insurance: Update your CTA Death & Dismemberment Plan beneficiary(ies)
5. Life Events: Apply for a CTA Disaster Relief Fund grant

CTA Member Benefits Smartphone App -
Download Now!

FMEA's 3rd Annual Literacy Fair

Fiction and nonfiction stories are welcome
Books may be handwritten or typed

Five winners per grade level (district-wide) will
be selected!

EXHIBITION NIGHT IS APRIL 24th at the
District Office

Teachers may submit up to 3 student made books
from their class. Participants will receive a
ribbon/certificate. Grade level winners will be
invited to a pizza party before the exhibition!
Class books are welcome to be submitted for
display but will not be eligible to win. Any
questions? Please send an e-mail to
lisa.pitino@fmsd.org. Please see timeline below.

Thursday, April 2nd : Student submissions to
homeroom teachers are due in order for teachers
to have time to pony them. *If there is another way
you can get them to Lisa Pitino by April 16th, feel
free to extend the student due date.*

Thursday, April 16th : All book submissions must
be received by the Literacy Fair committee by this
date. Please send to Lisa Pitino at Shirakawa
School via PONY.

Monday, April 20th : By this date, invitations and
letters to inform the winners will be emailed to the
student's homeroom teacher. Please pass on to the
student(s).

Friday, April 24th : Exhibition Night at the
District Office for all participants from 5:45 to
6:30. Pizza party for winners beforehand from
5:00-5:45.

*Other notes: Please make sure student's name,
grade, school and homeroom teacher are listed on
the back of each submission.*

Thank you for your support!

FMEA Basketball Tourney

After a few years of hiatus, FMEA is working
to bring back the Sylvandale Basketball
Tourney Classic. Run by Gene Powell for
many years, this incredibly valuable experience
is immensely enjoyed by every one of our
students who participate. The event will be
held Saturday April 18th and will run from
about 8 or 9am until about 3 or 4 pm. How can
you help, you ask? We need a Coordinating
Teacher at each participating school to pull
together a coed basketball team of 4th-6th
graders who can commit to after-school
practices and a day of games on tourney day. If
you are interested in being a Coordinating
Teacher at your site please contact Larry Volpe
at larry.volpe@comcast.net for more details.



FMEA Officer Elections

FMEA officer elections are coming soon.
Don't forget that all of the following are
one-year terms and are up for election
every spring: President, vice-president,
treasurer, secretary. Director-at-large is a
three-year term, and every year one of
the three director seats is open. The
official election timeline will be
determined soon.

Grievance Grove



- There is an arbitration filed at Kennedy regarding a “written verbal” letter.
- There is a step 2 grievance at Los Arboles regarding a letter of reprimand.
- There is a step 1 grievance at Los Arboles regarding evaluation.
- There is an arbitration filed at Los Arboles regarding a “written verbal” letter. FMEA and the district are working towards settling both of these.
- There is still an arbitration at Stonegate regarding a letter of reprimand.
- There is still an arbitration regarding district-wide HVAC settings.

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.

Please submit ads to lkpitino@hotmail.com

No ads were submitted for this edition.

FMEA Spring Calendar

March 25th FMEA Spelling Bee

March 31st FMEA/ FMSD LCAP Forum

April 3rd-11th Spring Break

April 14th School Board*****ROCKETSHIP VOTE!!! *****

April 18th FMEA Basketball Tourney

April 20th Rep Council

April 24th FMEA Literacy Fair

April 28th School Board Meeting

May 2nd FMEA Track Meet

May 12th School Board meeting

May 13th First Day Of Bargaining

May 18th Rep Council

May 25th Memorial Day

May 26th School Board Meeting

June 9th School Board Meeting

June 17th Final School Day

June 23rd School Board Meeting



ROCKETSHIP WANTS TO REPLACE YOUR SCHOOL

After all, their business model generates
\$500,000 per school per year.

Rocketship is NOT here
to educate FMSD children.
They are here to exploit them.

Lend your voice to the resistance.

STOP ROCKETSHIP!

APRIL 14

7 PM

But arrive early for seating and to sign up to speak!

FMSD Board Meeting
645 Wool Creek Drive
San Jose 95112

FMEA/CTA/NEA



Important Contacts

FMEA Contact Information

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School Site</u>	<u>Email</u>
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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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