

the

# FMEA Beacon



Elections Edition

## In this issue...

- President's Letter
- Contract Issues
- FMEA Calendar
- Contact Information
- FMEA Officer Elections Info

## A letter from the FMEA President, Scott Shulimson

Hi FMEA members,

We are just over the two-year mark from when COVID shut down our schools, and next month FMSD is likely to be closer to “normal” than any time in the last two years. The huge Omicron wave that brought so much chaos in early 2022 has subsided, so much so that masks are likely to become optional in FMSD in early May. This will bring relief to some and anxiety to others, but with most nearby districts already lifting mask mandates, it seems inevitable that FMSD will soon be taking this step.

### Important Dates!

4/14-5/5:  
Bargaining

#### Holidays

4/16- 4/24 Spring  
Break  
5/30: Memorial Day

#### Last Day of School!

June 17



## President Letter Continued

COVID is clearly not gone and unfortunately there are signs of a possible resurgence due to the more contagious BA.2 variant currently spreading. But California, like the rest of the nation is moving towards an approach that considers COVID endemic, meaning that the responses are to be less drastic with fewer mandates. Luckily, for those still extremely concerned, one-way masking does seem to be fairly effective when using high quality masks. If you do have strong feelings about FMSD dropping the mask mandate, whether you are for or against, you may want to consider reaching out to Superintendent Cruz to make your opinion known.

Starting in early 2022, FMSD and FMEA began bargaining our new contract. Once every three years our entire contract is open, which means there is a lot more work to be done. The process requires more proposals and is very time consuming, as there are simply more items to be bargained. Over the last decade the two teams have built trust and rapport, and while it's always a challenge to reach an agreement, especially on compensation, we've managed to avoid impasse and prolonged bargaining struggle. I'm cautiously optimistic that we will once again find an agreement that both sides can live with. And with a little luck we may even be able to sign off on a two-year deal, meaning that next year we might take our first year off from bargaining since 2005!

Many of you had a chance to come to trainings and parties at the old Mt Hamilton CTA building. It burned down several years ago, and though Mt Hamilton moved to a new location off Berryessa, COVID hit soon after the move. With higher rent and less building use, the Mt Hamilton Coordinating Council decided to dissolve our "Mt Hamilton Uniserv." This will mean FMEA will no longer have to pay an "infusion fee" to Mt Hamilton, but other than that there will be very little change for FMEA and its members. However, it does mean that we will now be served out of the Santa Clara RRC (Regional Resource Center). We still have access to all CTA legal and membership supports, but we will not have the same dedicated office space or secretarial support. Overall, the big difference you will notice is FMEA will now have more money to work with. We haven't been deficit spending the last few years, but this is partly due to lots of cuts to the FMEA budget over the years. During the April and May meetings FMEA Rep Council will work on and finalize a budget for next year. We will have the option to reinstate various programs, supports and stipends that had been eliminated. Feel free to bring any ideas you have to your Site Rep or directly to me.

COVID brought a lot of challenges and chaos to our schools, but it also brought an unprecedented amount of state and federal funding with it. This funding expires in just over two years. Until then there are a number of programs the district can likely fund, including social workers at all schools, class size reduction in grades 4-6 and the new Student Support Specialist position. The hardest part of making these programs happen is not the funding but the personnel. It's still extremely hard to find staffing, including teachers, subs and paras. The worker pool is just a lot smaller than in recent history, but hopefully the district can manage to hire enough staff to fully implement all of these programs next year.

The last two years have been like no others. It seems unlikely that COVID will ever push schools to distance learning again, but there are still a lot of unknowns going forward. One unknown is the state of Newsom's vaccine mandate for schools. It is likely that starting July 1, all students and staff who work in person will be required to be fully vaccinated, however, at the very least, there will be medical exemptions, and there may be other exceptions as well. I hope to have an update on this soon as it will be impactful on the 5% or so of teachers in FMSD who remain unvaccinated, as well as those sites that could lose teachers due to the mandate.

Continued on page 6

## FMEA Officer Elections Info

FMEA officer elections will be held in mid-May. 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. Next 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.

For anyone interested in running for any open position, send your name, office for which you're running for, and a bio of up to 30 words to Elections Chair, Sau Vu, at [shampoo.6@gmail.com](mailto:shampoo.6@gmail.com) by 3:30pm on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**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 Association 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.*

## FMEA Officer Elections Info

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 by laws.

For anyone interested in running for any open position, send your name, office for which you're running for, and a bio of up to 30 words to Elections Chair, Sau Vu, at [shampoo.6@gmail.com](mailto:shampoo.6@gmail.com) by 3:30pm on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.



## FMEA On Facebook

Join the FMEA Facebook Group! It's easy - just search "FMEA" on Facebook and request to join.



## FMEA Text List

You can join our text message blasts by texting "@fmeamember" to number "81010" to sign up for FMEA text message alerts

## FMEA Calendar



### FMEA Spring Calendar

4/14: Bargaining  
 4/16- 4/24: Spring Break  
 4/25: FMEA Rep Council (Zoom)  
 4/26: School Board Meeting  
 4/28: Bargaining  
 5/5: Bargaining  
 5/10: School Board Meeting  
 5/11: CTA Day Of The Teacher  
 5/20: FMEA End Of Year Party!  
 5/23: FMEA Rep Council  
 5/24: School Board Meeting  
 5/30: Memorial Day  
 6/17: Last Day Of School!

## Presidents Letter Continued

I really appreciate how much each of you have contributed to your students, site and colleagues over the last couple years. It really has required everyone pulling together to make it through this pandemic, and I know it hasn't been easy. I'm hoping the worst is behind us, but it does seem like many of us have been wrong in the past with that belief, so let's just appreciate this moment of relative calm. Enjoy the upcoming spring break. I hope you get to do those things you love with the ones you love.

Take good care  
Sincerely,  
Scott Shulimson

### Contract Reminders

8.12.1 General education teachers who attend an IEP meeting for any SDC student who is not on their roster will be compensated for thirty (30) minutes at the hourly extra duty rate. This additional pay shall apply only for meetings that are in excess of 30 minutes long

4.6.1.1 Unit members at each site 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 Educational Services for a final decision.



# Until next time!

Please email any articles, suggestions, and advertisements for the next issue of The Observer to [brennamarie26@gmail.com](mailto:brennamarie26@gmail.com)

Reminder: Find FMEA on Twitter @EducatorsFMEA  
Find FMEA on Instagram @fmeaeducators



The Observer is a publication of FMEA/CTA/NEA. Ideas presented by the editors are those of the editors and not of FMEA/CTA/NEA. Articles submitted by individuals solely represent the views of those individuals and not of FMEA/CTA/NEA.



## Important Contacts

### FMEA Contacts

| Name             | Position        | School Site       | Email & Phone Number   |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| Scott Shulimson  | President       |                   | fmeapresident@yahoo.com<br>831-325-0465  |
| Jenny McEwen     | Vice President  | Dahl              | <a href="mailto:jmmcewen@gmail.com">jmmcewen@gmail.com</a><br>925-628-0580                     |
| Suzanne Hodgeson | Treasurer       | Los Arboles       | <a href="mailto:suzannehodgeson@yahoo.com">suzannehodgeson@yahoo.com</a><br>408-771-1020       |
| Tuan-Anh Huynh   | Secretary       | Sylvandale Middle | <a href="mailto:Tahuynh31@yahoo.com">Tahuynh31@yahoo.com</a><br>714-309-3336                   |
| Erik Whitaker    | Director (SPED) | Bridges Academy   | sailingships@live.com<br>831-595-2679  |
| Imelda Murillo   | Director        | Santee            | <a href="mailto:immurillo@sbcglobal.net">immurillo@sbcglobal.net</a><br>408-460-9566           |
| Karen Orozco     | Director        | Santee            | <a href="mailto:Karenraquel_orozco@yahoo.com">Karenraquel_orozco@yahoo.com</a><br>408-768-0447 |

### FMSD Contacts

| Name                | Email  |
|---------------------|--|
| Rudy Rodriguez      | <a href="mailto:rudy.rodriquez@fmsd.org">rudy.rodriquez@fmsd.org</a>   |
| Maimona Afzal-Berta | <a href="mailto:Maimona.bertha@fmsd.org">Maimona.bertha@fmsd.org</a>   |
| Manuel Martinez     | <a href="mailto:Manuel.martinez@fmsd.org">Manuel.martinez@fmsd.org</a> |
| George Sanchez      | <a href="mailto:george.sanchez@fmsd.org">george.sanchez@fmsd.org</a>   |
| Thanh Tran          | <a href="mailto:thanh.tran@fmsd.org">thanh.tran@fmsd.org</a>           |