FMEA BEACON

Educators Empowering Diverse Communities

Congratulations!

FMEA Elections Winners

Tuan Huynh
President

Jenny McEwen
Vice President

Suzanne Hodgson
Treasurer

Angelica Tiernan
Secretary

Sharren Cayetano
Director at Large

Special Awards

Imelda Murillo
W.H.O. Award Winner

Kathleen Gilbreath
FMSD Teacher of the Year

FMEA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS:

1st Place:
Windmill Springs

2nd Place:
Santee

3rd Place:
Kennedy

A Letter From President Scott Shulimson

Hi FMEA Members,

I expect this to be my final newsletter and perhaps final communication to you all. Leading FMEA for the last 17 years has at times been challenging, at times has been fun, and almost always has been rewarding. I've grown in so many ways as this role pushed me to develop into a more effective and more supportive leader. While I'm excited for what comes next for me (this is still somewhat up in the air), I'm deeply sad about leaving the FMSD community I spent nearly half my life working for and with.

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Retirees:

Thomas Blackman
Dahl

Judy Kwan
Hellyer

Barnard Parrish
Kennedy

Joanne Pipersky
CCA

Dawn Mead Ryce
Dahl

Lourdes Zuluaga
Dahl

YOU WILL BE MISSED!
Thank you for your service.

President's Letter Continued

When I started teaching 5th grade at McKinley in 2001 I was still in my twenties, 9/11 hadn't occurred yet, and we were years away from Common Core. After six years teaching at McKinley I sort of fell into the role of FMEA President, and it became a role that suited me well. There are many skills I don't have, but listening to your challenges and concerns, and then coming up with a plan to address them has always come naturally. Over the years, I have felt great satisfaction any time I was able to make your life a little better.

There are some great things about having a president in place for such a long time. I got to know the processes well and more importantly I was able to build solid, trusting relationships with administration, CSEA, and of course our membership. There are downsides to it, as I had no experience with so many of the things that have changed since I was in the classroom.

Now FMEA will have to take a new path with new leadership. As you all move on without me I would just like to part with a few words that I think may help our district: Our district is under-resourced for the level of needs in our community. Most have more on their plate than they can do well while also having a life away from work. This goes for administrators as well as educators. It's true there are lots of bad decisions out there, but I truly believe that pretty much everyone in our district does care and is trying their best to support those in the classroom. They just need redirection and reminders when what is being implemented isn't working. I think it best to assume best intentions.

Calendar

June 14th
Last Day of School

June 19th
Juneteenth

June 30th
Last day to resign if not returning

August 7th
First workday

August 12th
First day of school

President's Letter Continued

Communication has been problematic since well before I began as FMEA President and it continues to be a problem. Too often all the moving parts that need to be aligned don't communicate effectively. And too often educators have a problem that they wait far too long to speak up about. Most of the time you don't need a union president to fix your problems. Let your principal know when something is off. And if it doesn't get fixed don't be afraid to go up the chain of command. At times this will mean going all the way to Superintendent Cruz. I have a very good relationship with Superintendent Cruz but that is not required for bringing issues to him. Do try to start at lower levels such as with your principal, but in the end it is Cruz who really makes the big decisions in our district so when something really needs to be addressed I recommend you bring it to him if not fixed at lower levels.

Next year is going to be a challenging year. Declining enrollment and expiration of one-time funds means resources will be tighter than in recent memory. Things are always challenging in FMSD and we've been through worse but I do think it it's good to be prepared to be impacted by some of the cuts coming our way. There is also a very important FMSD School Board election coming this November. While I have nothing personal against Marc Cooper, I think his views on diversity, equity and inclusion are radically different than those we have embraced in this district.

If *Moms For Liberty* and other extremist groups run and win against our incumbents they will have the majority in our district and we could see some big impacts very quickly. I hope you will consider contributing some time in the fall to see that this does not happen.

August 1st will be my last day as FMEA President. After that Tuan Huynh will take over and make his way as I did seventeen years ago. Thank you for all the ways you've helped strengthen our union, and for all that you give to your students and families. It's been an honor to serve as FMEA President. The experience has made me the person I am today and a big part of my heart and soul will always live with this district.

Take good care of yourself and loved ones and have a wonderful summer!

~Scott Shulimson

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FMEA Communication:

There are numerous ways to keep in touch!
If you don't get regular FMEA Updates emailed to you, please contact **fmeapresident@yahoo.com** from your personal (non-district) email address.
If you want to be added to the Bcc list, you can note this.

Find FMEA on Instagram @fmeaeducators

Our FMEA website is www.fmea.mobi

Request to join the FMEA Facebook group.

You can join our text blast list by texting "@fmeamember" to 81010

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Until next time!

Please email any articles, suggestions, and advertisements for the next issue of *The Beacon* to **brennamarie26@gmail.com**