

FEAtures



MEETING DATES

October 27 Rep Council
 November 10 Exec Board
 December 1 Rep Council
 January 12 Exec Board
 January 18 Uniserv
 January 26 Rep Council (WEA RA Nominations)
 February 8 President's Meeting
 February 9 Exec Board
 February 23 Rep Council (WEA RA Ballots due)
 March 15 Exec Board
 March 21 Uniserv
 March 29 Rep Council
 April 12 Exec Board
 April 18 Uniserv
 April 25 Mock RA
 April 26 Rep Council (Nominations due)
 May 10 Exec Board
 May 17-May 19 WEA RA
 May 24 Rep Council/Dinner (Ballots due)
 May 30 Uniserv
 June 6 Exec Board Retreat

Early Release Terminology

The most recent Memorandum of Understanding between FEA and FSD designates some of our upcoming early release time as “furlough” time while other early releases include “flex-time.”

Furlough time means that FEA members are not expected to work in an attempt to make up for last year’s state-wide pay cut. The early release on November 16, 2011 was originally designated as entirely district directed, but we will now be on furlough starting at the student release time. Other furloughs include the early releases on Thursday, March 22, 2012 and Friday, March 23, 2012 (originally spring conference dates) as well as an early

release on Friday, May 25, 2012.

Flex-time means that we may leave our buildings, and we may do our work at another place or time. We have flex-time during the teacher directed portion of each early release. The early release on Sept. 28, 2011 went smoothly with FEA members deciding what was best for them during flex-time. Some continued working in PLCs, some worked individually, and some left their buildings. Since January 25, 2012 is the early release designated as entirely teacher-directed, flex-time begins when students are released.

by Laurie Bianco



Retirements! Since our last edition, a few more people to say good-bye to.

Thirty-Four Years with the FSD: an Evolution of Perspective in Education

By Karen Finkbonner, retired 2011

It was a hot August day in the Kittitas Valley where I attended Central Washington University, when I received a call from Tim Smith, Principal of Central Elementary in Ferndale, Washington. He was “wondering” if I could come for an interview for the General Music position open at Central. Excited about the prospect of actually having a real job, I thought I better make a good first impression. With legs shaved, and my waist-length hippy hair cut to shoulder length and curled, I bought a polyester skirt and blouse and drove to Ferndale, and got the job! In 1976, state funding didn’t exist yet for “basic education,” so the music jobs were dependent on the passing of the local levy. If the levy passed, you had a job. Fortunately, Ferndale was very supportive of the music programs. Strings began in 4th grade, and band began at the middle school at 6th grade. The schools were configured differently then. Central was grades 3-5, Mt. View was K-3, North Bellingham was K-6, Custer was K-8, and Vista was 6-8. Eventually music became part of “basic education” and was funded by the state. It also provided 30 minutes everyday of planning time. Yes, the students had 150 minutes/wk. of music. Growing pains in the District was cause for some changes in school configurations. The teachers at Central and Mt. View were reassigned to make both schools K-5. The change was not easy for the staffs of both schools because their school culture was deeply imbedded for many years. That year, 1979, I was assigned to teach music at Mt. View to grades 4 – 5. There was no music room. I packed a guitar and overhead projector on top of a piano that I pushed on a dolly from room to room. When Skyline opened, I was assigned grades 4-6, and traveled to North Bellingham to teach music in

grades 4-6. Sixth grade was a “new breed” of student. They resented having to stay at the elementary level, and middle school teachers were transferred to the elementary level to teach a self-contained 6th grade which they were not use to doing. I wrote the Christmas programs for both schools, complete with wise men, angels with gossamer wings, and singing Silent Night, Away in a Manger, and only the Kindergarten sang about a snowflake named Suzy Snowflake.

In 1982, I received another phone call from Tim Smith telling me there was a 5th grade classroom position at Custer. This opening was available through attrition in the music program since they were cutting back on staff by one person, and I volunteered to go to a classroom. I met many outstanding people at Custer, and continued to teach out the rest of my career at Custer teaching 4th, 5th, and finishing the last 16 years at 6th grade.

The Christmas programs have become Winter programs, and education in the classroom has become so restrictive or prohibitive to be politically correct, or to not insult personal beliefs of the students, regardless of the scientific research or proven data that back up the text books’ information. In the last few years, state budget cuts have also made educating students more restrictive, but also hurting students by taking away the opportunities to have talented teachers teach them because there isn’t enough money to hire these teachers, and they are laid off. All of these have caused me to reflect on retiring from public education, and consider teaching in the private or parochial school system. Through prayer and discernment, I made the decision to retire from the Ferndale School District and be a 5th grade math and science teacher at Assumption Catholic School. I also have a leadership position being in charge of the leadership committee for the Accreditation process which schools must go through every 6 years. I have had excellent training and experience through FSD writing school improvement plans which is part of this process.

I feel so blessed. Blessed to have had the opportunity to work with such outstanding people in the Ferndale School District, blessed to have attained so many diverse experiences throughout my teaching career that I can share with a new staff, and blessed to be in a new role as a teacher in a school system where science is accepted, and as Albert Einstein said, “I want to know God’s thoughts. The rest are just the details,” can be a basis for learning math and science.

Another Good-bye:

I started teaching at FHS in January 2001, to work in the CTE Department teaching Word Processing, Applied Communications, and Career Choices. I moved to the Career Center in 2006...I think. Right now I am in the process of buying a boat... a rather large power boat (45’ Bayliner Pilot House)...to live on in the Semiahmoo Marina. As of this communication, I don’t know how to turn it on, but such challenges to me are delectable. I LOVE to learn! Semiahmoo Marina has a wonderful live-on community. There are approximately 19 couples who live there year-round. It is a lovely gated community. Many have volunteered to help me earn my sea legs. I took my first boating class last night from the Bellingham Power Squadron. Ask me if I understood most of the jargon. My answer is the following: “Nope.” However, I will recognize those terms when I actually get my hands-on experience. Right now, everything is theory...kind of like taking education classes before actually teaching. I am having a ball! My new boat’s name is “Let Freedom Ring.” I am about to adventure into the unknown. What fun! I plan to powerboat through the San Juan Islands, around Vancouver Island, and eventually up into Alaska. I have lots to learn, but I will be enjoying my “freedom” with zest, vigor, and much laughter!

by Marilyn Rockwell



Your FEA Representatives!

FEA Building Representatives:

Beach: **Judy Thomas**

Cascadia: **Christi Liese**, Bud Larson, Karen Slodysko, Bev Dooley, Diane Monsen

Central: **Michelle Taylor**, Joelle Schneider, Denise Smith

Custer: **Brandi Capdeville**

Eagleridge: **Jerry Finkbonner**, Jeremy Nolan, Leah Rochon, Patty Cornelsen

Mt. View: **April Zatine**, Bryan Schmidt, Rocky Diaz

Skyline: **Kathy Galbraith**

Horizon: **Nancy Hudson**

Vista: **Jay Sozanski**

FHS: **Heidi Stahlberg**, Robin Peters, Drew Sampson, Jeff Demorest, Goodie Hawkinson

Windward:

Clearview:

FEA Exec Board:

President: Tracie Morris

(Eagleridge/Cascadia)

Vice President: Amy Nylen
(Vista)

Secretary: Fran Genger
(Central)

Treasurer: Thirza Zagelow
(Cascadia)

Legislative Rep: Susan Gelhar
(FHS)

Minority Rep: Dave Esser (Mt.
View)

Elementary Rep: Chelsea
Buckham (Skyline)

Middle School Rep: Nancy
Hudson (Horizon)

High School Rep: Heidi
Stahlberg (FHS)

FEA Negotiators: **Laurie Bianco** (Skyline/Eagleridge),
Chelsea Buckham (Skyline),
Adam Goldstein (Horizon),
Beth Andres (FHS)

FEA Features: Dee Schulz
(Eagleridge)

Webmaster: Ryan Mitchell
(Custer)

<http://www.ferndaleea.org>

WEA Uniserv: Tara
Quackenbush

If you have any corrections,
please contact Dee Schulz at
dee.schulz@fsd.k12.wa.us.

The FSD YMCA group membership annual enrollment date is 10/1 but prorated rates are available during the year. The new rates are listed below. Please enroll at the Bellingham YMCA. They have new applications there. Tell them you are enrolling under the FSD Group Membership.

Discounted Group Rate

SINGLE ADULT
\$249.60

COUPLE
\$422.40

*FAMILY
\$489.60

SENIOR (AGE 65)
\$192.00

SENIOR COUPLE
\$268.80

*SINGLE PARENT &
CHILD \$336.00

LOCKER SERVICE
\$ 57.60

TOWEL SERVICE
\$ 57.60

The Bellingham YMCA is
at 1256 N. State St.,
telephone number
733-8630.

Our middle school in Oregon was faced with a unique problem. A number of girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick they would press their lips to the mirror leaving dozens of little lip prints.

Finally the principal decided that something had to be done. She called all the girls into the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian who had to clean the mirrors every night.

To demonstrate how difficult it was to clean the mirrors, she asked the maintenance man to clean one of the mirrors. He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it into the toilet and then cleaned the mirror.

Since then there have been no lip prints on the mirror. There are teachers and then there are TEACHERS.



Monthly dues are paid based on your FTE; the table below shows the different levels of payment for each FTE. Many members have had changes to their FTEs, which will affect the amount of dues paid. Your dues will also be higher if you opted in to support the political action of WEA-PAC for \$2.25/month, or the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE) for \$1.00/month. During the payroll system conversion last month, there was an error in calculating almost everyone's Community Outreach fees, so there will be a correction of \$1 for almost all of us this month.

FTE	NEA	WEA	UniSe rv	FEA	C. U.	Tota l
.76-1.00 FTE	\$14.83	\$34.17	\$13.38	\$21.00	\$1.00	\$84.3
.51-.75 FTE	\$14.83	\$25.63	\$10.04	\$15.75	\$1.00	\$67.2
.26-.50 FTE	\$8.25	\$17.08	\$6.71	\$10.50	\$1.00	\$43.5
.25 or less	\$4.98	\$8.54	\$3.33	\$5.25	\$1.00	\$23.1

These dues go to support many important activities. Our local dues support officers' and negotiators' stipends, including our President's half-time salary, as well as mailings, release time, and two scholarships for Ferndale students. All building head representatives get copies of our monthly budget for the FEA, if you would like more specific information. UniServ dues provide support from Tara Quackenbush, our UniServ representative, as well as other local staff. On the table, C.U. stands for Community Outreach, which supports grants to local associations and other organizing activities. Detailed WEA and NEA dues breakdowns can be found at www.washingtonea.org. Choose the "We are WEA" tab, then under "Governing WEA," select "How dues are spent." This page hasn't been updated yet for this year, but the information should be close to this year's. You may also take a look at the Membership tab on the WEA home page for a list of member benefits. The FEA page at www.ferndaleea.org also has a link to the extensive NEA Member Benefits page.

If you have any questions about your dues, please email me at atnylen@frontier.com.
by Amy Nylen