

Fontanan

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Sue Felt
FTA President

I hope your year is going smoothly and the issues that always seem to plague the start of every school year have begun to go away. If you are still having issues please let our office know. I know that several sites continue to have issues with roaches, spiders and mice. Be sure you let your administration know about the issues as well as the FTA office. We are working with Risk Management to fix the issue.

I know that many of you were very upset by the problems surrounding the use of online programs. I understand the frustration. Many of the issues stemmed from the new California Ed Code on privacy. The contracts with many vendors had to be worked out between attorneys to fit the new laws and took longer than expected. In addition, some vendors can no longer do business in California. I know this doesn't help when you are trying to get your classrooms up and running but, every effort is being made to address the problem.

Lastly, I'd like to address the issue of the Confederate flag in the classroom. This issue was a lengthy debate at the NEA Representative Assembly this past July. The debate was long because the original motion included more than the Confederate flag. It included things such as statues of Confederate Generals and other war related items. Once the business item was amended to include only the flag, the over nine thousand delegates voted to direct the NEA to make appropriate and effective, efforts to remove the Confederate battle flag from public schools and public spaces. CTA took the following position: "Removing the confederate flag from our public schools is just one of the many steps we must take to address the institutional racism that continues to exist across our nation. The flag, instead, belongs in history books and museums," said CTA President Eric C. Heins. "There is no place in our schools and communities for objects that hurt and divide rather than promote unity and growth as a society. We have made some progress, but the shootings in Charleston remind us of the work we have to do as a nation. Approval of this motion is just one step." FTA takes the same position, that the flag hurts and divides and therefore belongs in history books and museums and not in our classrooms.

Important FTA Email Addresses

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Professional Practice By Nancy Hofrock

As a member of F.T.A., you have many programs and benefits available via C.T.A. and N.E.A. Among those benefits are professional learning communities on-line that connect you to educators across the country. MyNEA360, which launched this summer, is one place to make those connections. On the NEA website you can apply for grants, download lesson plans and take free professional development courses.

C.T.A. supports our professional practice by providing exceptional trainers that come to Fontana and provide amazing workshops. Our next workshop is titled, "Problems and Promise: Best practices for technology/social media use in class." In November, we will have a workshop on "Literacy and Technology." January brings, "Sex, Drugs and Rock and Roll." Additionally, CTA has developed a program of Teachers Training Teachers that offers workshops regionally. All workshops are available free of charge. The next even is Saturday, September 26th at California State University in Fullerton.

Register at <https://goo.gl/SjSJNJ>

Fontana Teachers Association

Whiteboard Makeover Giveaway

If you haven't entered, please email your name and school/site to: social@fontanateachers.org

Last day to enter is: September 25, 2015

Winner will be chosen randomly
and announced on September 26, 2015.



The
Negotiations
Committee meets
the Monday before
Rep Council at
3:45 pm at the
FTA office.

All members
welcome!!

Benefits for Retirees Moving to out of Area By Kurt Dukleth, FTA Retirement Chair

First of all, concerning any retiree entitled to dental and vision benefits (six year option per Article 13), this coverage is universal and can be used anywhere in the nation, as long as the retiree resides in the United States.

As for medical benefits, on the other hand, any retiree moving to an area not covered by the District's carrier (s) will be reimbursed at an amount not to exceed what the District normally pays; any difference in excess must be paid by the retiree. Written request for this reimbursement must be paid prior to May 31 of each fiscal year.

Please contact our Coordinator of Fiscal Services, Traci Matuguina at (909)357-7600, ext. 29010 for more specifics.

IPD and
Community
Outreach
committees will
meet on October 6
at 3:45 at the FTA
Office

All members
welcome!!

“Elementary Director’s Corner”

The main issues or concerns that were discussed at our meeting were: admin time vs. teacher time and what could be done during this time frame, Keenan trainings, Class size caps, salary, hourly rate increase, instructional rounds, and the big one “Q” trainings.

Question about Administration Time on minimum day? Is it still 50-50 per day or one (1) week Admin and one (1) teacher?

This year for the 2015-16 school year for Elementary teachers it will be 50% admin time and 50% teacher prep time. Admin time will include anything “REQUIRED” to do PLC, educational readings, etc. Teacher’s time is classroom preparation of lessons, grading papers, etc.

Question about the Keenan trainings are they part of Admin Time Last year teachers were given admin time to take the online trainings, does the same applying for this year?

Teachers should be given administration time to do this. However, many teachers chose to do it from home. Some teachers are watching the video while doing preparation work in their classrooms.

Question regarding clarification of class size cap.

TK-3 teachers – Soft cap is 29- Hard cap 31. After the first 20 days (Sept 3rd) teachers will be paid extra for the 30th or 31st student. Teachers in 4th-5th have NO cap but will be paid a on the 33rd student and so on.

Where can we find the new salary schedule?

The salary schedule is currently posted on our district’s website.

What is the new hourly pay rate?

The new hourly pay rate is \$37.68

Are the instructional rounds mandatory?

NO the instructional rounds are voluntary. Check your district email on August 31, for the Weekly updates from the district an email was sent out to all FUSD employees and I will quote Dr. Cediell: “In this sense, Rounds should be seen as something that is done in collaboration with the host teachers and not something that is done to them. In order to help foster this collaborative spirit in FUSD, we are telling teachers that, if they would rather not participate, they can choose to opt out. In other words, participation in Rounds is strictly voluntary.”

With the “Q” trainings at the school sites, we are expected to implement a program that we have not been fully trained on and do it on our own time.

Response from Nancy Hofrock. “I spoke about this at the school board meeting. I pointed out to the board that it seems unfair to ask teachers to volunteer their time to attend training for a program that they are required to use. “Q” Trainings are being offered on a voluntary basis after school. Each teacher will have to decide if it is worth their time to attend, in order to save time figuring out how to effectively work the program.”

What’s going on at:

Poplar Elementary School celebrated “Patriots Day”, on Friday, September 11. Students wrote an essay or an account of what their parents’ were doing during the attack on the New York Twin Tower on September 11, 2011. Students also wore “Red, White or Blue,” to show their Patriotism and support for our American Heroes.

