

FEAdback

FAIRBANKS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2118 S. Cushman Street
Phone 456-4435
Fax 456-2159

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
e-mail fea@alaska.net
Home Page: www.alaska.net/~fea



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From the President's desk....

FEA December 8 Election Results

On Tuesday December 15, the FEA Board of Directors certified the election results for the December 8 election. New delegates attending Delegate Assembly in Anchorage on January 28-30, 2010 are: **Paula Addis** (Pearl Creek Elem), **Chris Benshoof** (Lathrop High), **Nancy Duez** (Woodriver Elem), **Karen Dullen** (Woodriver Elem), **Sean Genson** (West Valley High), **Mari Torgerson** (Nordale Elem), **Curtis Watkins** (Lathrop High), and write-in candidate, **Jerry Grogan** (West Valley High).

Your delegates to Delegate Assembly will be considering important issues to the association. Such issues include, the Living Wage Campaign for our Educational Support Professionals, moving the Legislature to replace the current Defined Contribution retirement system with a form of the Defined Benefit retirement system, changes that may be made to the charter school laws in Alaska or on the national level, and Pay for Performance when test scores are included in a teacher evaluation instrument.

Participate in the Superintendent Search

With the announced resignation of Superintendent Nancy Wagner on June 30, 2010, comes the need to search for a new leader for our school district. Be aware that the Mat-Su District is also beginning a search for a new leader. A public hearing was held Monday, November 30; teachers may still send your opinions on the qualities you believe are needed for the new leader. You should go to the District's website and send a message to School Board members. The Board held a Work Session on December 14 and a special meeting on December 18. The result of these meetings was a decision to work with the Alaska Association of School Boards in the hiring process. The District website lists the following methods you can provide input to Board members: by mail to the Board of Education, 520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99701; by email to schoolboard@northstar.k12.ak.us; by phone to the Board of Education Office at 452-2000, ext. 400; or by making contact with any individual board member. You should participate, it is healthy.

Items of Interest to Members

Deadlines are drawing near as we enter the 2010. One section of the 2008-2011 Negotiated Agreement of interest to those who may be considering retirement at the end of this school year is found on page 4, Article 101 VI. This article states that if you provide an "irrevocable written notice of retirement" on or before **Friday, January 15**, you will receive a one-time payment of \$1,500.00 on your last paycheck.

During his speech before the National Council of Urban Education Associations (NCUEA), earlier this month, NEA President Dennis Van Roekel mentioned that NEA had completed a survey of 2000 National Board Certified teachers around the nation. In answer to a question concerning what the teacher looked for in a position with a district, the following are the ranked order of the responses: leadership from the principal, a collaborative set of teaching partners, acceptable working conditions, and a decent salary.

Grades for the first semester are due by the end of the day on Tuesday, January 5 according to Article 508 of the 2008-2011 Negotiated Agreement.

Remember, beginning January 1, the PA Clinic is provided by Urgent Care on Airport Way.

May everyone enjoy a relaxing holiday break, so you return for the Second Semester refreshed.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A TEACHER!!!

FEA Officers

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