



# FZEA Insight

An affiliate of the Missouri National Education Association and the 3.2 million member NEA

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## WELCOME BACK! WELCOME BACK!

### ♪♪ WELCOME BACK! ♪♪

This summer while some of you have been languishing in exotic places, teaching summer school (ouch!), enjoying your own children and grandchildren (pictures of my granddaughter Lucie are available on line for free), sailing the blue seas, or, in some very rare and downright scary cases, solving math problems, FZEA, the Fort Zumwalt School District, MNEA, and NEA have all been gearing up for another successful and productive school year. The NEA RA (Representative Assembly), Summer Academy, and negotiations preparations all unhaltingly marched on for our benefit through the summer heat. So welcome back! We hope you enjoy the new school year!

## Negotiations to Begin October 2

This year contract negotiations will be held in the Fall rather than the Spring because of the discussion and possible future implementation of the 7 period school day. Since 1989 the Fort Zumwalt district has used a win-win form of negotiating with representatives from the district discussing issues with FZEA representatives. The FZEA Association negotiations team consists of 13 FZ teachers, Dana Asher, HHS; Sandy Ballantyne, WHS; Candi Blanton, TCE; Tom Funicelli, EHS; Kim Garbs, NHS; Mary Gustafson, WMS; Pam Hallermann, WMS/SMS; Connie Johnson, NMS; Becky Maltman, WHS; Christine Nanney, PPE; Megan Rose, SHS; Nicole Shidaker, JLM; and Tyson Spraul, TCE, and Steve Geiger, Uniserve director. Included in the negotiations will be salary, benefits, work conditions, and the calendar—including the possibility of a 7 period day at the middle and high schools. Be on the lookout for a survey in your building soon. Remember—it is your responsibility to be informed and your right to be heard. Closing weekend for negotiations will be November 20. Building representatives will provide updates.

## Member Benefits

Log on to [neamb.com](http://neamb.com) and see what fantastic benefits you can receive:

Talbot's 20% off until October 12! Look for more.

Visit [Target.com/fieldtrips](http://Target.com/fieldtrips) by November 3 to apply for Target Field Trip Grant.

Free technology at [www.nea.org/freetech](http://www.nea.org/freetech).

Applications for NEA Foundation Grants are due October 15. You can receive Up to \$5,000. [www.neafoundation.org](http://www.neafoundation.org).

## Save the Date

### '09 State Teachers Conference:

Thurs. Nov. 5 &  
Fri. Nov. 6  
Hyatt Regency in  
St. Louis

### Capitol Action

#### Days :

April 15, '10  
Jefferson City

### Legislative

#### Dinner:

Feb 25 at Trigg  
Banquet Center  
In O'Fallon

## Summer in Columbia:

### FZEA Members Prepare For Negotiations

Activities have been taking place for fall negotiations and FZEA members are looking forward to a successful meeting of the minds. According to Sandra Ballantyne, WHS, "I was once again impressed with how Fort Zumwalt is set up to discuss the needs of the district in our win-win negotiations, considering there are other districts struggling to discuss anything with their administration...We are very fortunate to have an administration who cares about doing the right thing when it comes to negotiations." Sandra and other FZEA members attended Summer Academy in Columbia, MO, in July, along with representatives of other Missouri school districts. There they studied the fine art of negotiating successfully and the importance of voicing our concerns about today's problems and needs. These teachers will be representing FZEA members in the fall negotiations.

**Remember, the parents are sending you the best they have. They are not keeping the good ones at home and sending you their leftovers.**

#### DAO speaks out in Favor of Win-win Negotiations

FZEA is not the only one optimistic about this year's negotiations. In spite of difficult economic times, Dr. DuBray firmly believes in the success of the process and the trust the district and FZEA have built in each other. "During our years using the process we have never failed to reach agreement...We are a leader in the field because we won't let it fail..."

**New teachers were signed on as FZEA members at the new teacher luncheon. If you still need to sign up, see your building representative. You need to be heard.**

#### Newbies, Transfers, and Career Changes

According to Dr. Corum, deputy superintendent, 48 new teachers had been hired by the district as of August 10, compared to 101 last year. Our district is not growing as it has in past years, partially due to an unusually low replacement rate of less than 4%. So while we have hired some new talent, we have retained the old. In her exit interviews Dr. Corum learned that people enjoy working for Fort Zumwalt. "...feedback...is very positive, especially as it relates to building climate, district climate, support of other teachers, support of administrators, and benefits provided by the district." On August 10, FZEA hosted a delicious new teacher luncheon catered by Francesco's, welcoming the new staff.

## President's Corner

Dear Members,

The 2009-2010 school year is in full swing. We had a wonderful new teacher luncheon on August 10 at East High School. Many of our new teachers joined FZEA that day and others have joined through their building representatives. We welcomed a few experienced teachers to FZEA this year also. Thanks to the building representatives who joined us for this luncheon. I want to thank Sarah Hartland and Matt Hansen for another fine job organizing and presiding over the luncheon.

On August 26 the negotiations committee met and selected the negotiation team for this year. Kim Garbs is leading this fine group of teachers through this process. She has set dates for team trainings, WinWin training for the complete Negotiations group and is developing the last survey that will be sent out shortly. These men and women have volunteered their time for the next 10 weeks to work to represent you as a new master agreement is developed.

As I look forward to this school year I can see concerns, challenges, issues and successes that will make up our year. I will again this year keep my phone close, my email open and ready to read and reply to your concerns and questions. Communication with you is the most important feature we have with our membership. Please feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns you might have this year.

Sincerely,

Candi Blanton, President FZEA

### **Teachers Rain (and Reign) in California:**

#### **Another Productive NEA RA**

It may never rain in southern California, except this July when it rained teachers who swarmed to San Diego to introduce, discuss, debate, and vote on issues concerning the nation's greatest forum for education reform at the annual RA (Representative Assembly), themed Hope Starts Here. This event is our opportunity to not only learn what issues are being addressed in classrooms across the country, but also have a vote in major educational issues and voice our own concerns. Four FZEA members, Dana Ashed, HHS; Vicki Datt, SHS; Kathryn Kuntzman, SMS; and Sharon Schertel, NHS, did just that. "I was very impressed that everything we do at the state and local levels can influence education policies at the national level," said Kuntzman. With over 12,000 NEA members assembled from all over the US, Dennis Van Roekel, in his debut as NEA president residing over an RA, challenged members to lead the efforts to transform education, help rebuild the middle class, and build our strength as an organization. Arne Duncan, U. S. Education Secretary, spoke to 7,000 delegates and guests about his ideas for transforming public education. Duncan is committed to including NEA in discussions and decisions at every level in order to turn around our nation's most troubled schools. If you would like to view his responses to questions from members concerning NCLB, charter schools, and merit pay, go to [www.nea.org/Duncan](http://www.nea.org/Duncan).

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**Those who can read and don't, have no advantage over those who cannot read.**

**Promote reading in your neighborhood:**

***Two Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson is about fighting terrorism through education.**

***The Read Aloud Handbook* by Jim Trelease.**

**You can skip the first half about the value of reading aloud to your children (which we already know), but the second half includes a long list of books for all ages. My bible when my children were young.**

***I Read it, But I Don't Get It* by Cris Tovani shares reading strategies for adolescent readers.**

**Please forward your book suggestions to [sschertel.fz.k12.mo.us](mailto:sschertel.fz.k12.mo.us) to share with us all.**

**On the MNEA Website:**

**Look for Workshops available on Thurs. Nov. 5, at the Teachers' Conference. These require pre-registration.**

**BIST-Behavior Intervention Support Team**

**Stop the Three Ring Circus**

**"I Can Do It" - a Classroom Management Program**

**Nov. 6—a free day of workshops and exhibits and a speech “When Success is Your Only Choice”**

**Look for direct links to your state & federal legislators. Look for their email addresses, phone numbers and office addresses. Please feel free to contact them.**

**DEAR ABBY\***

(Dear Abby is on vacation and will be replaced by Sharon Jo)

These stories are real. Some of them have actually been featured on Dateline NBC. The names have been changed just because.

**Dear Sharon Jo,**

Word on the street is that if a job opening occurs and someone within that building wants that job, the job does not have to be posted. What's up with that?

Confused

**Dear Confused,**

Sorry you were misinformed. All jobs must be posted in all of the buildings before they are filled. And **STOP** getting your information from the street and read your Professional Agreement.

Sharon Jo

\*Formerly known as “Know Your Contract”

Forward your questions about the professional agreement to [sschertel@fa.k12.mo.us](mailto:sschertel@fa.k12.mo.us) and perhaps your voice will be heard in FZEA Insight or on the Judge Mathis Show (Do you get the feeling I've been watching way too much daytime TV?)