



February 2011

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

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Congratulations to our FZEA Second Semester Grant Winners

The FZEA grant that Jennifer VanderBol wrote will purchase equipment for her PE classes at Progress South Elementary. This grant will help keep the elementary children physically fit.



Alice Klem will use her FZEA grant to purchasing materials to teach Human Circulatory System. The students in Alice's West High School science class will benefit from this grant.

Kristin Dowey wrote her FZEA grant for the children of Mid Rivers Elementary. The students who have Kristin for a teacher will be helped by the materials she will purchase for her speech class.



For your copy of the FZEA Grant Application please go to

www.fzeal.com

Fall Grant application are due by Oct. 15, 2011

Save the Date:

St. Charles Legislative Dinner:

February 24,
2011

Capitol Action Day:

April 13

Retiree Party:

Way too early

Summer Academy:

TBA

Fall RA:

Nov. 13th
Kansas City

NEA RA:

June 30—
July 5, 2011

Rep Mtg:

Feb 16

Negotiating for a brighter future

As we speak, our FZEA negotiating team is working hard for our future best interests. All of our burning questions — Will the calendar schedule Christmas in December next year? Will we get a raise or be forced to go back to the coal mines? - will soon be answered. Under discussion are salary, calendar, and extra pay/extra duty. Friday, March 4, is the scheduled closing date for negotiations, and then our team will report the good news back to us.

You are cordially invited to a Legislative Dinner!

When: February 24th, 2011

Time: 5:30 PM—8:00 PM

Place: Trigg Banquet Center, O'Fallon, Missouri

Cost: \$10 for FZEA members and \$20 for guests

Send Money and Names to Connie Johnson at North Middle School by February 18th!!!

OBAMA to run for FZEA President

(It could happen!)

It is time to elect new FZEA officers for the 2011-2012 school year. Nominations will be accepted until February 16. Email does count. The open positions are:

- President 2 year term
- Vice President—Certified 1 year term
- Vice President—ESP 1 year term
- Treasurer 2 year term
- Communications 1 year term
- Parliamentarian 1 year term
- 2 Members at Large 3 year term
- 26 State Delegates 1 year term
- 3 National Delegates 1 year term

Survey Monkey will be used for voting for teachers February 28—March 4. Paper ballots will be used for ESPs. Paper ballots will be in the buildings by February 28 and will be returned to the election committee by March 4th. Results will be posted on the website by April 4th.

Fencing the school board (oops, I mean screening)

We have six candidates running for school board:

Mike Swaringim

Mike Price

Jeffery Kutterer

Renee Porter

Laure Schmidt

Terrill C. Herring

FZEA recommendations will be presented and approved on February 16th.

This effects everyone ! Please read and think of what you can do to help everyone in our profession.

Time to get locals organized for Capitol Action Days and to make a ton of calls into the state legislature if you're not already!

Mo. lawmakers: scrap tenure, social promotion

Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) -- Missouri lawmakers want to expand school choice and change how teachers are evaluated in the classroom.

Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder joined several legislative leaders Monday in calling for classroom changes. State Representative Scott Dieckhaus (DIHK'-house) said he wants to change how teachers are evaluated. He wants 50 percent of their evaluation scores to come from students' test results. He also wants school district administrators to be evaluated based on the scores teachers get.

Lawmakers said they want schools to stop moving students on to higher grades if...

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they haven't met the academic requirements, a practice called "social promotion." They also are seeking tax credits that would allow autistic children to attend different schools.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MO_REPUBLICANS_EDUCATION_MOOL-?SITE=MOPAR&SECTION=STATE&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

School choice fans highlight agenda, claim momentum

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/political-fix/article_47d71872-280b-11e0-b2a4-0017a4a78c22.html

By Virginia Young > vyoung@post-dispatch.com > 573-635-6178 | Posted: Monday, January 24, 2011 4:30 pm

JEFFERSON CITY -- A bipartisan coalition of Missouri legislators called today for far-reaching changes aimed at fixing failing urban schools and giving parents more choices.

On the agenda:

-- Ending "social promotion," where teachers advance struggling children to the next grade level even though they haven't mastered the required skills.

-- Revamping teacher tenure to require that teachers be evaluated based on their students' academic progress.

-- Expanding charter schools, which are now permitted only in St. Louis and Kansas City, to the rest of the state and setting more rigorous standards for them.

House Majority Leader Tim Jones, R-Eureka, said the state had "dumped hundreds of millions if not billions of dollars" into the unaccredited St. Louis Public Schools and had little to show for it.

"That's the definition of insanity," Jones said. "It's time to do something different."

Few details of the plans were available because none of the legislation has been filed. Legislators said they expected to introduce their bills in about a week.

House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee Chairman Scott Dieckhaus, R-Washington, said he was preparing legislation to address the teacher tenure system.

His plan would tie teacher evaluations to students' growth, and administrators' evaluations to teachers' performance.

"The teacher tenure system is broken in the state of Missouri, and it is a hindrance in educating children," Dieckhaus said.

Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder, a Republican, said that several years ago, a St. Louis School Board member told the lieutenant governor that the district was preparing many students for one of three futures: "a lifetime of poverty, a path to the penitentiary or an early trip to the cemetery."

Kinder and the GOP legislators made their remarks at a Capitol news conference to spotlight "National School Choice Week."

Joining them were St. Louis Democratic Reps. Jamilah Nasheed and Tishaura Jones.

Nasheed said she would sponsor a bill to end social promotion and require after-school or summer school programs for children who are lagging behind.

Jones' legislation would expand charter schools statewide, encouraging them to develop specialties such as a focus on arts, agriculture or dropout recovery.

One of the biggest school choice champions is retired St. Louis investor Rex Sinquefeld, who has become the state's biggest campaign donor.

The school choice movement also may have gained momentum this year because of a Missouri Supreme Court decision last summer that opened the door for a form of open enrollment.

That decision, known as Turner vs. the School District of Clayton, held that students in failing districts have the right to transfer to neighboring school districts without paying tuition.

Suburban districts say the decision doesn't give them enough discretion over student admissions. Dieckhaus said legislators are crafting a bill in response to the ruling, but it is not ready yet.

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