

I think that spring is here. I don't know about you but it is hard for me to stay inside when the weather is so beautiful outside.

I am sure that many of you are counting down the days. This time of the year is always the busiest. High on everyone's list is upcoming testing. NCLB has made student performance on these tests crucial. Many of you have field trips and special projects planned to celebrate the end of the year. Everyone is busy with the tedious work of documenting at risk students and evaluating the need for retention or appropriate interventions for the next school year. Included in this are also final progress reports, report cards and updating the cum's. I want to thank each of you for your time and dedication to the teaching profession. The endless hours of work and the commitment that teachers make to the profession is often not understood by those outside the teaching profession. As we approach the May 14th Celebration known as the Day of the Teacher, know that what you do does make a difference in the lives of the children that you have in your classroom.

I want to thank schools for participating in the selection of a Site Teacher of the Year. Each of the selected teachers were sent the application to apply for the District Teacher of the Year. These applications were to be turned in by April 14th. The Teacher of the Year Committee paper screens the applications and then will visit sites from April 21-30. The Site Teachers of the Year and the District Teacher of the Year will be recognized at the Annual Employee Recognition Ceremony on Thursday, May 15th and also at a Board Meeting in the Fall.

The F-SUTA Annual Retirement Dinner will take place on Wednesday, May 28th. A flyer went out at the March 17th Rep Council meeting. If you are retiring, we want to recognize your hard work and dedication to the District, so please submit the form to Rosemary Louissaint as soon as possible. We also recognize the hard work being done on your behalf by the F-SUTA Executive Board, Committees, and Site Representatives. The presentation of the WHO (We Honor Ours) Award will also take place at this dinner. Thank you to the many people who submitted the names of deserving individuals who have worked hard within our Association.

Each school site needs to submit the names of Site Representatives and Alternate Site Representatives before May 31st. Each faculty group is entitled to at least one representative and shall have one representative for each twenty (20) Association members or fraction thereof.

Site Representatives serve a term of one year. The duties of the Site Representative include attending monthly meetings of the Representative Council, serving as the official channel for written communications and publications to be easily and quickly transmitted between the Association and the active members, and to represent the views and input of the active membership. Site Representatives also maintain a bulletin board, hold meetings with the active members of the school site, and conduct all elections including the restructuring vote.

I want to encourage every active member to be involved. We need Site Representation at every Site. If your site does not have a representative at the monthly Representative Council meeting, you are not being represented. The person you elect for this position is the person who will be representing you in all decisions that are being made by the Association.

You may not be able to be a Site Representative, but you can help at your site with supporting the Site Representative by attending meetings conducted at your site. This is when your Site Representative reports back to you and often comes to collect information to take back to F-SUTA leadership. You can also help with the distribution of flyers or by responding and volunteering to help with F-SUTA projects. Consider being a Site Representative for your site or finding ways that you are able to support your Site Representative.

A question was raised concerning parents in the classroom. Teachers who are having a problem with a parent/guardian interrupting the educational program should work with the site administrator to address concerns. If the site administrator is unwilling to address concerns, speaking to the appropriate Director of education or attending Board subcommittee meetings to work on changing Board policy would be appropriate next steps.

Board Policy and the Ed Code address this issue. Board Policy encourages parents/ guardians and other members of the community to share their time, knowledge and abilities with students. All volunteers must act in accordance with District policies, regulations and school rules. All employees who supervise volunteers may ask any volunteer who violates school rules to leave the campus.

According to Ed Code, each Governing Board is to formally adopt a policy to control classroom interruptions. According to Board policy, visits during school hours should be first arranged with the teachers and Principal or designee. If a conference is desired, an appointment should be set with the teacher during noninstructional time. No electronic listening or recording device may be used in a classroom without the teacher and Principal's permission (Ed Code 51512).

All visitors must immediately register upon entering school grounds. The Principal or designee has the right to ask anyone who does not follow this to immediately leave the school grounds. The Principal or designee may design a visible means of identification for visitors while on school premises. Most sites have a badge or name label for visitors to wear who have properly followed this procedure. The Principal or designee has the right to ask any visitor to immediately leave school grounds.