



FEAdback

By Danette L. Peterson • Feb 23, 2024

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President's Message - Anger



Anger. It's a basic emotion. It is often intense. It causes an uncomfortable physical response. Our heart rate races, hormones are released, and there is a surge of energy. It's often characterized as a negative emotion. Anger can be challenging to control and can cause us to act in ways that we later regret. Negative.

Experts characterize anger as a secondary emotion. By that, they mean that anger is an emotion fueled by other emotions. It's like an iceberg with other emotions hiding beneath the surface such as hurt, embarrassment, and disappointment. Anger can happen when we expect one outcome and a lesser result is experienced. Anger is a signal that something has to change. It is often borne out of injustice. I can still see my younger self stomping my left foot with clenched hands saying "that's not fair." Maybe some little people in your life or classrooms have recently done something similar. During the public testimony section of Tuesday's School Board meeting, we identified with the anger of many people and we could all see and feel the pain and hurt beneath that anger.

But anger doesn't have to be a negative emotion. It can be a positive emotion if it can be channeled. That sense of injustice is what fuels the fire in our bellies. Anger is what catapults us from being mere bystanders and moves us into action. Anger is what calls us to be agents of change - to right the injustice that we feel. Anger can help us set healthy boundaries and declare that enough is enough. That anger is what moved the educators in Portland when they went on strike last

year to obtain safer classrooms, racial equity, and more mental health supports for students.

Yes, educators are under-compensated and undervalued. Yes, it is a terrible loss to our community to close neighborhood schools. Schools shape our local communities and those people inside become our family. Please, don't direct our anger at one another. Please, don't advocate for the closure of one school over another. Don't let those with the funding divide us. Let's direct our collective anger to create positive change. Let's advocate so that *all* of our students get the schools they deserve. Yes, it takes a bit of time to send an email, attend a community forum, or vote in a special election. But, it takes a lot longer to pack entire schools, resettle hundreds of students and families, and navigate the challenges of overcrowded classrooms. And the investment in time is certainly worth it. Let's do what we can to lessen the impact that our deficit will have on students, educators, and our community.

Please, make no mistake about it. Your actions are absolutely making a difference for the positive. Your emails and calls are being heard in Juneau. Your testimony is heard at our Town Hall meetings. Progress is being made to raise the BSA. And, a special election to provide additional local education funding will be held on May 7th. We are not in this alone. Educators across the State are standing side-by-side alongside us and facing similar challenges. Feel the injustice. Be angry. Take positive action! Stand united for students! Together, we can make a difference and, indeed, we will.

Legislative Update



Pete Daley, Stefan Johnson, Jose Rueters, Garrett Armstrong, and I met with numerous legislators including Representatives Ashley Carrick, Maxine Dibert, Frank Tomacsewski, Will Stapp, along with Senators Click Bishop, Robert Myers and Scott Kawasaki. Pictured above, the group with Meredith Maple, School Board member, and Senator Click Bishop.

Four of your colleagues and I shared your stories and messages with those in Juneau. Meredith Maple, School Board member, was also in attendance as part of the Chamber of Commerce and shared her concerns about education funding. Please encourage those you know outside of your building to voice their concerns. Ask your neighbor, pickleball partner, dog sitter, and hairdresser to voice their concerns. Share the QR Code and [bit.ly/RaiseThe BSA](https://bit.ly/RaiseTheBSA) with others so our interior legislators in Juneau can hear our voices loudly here in the interior.

Many of you also testified before the recent Borough Assembly meeting, legislative Town Hall, and this week's School Board meeting. Thank you. Your concerns were heard. Your pain is shared by many. And, I hope that our community anger prompts us to take action for the benefit of all of our students and our entire school community. The Borough Assembly passed ordinance 2024-07; **a special election will be held on May 7th** to address the tax cap and funding for public education. If you are not registered to vote, please know that FEA staff can help you register.

If your building is hosting an event, we would love to engage families in conversations about education funding. Please let us know when and where so we can attend. **Two community forums are coming up:**

Tuesday, February 27th at 6 pm at Lathrop HS, and Monday, March 11th at 6 pm at North Pole.

If you would like to help encourage the State to increase public education funding, you can do the following:

- Contact your area's elected representatives at bit.ly/RaiseTheBSA
- Share a public opinion message with all legislators: <https://www.akleg.gov/poms>
- Email the governor and legislators: gov.allegislators@alaska.gov

Stay Informed with President Tom Klaameyer's #AKLeg Update. WE ANTICIPATE BIG NEWS, SO STAY TUNED!!!

If you are not receiving NEA Alaska President Tom Klaameyer's Legislative Updates or my text message Hustles, please let us know so you can stay informed by contacting us at fea@alaska.net or 907-456-4435.

Save Our Schools March - Tuesday



Teachers are heroes for students.

Save Our Schools March is taking place on **Tuesday, February 27th**. Meet at **5 pm at Pioneer Park** and walk to Hering Auditorium where the first Community Forum is taking place starting at 6 pm.

April 24th will be a day for educators across the state of Alaska to be a Hero for Students and to let legislators know that we will no longer sit quietly while they continue to underfund education and undervalue what we do each day for students and our communities. If you are interested in helping to plan this event for our Fairbanks community, please let me know at fea@alaska.net.

Coffee with Colleagues and School Board members



COFFEE *with* COLLEAGUES

It's YOU time!
Join us for a morning
of relaxation and
casual conversation



LuLu's Bread and Bagels
364 Old Chena Pump Rd.



YOU



COLLEAGUE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24
9:00AM

www.fairbankseducators.org



Share your concerns, thoughts and stories with School Board Member Bobby Burgess and others over a cup of java. Share your thoughts about the budget, ways to lighten educator loads, or whatever is on your mind.

Elections Open: FEA Board of Directors, Delegate Assembly, Representative Assembly



Some of your amazing FEA Building Reps. - representing you and our profession.

It's hard to imagine, but it's time to start thinking about what FEA's Board of Directors will look like next year. This year, Board of Director seats are open for our Ft. Wainwright Region (Ladd, Tanana, Nordale, and Arctic Light) and East Region (Barnette Magnet School, Boreal Sun Charter School, Career Education Center, Chinook Charter School, Denali Elementary School, Hunter Elementary School, Golden Heart Academy, Lathrop High School, Ryan Middle School, Weller Elementary School, and programs housed at Administration Building. FEA Directors to the Board serve for a two-year term. If you are interested in serving as a member on FEA's Board of Directors and your home school is in one of these two regions, **please send your bio of 50 words or less to Vice President Patrick Frymark**

(patrick.frymark@k12northstar.org) by 5 pm on Monday, February 26th.

Nominations are also open for Representative Assembly and for those wishing to serve on Delegate Assembly 2025. Those interested in running for Representative Assembly must have attended Delegate Assembly 2024. If you are interested in serving, **please send your bio of 50 words or less to Vice President Patrick Frymark (patrick.frymark@k12northstar.org) by 5 pm on Monday, February 26th.**

Thank you all who have served in the past or are serving presently.

State Election Results - Congratulations!



Region V

Region V Director(s) to NEA Alaska's Board of Directors

Kristen Dullen (2 year seat)

Hanna Hodges (1 year seat)

Representative Assembly Delegate: Paula Addis

NEA-Alaska At-Large Representative Assembly Delegates (4 seats)

Jessica Iglesias (FNSBSD - Midnight Sun)

Karen Dullen (FNSBSD - Woodriver)

Amy Lloyd

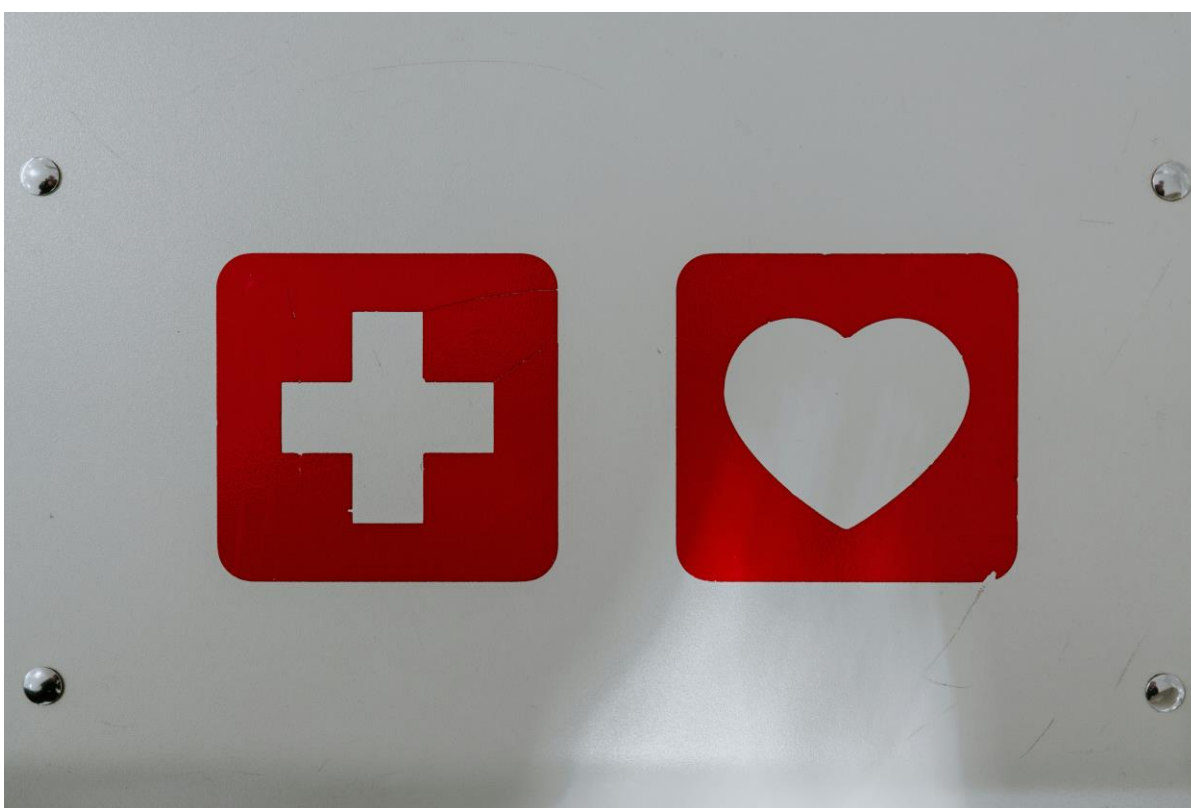
Lisa Villano (FNSBSD - Ryan)

Welcoming and Safe Classrooms for our LGBTQ+ Students



Join GSA Sponsor Amy Gallaway and West Valley GSA students on **Saturday, February 24th from 9:30 a.m. to noon** to learn strategies to create safe and welcoming learning environments for all students, specifically LGBTQ+ students. We will start with the basics of LGBTQ+ etiquette and research on how LGBTQ+ students are experiencing school and then develop and practice strategies that address barriers to safety and create more welcoming spaces. Student GSA members will be guest presenters and available for questions.

CPR and First Aid Training



First Aid and CPR Training Opportunity

During our quarterly committee meetings, counselors and SPED teachers recently raised the need and desire for First Aid and CPR Training. FEA is offering **First Aid Training Friday, March 15th from 9:00-1:00**, and **CPR Training on Saturday, March 16th from 9:00-1:00**. For those staying here for Spring Break, this might be a great time to get this done when things are less hectic.

This training is **free** except for the cost of the test and testing materials, manual, and required mask, which is \$35.00. This class is limited to a

maximum of ten participants and requires a minimum of eight participants. [Please sign up](#) by March 8th - first come, first served.

Why Your Contract Matters - Voluntary Transfers and Building Closures

SCAN ME



FairbanksEducators.org

III. Voluntary Transfer

A. Eligibility

1. A teacher must have completed at least two (2) years of employment with the District to be eligible for a voluntary transfer. A teacher may apply for transfer to positions posted in the second semester of a teacher's second year of employment for the forthcoming school year.

***Exceptions: A first-year part-time teacher seeking a full-time position or a first-year teacher identified as an involuntary transfer for the upcoming school year may apply for a transfer.**

2. A teacher on a Plan of Improvement is not eligible to apply for a voluntary transfer.

B. Interview

An interview between the requesting teacher and the receiving principal shall be required consistent with Section V of this article, provided the teacher meets the minimum qualifications of the position.

VII. Building Closures

A. The District will notify staff of a potential building closure as soon as possible and explain the process for reassignment to the impacted staff.

B. Teachers that are impacted by a school closure will be subject to the involuntary transfer procedures as outlined in this article and will be asked for their placement preference should the District have more than one placement available to which they qualify and allows for the least amount of staffing impacts.

[Schedule an appointment](#) with Human Resources to discuss your employment options for the upcoming year.

Gratitude and Thank You



Thank you to Jose Rueters, Pete Daley, Garrett Armstrong and Stefan Johnson for carrying your message and classroom stories to Juneau;

Thank you to everyone who testified before the Borough Assembly, at the Town Hall, and at the School Board to raise concerns about funding and how those cuts impact students;

Thank you to everyone who encouraged a parent or other community member to go to [bit.ly/RaiseThe BSA](https://bit.ly/RaiseTheBSA)

Thank you to Javier Martinez and Todd Hospodarsky from the Congressional Medal of Honor Program for providing a fabulous training on our building PD Day.

Thank you to West Valley's JROTC members Joey, Sarah, Ethan, Ronja, and Christianna for presenting the colors and singing the National Anthem at our training.

Upcoming Events & Important Dates



- **Saturday, February 24th at 9:00 am Lulu's Bagels**
Coffee with Colleagues and School Board Members
- **Saturday, February 24th at 9:30 at FEA Offices**
Creating Welcoming and Safe Classrooms for LGBTQ Students
- **Monday, February 26th by 5:00 pm**
Deadline to submit bios to Patrick Frymark for FEA Board of Directors, Delegate Assembly and Representative Assembly
- **Tuesday, February 27th at 5:00 at FEA Offices**
FEA Board of Directors Meeting at Gallo's
- **Tuesday, March 12th at 5:00 at FEA Offices**
FEA Building Rep Meeting
- **Friday, May 10th at Pike's**
FEA Retirement Celebration at Pike's

FEAdback Classified Ads



All ads are run for two FEAdbacks, unless notified to remove. To view previously posted ads, visit our website: fairbankseducators.org and check the previous electronic editions.

Classified ads are included on a "space available" basis. ***IMPORTANT included classified ad in your subject line.***

Fairbanks Education Association Value Statement

The diverse voices of our members are the strength of the Fairbanks Education Association. We are the teachers, the counselors, the librarians, the therapists, and the psychologists that prepare students to succeed and contribute to a changing society.

Recognizing that a teacher's working environment is a student's learning environment, the Fairbanks Education Association is tirelessly dedicated to attracting and retaining the best quality teachers by strongly advocating for its members, improving salary, benefits, retirement with dignity, and increasing funding for quality

public education for all students. We support our members by offering life-long learning opportunities for growth through mentorship and meaningful professional development.

We empower our members to make professional decisions that positively impact our classrooms, community, and daily lives of our students.

FEA Board Members

FEA Officers:

President - Danette Peterson

Vice President - Patrick Frymark

Recording Secretary - Paula Addis

Membership Secretary - Pepper McFarland

Treasurer - Melodee Sonnenberg

Immediate Past President: Sandi Ryan

NEA-Alaska Directors: Kristen Dullen, Jessica Iglesias, and Karen Dullen

FEA Board of Directors by Region:

East Region: Robyn Capp, Wendy Demers, Robin Feinman, Kelly Scanlon

West Region: Garrett Armstrong, Natasha Carlson, Dave Devaughn, Kim Wallingford

NEST Region: Sarah Dimmick, Shelby Hooper, Mariko Kinikin, Ed Paxson

Ft. Wainwright: Laverne Haakanson, Julie Lougee

Advisory:

Retired Member Representative: Leslie Conner

NEA-Alaska UniServ Directors: Michael Wenstrup and Grier Hopkins

In solidarity,

Danette L. Peterson

President

Fairbanks Education Association

Feedback

Anonymously tell us what you thought of this edition. Your responses will help us create better content for you!

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