

By Danette L. Peterson • Sep 26, 2023 Smart Brevity® count: 7 mins...1791 words

I AM FEA. YOU ARE FEA. TOGETHER, WE ARE FEA.

FEAdback

Volume 42, Number 4

• President's Message: Use Your Educator Voice

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At various times we have encouraged a student to advocate for

themselves, or praised them for doing so. Maybe they needed extra time

- on an assignment and requested it, or maybe they were struggling with peer interactions and sought help. Regardless of the context, we encourage our students to be agents of positive change and to empower themselves. The very goal of self-advocacy may have even been written into your student's recent IEP. As a social studies teacher, this civic
- concept is near and dear to my heart and at the core of many of my lessons. This week and next, I urge you to use your educator voices. Advocate for yourself. Advocate for your colleagues. Advocate for those who are joining our noble profession so they will find it rewarding and sustainable enough to remain. There are a myriad of ways to make a positive impact with minimal time commitment. • Testify for 3 minutes at the Borough Assembly Meeting

Thursday; • Attend a Pension Reform event in person or virtually; Participate in our Labor Walk Saturday; • Most importantly, **get to the polls and vote** in our local elections and encourage family and friends to do the same!

Last year just under 17.5 percent of borough voters cast ballots in the municipal election. According to the borough clerk, that was the lowest

- turnout in eight years. Undoubtedly, we can do better. If each of our 746 bargaining unit members votes in our local election, we will have a significant voice in the outcome.
- Educators are undervalued. I know that you are asked to do more with fewer resources. This path is not sustainable and I fear our profession is becoming less attractive in a tight job market.
- every problem, it certainly addresses many. In my statement supporting the tentative agreement, I told you that the fight wasn't over but due to the District's serious financial situation, it was time to focus our energies elsewhere. Now is the time to focus on securing education funding that is predictable and keeps pace with

I want more for you. I want you to get what you deserve. I want more for

our students, as they, too, deserve better. And, while money doesn't solve

inflation. It's time to achieve retirement with dignity. So how do we get more funding for our local schools? We support candidates who support public education and those who favor full funding at the local level and understand the connection between strong public schools and a thriving local community. Your email, 3-minutes of testimony, and your vote can indeed make a great impact. It takes some effort and commitment, but it takes far less than what is required to walk a picket line while on strike. Together, our

collective voices will be heard. As Margaret Mead has been quoted as

individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever

saying, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed

has." (This quote <u>may or may not be apocryphal</u>, but the point remains.) So, just as you encourage your students to self-advocate, I ask the same of you. Please advocate for yourself, your students, and our noble profession. Together our voices will be heard if we stand strong for public education. **Borough Testimony This Thursday**

(9/28)

something about the start of your school year. Educators have been undervalued for too long and underfunding has occurred too often. Be a voice for change for our students and colleagues.

Pension Reform Event TONIGHT

On Thursday at 6pm, the Fairbanks Borough Assembly will be

activities and student learning.

(9/26)

Center

deserves.

7:00 to 8:30 p.m. <u>Register here.</u>

Local Elections - October 3rd

considering <u>ordinance 2023-53</u> pertaining to educational funding at the

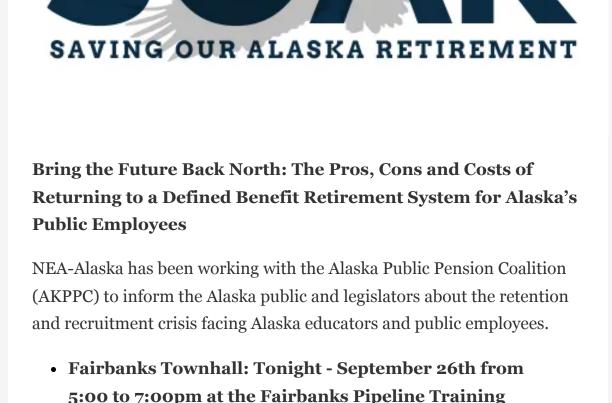
local level. Members from FEA, ESSA, and FPA have been encouraged to

share stories about the start of the school year to help assembly members

better understand how local funding, or the lack of it, impacts classroom

We urge you to advocate for full funding at the local level.

Please reach out to <u>fea@alaska.net</u> if you or your building can share



• Statewide Virtual Townhall: Thursday, September 28th from

OUR TOWN. YOUR VOTE.

Use your educator voice. Vote for strong public schools.

funding that is needed to provide the schools that our community

The local election for School Board candidates and Borough Assembly

candidates is on October 3rd. Your vote in local and state elections allows

us to collectively support candidates who support public schools and the

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

OCTOBER 3, 2023

FEA general membership voted to recommend the following candidates: FEA & ESSA **USE YOUR EDUCATOR VOICE. ENDORSE** VOTE. **ON OCTOBER 3, 2023 SCHOOL BOARD VOTE ABSENTEE** • By mail: Application due to the Borough Clerk's Office by September 26 **BOBBY BURGESS**

TIM DORAN

MEREDITH MAPLE

BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

SCOTT CRASS

NICK LaJINESS

• **Electronically**: Application due to the Borough Clerk's Office by 12pm October 2

> **VOTE EARLY Shopper's Forum Mall** 1255 Airport Way

VOTE IN PERSON

ABSENTEE City of Fairbanks Clerk's Office

800 Cushman St • September 18 - Oct 2 8am - 5pm M-F

City of North Pole Clerk's Office 125 Snowman Ln • September 18 - Oct 2

Shopper's Forum Mall 1255 Airport Way • September 29 & Oct 2

VOTE AT YOUR POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY

8am - 5pm M-F

9am - 6pm

• September 18 - 28 9am - 6pm September 24 10am - 6pm

Find your polling place FNSB.gov/Elections LIZ REEVES-RAMOS



Building Representatives

the afternoon of October 21st.

night, January 13, 2023.

FEA Representation on District **Communications Committee** FEA is looking for 12-15 members who are willing to volunteer one hour to serve on the District's Communications Committee. Secondary educators will meet virtually on October 16th at 3:30. Elementary educators will meet virtually on October 17th at 4:00 pm. **Please reach** out by Wednesday at fea@alaska.net if you can help. Salary Schedule Movement Reminder Complete the District's Request for Salary Change form and submit official transcripts by October 12th to request movement on the salary schedule based upon credits or degrees earned prior to the first day of the semester, or if you previously earned a double bachelors simultaneously, double masters simultaneously, and/or doctoral degree. Building Reps and Delegate Assembly If your building still needs help electing your building reps for Representative Council, please reach out. Building Reps are the conduit between building staff and FEA leadership. They are your voice and crucial to our organization. Training for building reps will take place on

on a field trip to UAF. If you need some help or have a special event, please let me know. I would love to help and/or attend. NEW ELEMENTAN

Once a year, elected delegates from across the state have the opportunity

to gather at Delegate Assembly — NEA-Alaska's annual meeting to set the

direction for the organization by way of resolutions, new business items,

following year. This year NEA-Alaska Delegate Assembly will open on the

evening of Thursday, January 11, 2023, and it will adjourn late Saturday

legislative priorities, and approving the organization's budget for the

FEA is eligible to send 27 elected delegates. If you are interested in

attending and serving as a delegate, please submit your name and a

Frymark (<u>patrick.frymark@k12northstar.org</u>)

Connecting With You

biographical statement of 50 words or less to FEA Vice President Patrick

I had the pleasure of chaperoning Mary Reece's (Anne Wien) 3rd graders

This past Saturday, special education educators across the District met to

discuss the start of their year. Thank you to all who attended in person

Counselors will be meeting on Saturday, October 7th at 11:30.

If you belong to a group that would like to meet with FEA Leadership to

discuss an issue or concern, please email <u>FEA</u>. We would love to hear

and virtually. I look forward to our October meeting.

from you and support you!

UAF Educator Night

free, but registration is closed. If you have questions about the event or would like to inquire about attending, please contact UAF Museum Staff at 907-474-5140 or uamuseumlearn@alaska.edu.

RESERVED

PARKING

Parking for Educators Who Travel Between Buildings

equipment far distances over icy surfaces.

• FEA Board of Director Meeting

Borough Assembly Testimony

Thursday, September 28th at 6pm

Thursday, September 28th at 7pm

Virtual Meeting on Pension Reform

FEAdback Classified Ads

check the previous electronic editions.

Statement

students.

FEA Officers:

Advisory:

included classified ad in your subject line.

succeed and contribute to a changing society.

FEA Board Members

President - Danette Peterson

Vice President - Patrick Frymark

Recording Secretary - Paula Addis

1288ifte

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

Classified ads are included on a "space available" basis. *IMPORTANT*

Fairbanks Education Association Value

The diverse voices of our members are the strength of the Fairbanks

librarians, the therapists, and the psychologists that prepare students to

learning environment, the Fairbanks Education Association is tirelessly

Education Association. We are the teachers, the counselors, the

Recognizing that a teacher's working environment is a student's

Tuesday, September 26th at 5pm at FEA Office

It provides,

administrator.

administrator(s).

New language was secured in Section 513 of our negotiated agreement.

travel between buildings, often on tight schedules while transporting

This language addresses the needs of our ever-increasing educators who

An itinerant teacher may request a reserved itinerant parking space at

If you are such an educator and believe having a designated parking spot

their school location which requires approval from the building

would help you perform your job, please make that request to your

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

Why Your Contract Matters

Educator's Night will be on September 27th from 4-6:30pm. Admission is

Tuesday, October 3rd • Policy Assembly Saturday, October 21st at Chinook Charter Building Rep Training Saturday, October 21st at FEA Office

• Local Elections for School Board and Borough Assembly

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

Membership Secretary - Pepper McFarland Treasurer - Melodee Sonnenberg Retired Past President: Sandi Ryan NEA-Alaska Directors: Coby Haas, Kristen Dullen, Jessica Iglesias *FEA Board of Directors by Region:* East Region: Robyn Capp, Wendy Demers, Kelly Scanlon West Region: Natasha Carlson, Dave Devaughn NEST Region: Sarah Dimmick, Shelby Hooper, Mariko Kinikin, Ed Paxson Ft. Wainwright: Julie Lougee

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Retired Member Representative: Leslie Conner NEA-Alaska UniServ Directors: Michael Wenstrup and Grier Hopkins In solidarity, Danette L. Peterson President Fairbanks Education Association

communications. This email was sent by NEA Alaska via Axios HQ