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Winter 2004/2005

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No Limits...No Excuses

Showing creativity and cooperation, two NFUSSD member boards from the Salt Lake City area showcased their outstanding school districts at the 2004 NFUSSD Fall Conference. Hosting the unique Conference were Granite and Jordan School Districts.

Since two districts hosted, it offered an opportunity to hop on the school taxis, also known as yellow buses, to visit successful practices on two days. The Granite site visits were to a high school, an elementary school, an alternative high school, and a center for students with disabilities that support their successful transition to independent living and careers. Then, the next day, Jordan's site visit options were to an elementary school, a high school for students to gain independent living skills, and an applied technology center. It was a great opportunity to explore and investigate a variety of excellent programs. The websites for each site visited are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Back at the Conference hotel general sessions and breakouts were equally impressive. The opening general session, after a welcome from NFUSSD President Jane C. Callister, Jordan District, and a student performance by the Olympus High School Jazz Ensemble, focused on

how some of the nation's highest performing high schools gain support for and then implement programs for all students that accept no excuses for poor performance and set no limits on what students can achieve. Dr. Willard R. Daggett, President, International Center for Leadership in Education, during his comments, noted why a philosophy of no limits, no excuses must be set. Mossi White, former President, NSBA, greeted the group at one of the breakfast sessions. Breakout sessions included the topics of character education, truancy, faculty study groups, and services for students of poverty, homelessness and language barriers.

The Conference also offered the opportunity to sample the rich historic sites and sounds of Salt Lake City. Participants were treated to a front row seat to hear a broadcast of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and to travel to beautiful Park City for an evening at the Deer Valley Resort.

All in all, thanks to the cooperative planning of Jordan and Granite School Districts, it was almost a perfect conference. The only thing missing were the NFUSSD members who did not attend. Let's try to get everyone to Baltimore!

**Thanks to all in
Granite and Jordan School Districts!**

Executive Committee Highlights

The NFUSSD Executive Committee met at the Downtown Marriott, Salt Lake City, on October 10, 2004. President Jane Callister presided. 1999 Past President Clarence "Sonny" Savoie presented the Nominating Committee report for absent Chair Terrie Beaudreau, Spokane, WA. It was accepted and recommended for presentation to the Delegate Assembly. Budget Committee Chairman Tom Cummings presented their report. It was recommended to be forwarded for approval by the Delegate Assembly. The 2004 financial audit was approved. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on April 30, 2005 at a site to be announced.

Baltimore County, MD, to Host 2005 Fall Conference

It's never too early to plan for the next NFUSSD Conference. We'll be heading back east to the land of great seafood for Baltimore County, Maryland's "Focus on Quality, Committed to Excel". The focus group will be Information Technology personnel. Dates for the conference are October 9 - 12, 2005 and it will be held in the Marriott Hunt Valley, which is located 20 minutes outside of Baltimore's Inner Harbour. Information on registration procedures will be sent in the spring. Contact for the conference is Brenda Stiffler, 410-887-4126.

Share the News

We love to share what is happening in your district, so please add the Federation office to your mailing list, especially newsletters and annual reports, so that your "good news" can be shared.

Words of Wisdom

"Education is a social process...Education is growth....Education is, not a preparation for life; education is life itself."

Delegate Assembly Highlights

A new Executive Committee was elected and a 2005-2006 budget was adopted at the annual business meeting of the Federation. Held on October 12, 2004 in Salt Lake City, UT, the Delegate Assembly is required to meet annually to conduct the business of the Federation. Each district receives two votes — the superintendent and a designated board member. Welcome and congratulations to the approved slate of Executive Committee members. The 2005 Executive Committee is:

	Term Expires
Tom Cummings, President (N. Kansas City, MO)	10/06
Jane Callister, Past-President (Jordan, UT)	10/05
Carolyn Campbell, Vice President (Topeka, KS)	10/05
Barry Newbold (Jordan, UT)	10/06
Raymond Toler (Charleston, SC)	10/06
Elizabeth Andrews (DeKalb County, GA)	10/05
Donald Arnold (Baltimore County, MD)	10/05
Brian Benzel (Spokane, WA)	10/05
Keith Lutz (Millard District, NE)	10/06
Barbara Pulliam (Clayton County, GA)	10/05
Cindy Rounds (Duval County, FL)	10/05
Barbara Smith (Davis District, UT)	10/05

The next Delegate Assembly will be October 12, 2005, at the Hunt Valley Marriott, Baltimore County, MD.

2004 NFUSSD Fall Conference School Tour Websites

Check out the fantastic programs at these sites:

www.granite.k12.ut.us/JonesCenter

www.granite.k12.ut.us/Central

www.granite.k12.ut.us/Hunter_High

www.granite.k12.ut.us/Hillside

www.jordandistrict.org/schools/high/jordantechcenter

www.jordan.k12.ut.us/copperview/school

www.hhs.jordan.k12.ut.us/main

www.jordan.k12.ut.us/southvalleyschool

— John Dewey



Directory Update

The 2005 NFUSSD Directory is being prepared for distribution. It is an unending task to keep the list and the NFUSSD data base accurate, but the NFUSSD office keeps trying. If you make an address change, please let us know. Internet addresses have been added to the directory as well. If you get an internet address, let us know. We want to keep in touch!

NFUSSD News Online

The full impact of email has finally come to NFUSSD. As noted in the previous article, we've added internet addresses to our directory and data base. As of last year, we are sending our newsletter out via email. We will request that the superintendent's staff print a copy of the newsletter for those who don't have email. By doing so we save printing and mailing expenses. The Executive Committee believes that NFUSSD members can increase communications by initiating conversations and sharing information via email throughout the year. Future newsletters will be shorter and more frequent as we reach out to keep you in touch!

Meet the President

At the conclusion of the October NFUSSD Fall Conference, Dr. Thomas P. Cummings, Superintendent of North Kansas City School District, North Kansas City, MO, became the 2005 NFUSSD President.

In education for more than 40 years with nearly half of those years invested in North Kansas City School District, Cummings has served as teacher, coach, principal and director, as well as assistant superintendent for instruction for 10 years in North Kansas City beginning in 1985, and then as superintendent since January 1995.

During his superintendency, Cummings has overseen the creation of numerous initiatives from the Northlands School Alliance, the Senior Tax Exchange Program (STEP), the building of the Career & Technology Education Center, creating differentiated diploma options, and most recently his Achievement-Plus program intended to give support to students and families in schools with the greatest socio-economic challenges.

Not only has NFUSSD recognized Dr. Cummings' leadership abilities, so has the Missouri Association of School Administrators (MASA). It recently named him the 2005 Missouri Superintendent of the year. As a recipient of this award, he will represent Missouri in the national Superintendent of the Year program conducted by the American Association of School Administrators. Congratulations, Tom!

NFUSSD Websites

Go to the NFUSSD website at www.nfussd.org/nfussd.htm and you can access all our member districts' websites.

Baltimore County

Website: www.bcps.org

Charleston County

Website: www.ccsdschools.com

Clayton County

Website: www.clayton.k12.ga.us

Davis School District

Website: www.davis.k12.ut.us

DeKalb County

Website: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us

Duval County

Website: www.educationcentral.org

Greenville County

Website: www.greenville.K12.sc.us

Granite District

Website: www.granite.k12.ut.us

Jordan School District

Website: www.jordandistrict.org

Kanawha County Schools

Website: www.kcs.kana.k12.wv.us

Millard Public Schools

Website: www.mpsomaha.org

North Kansas City School District

Website: www.nkcsd.k12.mo.us

Spokane Public Schools

Website: www.spokaneschools.org

Federation School Districts Requests

2004-2005

Note: Information requested by Federation members is listed below. If you are interested in detailed information, please contact the requesting district.

Kanawha County Information concerning a citizens ad hoc committee to study and provide input to district policies on the following:

1. Do other school districts of similar size and demographics have a citizens ad hoc committee which reviews and modifies policies before they are voted upon by board members?
2. If so, who makes up the committee (i.e., parents, business representatives, community members, students, etc.)?
3. Who appoints individuals to the committee and how long do individuals remain on the committee? (9/9/2004)

Spokane District Information on policies and guidelines being used concerning vending machines in schools. Do you allow sodas or other items in them? How are nutritional issues being handled? (10/1/04)

Granite Distirct Information regarding policies regulating donations from foundation or patrons. (10/1/04)

Duval County Information on grade spans on junior high and senior high campuses. Specifically, informaton, data, or research on how it works, whether it is successful or not, in districts that have 9th and 10th grades on one campus and 11th and 12th grades on another campus. (10/25/04)

Greenville County Information on creating an Employee Assistance Program (EAP). (10/29/04)

Millard District Information on any food service policies in other school districts. In addition, information and/or policies on how other school districts "define the teacher's day". (11/24/04)

*"If we don't share and depend on others,
we limit our own ability to learn."*

- Julene Oliver





2004-2005 National Federation of Urban-Suburban School Districts

Federation Member Districts July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005

Baltimore County, MD
 Charleston County, SC
 Clayton County, GA
 Davis District, UT
 DeKalb County, GA
 *Duval County, FL
 *Granite District, UT
 *Greenville County, SC
 *Jordan District, UT
 *Kanawha County, WV
 Millard District, NE
 North Kansas City, MO
 Spokane, WA
 St. Charles Parish, LA
 Topeka District, KS

*Denotes charter membership

Executive Committee

Tom Cummings.....President
 Jane Callister.....Past-President
 Carolyn Campbell.....Vice President
 Barry Newbold.....Member
 Raymond Toler.....Member
 Elizabeth Andrews.....Member
 Donald Arnold.....Member
 Brian Benzel.....Member
 Keith Lutz.....Member
 Barbara Pulliam.....Member
 Cindy Rounds.....Member
 Barbara Smith.....Member

NFUSSD Consultants

Frank E. Barham.....Executive Consultant
 Barbara J. Coyle.....Assistant Executive Consultant

Articles printed in the **NFUSSD Newsletter** express divergent points of view. The articles published in each issue represent the ideas or beliefs of the writer and are not necessarily the views of the National Federation of Urban-Suburban School Districts. Subscriptions to the **Newsletter** are included as a NFUSSD service to all members.

About NFUSSD

The National Federation of Urban-Suburban School Districts seeks to serve and represent those urban-suburban school systems which have similar problems and wish to affiliate for unified action. The purpose of the Federation is to further the cause of education by: 1. promoting the exchange of ideas and knowledge about issues and concerns of member school systems; 2. undertaking important studies unique to member school systems; and 3. facilitating dissemination of results of these studies through a network of communication between member systems.