



Newsletter

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Winter 2003/2004

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Gateways to Success

Quick, can you answer this question in five words — “What would you describe as your students’ gateways to success?” No matter whether you are a board member or superintendent in NFUSSD, you might answer with one of the following: “Mastering skills to get jobs,” or “Passing assessment tests to graduate,” or how about “Becoming a well-rounded adult”. These are mission-statement type answers we hear frequently. But our colleagues in member district Charleston, SC, went one step further in October and showcased their definition of gateways to success. Charleston’s answer to the question was pure and simple — “LINKING LEARNING TO THE REAL WORLD”.

The “Linking Learning To The Real World” Conference began before we arrived as planning sessions for the 2003 NFUSSD Fall Conference, October 5-8, had students serving on all committees. Students designed the brochures and promotional materials. Students assisted with registration. Students participated in breakout sessions and offered entertainment.

As always, every NFUSSD conference had special highlights. Breakout sessions featured member districts Greenville County, St. Charles Parish, Spokane District, Granite District and Jordan District in addition to sessions from

host Charleston County. The general sessions were very informative as speakers addressed achievement and partnerships. For more information on conference content, see the related article elsewhere in this newsletter.

With beautiful, historic Charleston as a setting, numerous social events were hosted to showcase the city. Participants not only toured the harbor by boat, but school buses carried the NFUSSD folks throughout the county visiting schools and special programs. For example, the group visited the Garrett Academy of Technology and was treated to a lunch prepared and served by the Culinary Arts Program. An extra treat was a waterfront oyster roast sponsored by the Office of the Mayor of Charleston.

Each member district of NFUSSD is unique and once again, this conference was successful in highlighting that fact in Charleston’s community and its schools. As Charleston shared its programs, it was obvious that everyone there is continuously “linking learning to the real world”.

**Thanks to all in
Charleston County!**



Executive Committee Highlights

The NFUSSD Executive Committee met at the Doubletree Hotel, Charleston County, South Carolina on October 5, 2003. President Terrie Beaudreau presided. Nominating Committee Chairman Rodney Lafon presented their report. It was accepted and recommended for presentation to the Delegate Assembly. Budget Committee Chairman Jane Callister presented their report. It was amended and recommended to be forwarded for approval by the Delegate Assembly. The 2003 financial audit was approved. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held at a site and date to be announced.

Granite and Jordan Districts to Host 2004 Fall Conference

It's never too early to plan for the next NFUSSD Conference. We'll be heading out west to the Salt Lake City area for "*No Excuses, No Limits*". The conference theme will emphasize three areas of curriculum: education for all, education through experience, and enrichment and education. The invited Focus Group of curriculum specialists from member districts will meet with a team of university professors. Dates for the conference are October 10-13, 2004 and it will be held in the Downtown Marriott Hotel, 75 South West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT. Information on registration procedures will be sent in the spring. Contacts for the conference are the public relations offices for each district: Granite, 801-685-4156 and/or Jordan, 801-567-8290.

Words of Wisdom

"For me the most important answer to the question 'why save public education?' is this: It is in schools that we learn the art of living together as citizens, and it is in public schools that we are obligated to defend the idea of a public, not a private, interest."

— Deborah Meier (author/educator)

Delegate Assembly Highlights

A new Executive Committee was elected and a 2004-2005 budget was adopted at the annual business meeting of the Federation. Held on October 8, 2003 in Charleston County, SC, 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 2004 Executive Committee is:

	Term Expires
Jane Callister, President (Jordan, UT)	10/04
Terrie Beaudreau, Past-President (Spokane, WA)	10/04
Tom Cummings, Vice President (N. Kansas City, MO)	10/04
Barry Newbold (Jordan, UT)	10/04
Raymond Toler (Charleston, SC)	10/04
Elizabeth Andrews (DeKalb County, GA)	10/05
Donald Arnold (Baltimore County, MD)	10/05
Brian Benzel (Spokane, WA)	10/05
Carolyn Campbell (Topeka, KS)	10/05
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 11, 2004, at the Downtown Marriott Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT.

Share the News

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



Directory Update

The 2004 NFUSSD Directory is being distributed. 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. Effective this issue, 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. More importantly, the Executive Committee, as discussed at the October Executive Committee meeting, believes 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, Jane Callister was installed as the President of NFUSSD for 2004. Jane is a board member in Jordan, Utah, where she has served since 1981. During her tenure she has been vice-president and president of the Jordan School Board.

Jordan District superintendent Barry Newbold commented that, "Jane has seen it all during her tenure, from rapid growth in student population resulting in the opening of many new schools to bond referendums to year-round schools. She has the institutional memory that a school board needs when issues arise."

Jane graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in Elementary Education. She has taught both 4th grade and Title I reading. Jane and her husband Jan, a geologist, have three children.

In addition to her interest in children and education with the public schools, Jane has also contributed her talents, time and energy to the Utah High School Athletics Association Board of Trustees, the Salt Lake Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Utah Parent Teacher Association.

Congratulations to Jane and thanks to the folks in Jordan District for sharing her leadership skills with us this year.

NFUSSD 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: dekalb.k12.ga.us

Duval County Website:
www.educationcentral.org

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

St. Charles Parish Public Schools
Website: www.stcharles.k12.la.us

Topeka Public Schools
Website: www.topeka.k12.ks.us

Federation School Districts Requests

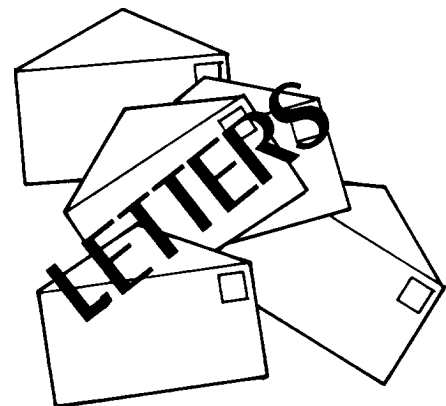
2003-2004

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

- Granite District Information regarding the following:
- Are you using any content management software for your web site? If so, what software?
 - Are you outsourcing your web site management? If so, with who?
 - Are you satisfied with the service? (7/7/03)
- Charleston County Information regarding how other districts handle receiving and evaluating references, law enforcement or FBI background checks, PRAXIS (or comparable national test) scores, and any other required documentation in processing the paperwork and clearing applicants to interview for teaching positions. (8/13/03)
- St. Charles Parish Information on “Teacher tracking for the No Child Left Behind” mandate that all teachers become highly qualified by the year 2005. Listed below are three questions for the organization:
- How are you keeping track of teacher data pertaining to course credit, in-service taken, state certification exam(s) taken, etc. to determine if they are highly qualified?
 - If software is used, list name of software package or explain briefly what technological system you’re using.
 - What is the definition of your High Objective Union State Standard of Evaluation (H.O.U.S.S.E RULE)? (12/18/03)
- St. Charles Parish Information regarding printing procedures for local districts:
- Does your district contract with companies for printing needs? (ie. Xerox)
If so, what type of contract do you have in place?
 - Do you have an in-house printing department?
If so, what is the set-up and function of the department? (12/19/03)

*“If we don’t share and depend on others,
we limit our own ability to learn.”*

- Julene Oliver



Highlights from the 2003 NFUSSD Fall Conference

Here are some of the highlights of the NFUSSD Fall Conference in Charleston, SC. All of the conference materials have been posted on Charleston's website at www.ccdschools.com/nfussd.

General Session Speakers

"Business & Schools: Partners in Education Renewal"

William Youngblood, Esquire, McNair Law Firm, P.A.

Mr. Youngblood discussed the importance of partnerships between school districts and communities, linking quality education to economic development and quality of life. Mr. Youngblood shared a list of nine lessons and reflections on public school reform, published by the Annenberg Institute for School Reform. The tenth item is Mr. Youngblood's. See the website above for his list.



"Closing the Achievement Gap"
Kati Haycock, Director, The Education Trust

Dr. Haycock addressed what districts can do to achieve high academic performance from all students. She focused on three key factors: clear and public high standards, a challenging curriculum for all students, and quality teachers in all classrooms. Dr. Haycock shared current research as well as specific strategies that schools are putting in place to assure success for all students. Her complete power point presentation can be found at www.ccdschools.com/nfussd.

Here are some important elements about the places that are improving results:

1. They make no excuses. Everbody takes responsibility for student learning.

They don't:

— blame student performance on the kids and their families;

— spend excessive amounts of time documenting their demographics; or,

— screech about the inappropriateness of state standards for their kids.

They do:

— embrace meaningful state

standards and assessments as valuable benchmarks and leverage points;

— accept the need for public accountability for results;

— view poverty and family problems as barriers that can be surmounted; and most important,

— build systems to support teachers, administrators, parents and students themselves to move toward standards.

2. They have clear and specific goals for what students should learn in every grade level.

3. All students in curriculum lined up with those goals.

4. They monitor student progress regularly.

5. Leading districts, states provide extra instruction for students who need it.

6. Good teachers matter more than anything else.





2003-2004 National Federation of Urban-Suburban School Districts

Federation Member Districts July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004

Baltimore County, MD
 Charleston County, SC
 Clayton County, GA
 Davis District, UT
 DeKalb County, GA
 *Duval County, FL
 *Granite District, UT
 *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

Jane Callister.....President
 Terrie Beaudreau.....Past-President
 Tom Cummings.....Vice President
 Barry Newbold.....Member
 Raymond Toler.....Member
 Elizabeth Andrews.....Member
 Donald Arnold.....Member
 Brian Benzel.....Member
 Carolyn Campbell.....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.