



F-TROOP NEWSLETTER



Carolyn Edwards

JANUARY 2008

District F

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

SCHOOL WILL NOT BE IN SESSION:

- 01/07/08.....*Classes Resume
- 01/21/08.....Martin Luther King Jr.
- 01/25/08.....Staff Development
- 02/18/08.....President's Day

For a complete list of calendar dates access [Important_Dates_07-08.pdf](#)

REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS:

- January 10, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
- January 24, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
- February 14, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
- February 28, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

The above board meetings are held at: Edward A Greer Education Center, Board Room 2832 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89121 Access the district's website at www.ccsd.net

SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS:

January 7, 2008, 9:00 a.m. (Organization of the Board & Work Session) Edward A Greer Education Center, Board Room 2832 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89121

January 14, 2008, 9:00 a.m. (Work Session) Administrative Center, Room 466 5100 W. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89146

DIRECTIONS

For directions to board or F-TROOP Meetings access [MapQuest](#)

PROGRESS REPORTS UNSATISFACTORY NOTICES DISTRIBUTED:

In addition to the parent communication system available on school websites, Progress Reports/Unsatisfactory Notices will be distributed to students on 2/22/08 and 5/2/08. If your child is absent on that date, please contact the school to make arrangements to receive the notice.

PLEASE NOTE: Notices will not be mailed home.

TEACHERS WILL ISSUE QUARTER GRADES FOR THE 2007- 2008 SCHOOL YEAR ON:

Quarter:	Quarter Ends:	Report Cards
Two	January 18	February 6
Three	March 28	April 16
Four	June 4	June 13-mailed

Dear District F Constituents, Parents, Staff, Students and Friends:

As we all welcome the new year of 2008, I wish I could say that it is a happy new year for education, but with the governor's proposed 4.5% budget cuts, 2008 is looking grim.

As of this writing, the requested cuts are sketchy at best. The dollar amount is unclear and given that we are halfway through the budget year and half the budget is already spent, it is uncertain how these cuts could be achieved. School district finance officers across the state are meeting with the Governor's budget analysts to assess the situation and clarify options.

It is imperative that your voices be heard. The discussions about these cuts are still on going and nothing is certain yet. Call the Governor's office and let him know how you feel about cutting education. He can be reached at 775 684-5670 or 486-2500 in Las Vegas. Given the low funding for education in the State of Nevada (48th or 49th in the nation in per pupil funding), a 4.5% cut will be **extremely harmful to education**. If you share my concerns, call the governor and protest these proposed cuts. Call today, tomorrow and next week. Tell your friends to place calls. We should not accept this quietly.

There will be a meeting of the Interim Legislative Committee on Education on January 10 beginning at 9:30 am. It will be videoconferenced to the Sawyer building in Las Vegas. There will be an agenda item to discuss the Governor's proposed cuts. Please plan to attend and if you would like to speak, sign in on the roster.

Please note elsewhere in this newsletter information about the upcoming public input meetings on the bond (January 7 and 8).

Call the Governor! And Happy New Year!

Carolyn
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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

SAVE THE DATES:

2008 F-TROOP Meeting dates are: January 9, 2008, MJ Christensen ES; February 13, 2008, Lois & Jerry Tarkanian MS; March 12, 2008, Steven Schorr ES; April 9, 2008, Sierra Vista HS; May 14, 2008, Lawrence & Heidi Canarelli MS.

SCHOOL MATTERS. The next "School Matters" program will air on KLVX-TV Vegas PBS on Thursday, January 31, at 8:00 p.m. Call the Communications Office, 799-5304 for more information.

GRAFFITI: The Metro Police Dept. encourages citizens to help fight graffiti. Call the [Southern NV Graffiti Hotline](#) at 455-4509 to report graffiti, request paint for cleanups or volunteer for cleanups. Suspicious activity also can be reported to Crime Stoppers of Nevada, 385-5555.

OPINION MATTERS ON "SCHOOL MATTERS"

The public is invited to join us for this live call-in show to be broadcast on **Vegas PBS, Channel 10, Thursday, January 31, at 8 p.m.**

The program will focus on Senate Bill 404 - Money to promote community partnerships

PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS

In January, the public is invited to join us with their input on the following matters:

Attendance Zone Advisory Commission (AZAC)

2008 Bond Campaign

For meeting locations and times, visit www.ccsd.net

Students "STEP UP" for Education in Clark

As Clark County School District continues to grow at a record setting pace, the need for highly-qualified educators has never been greater. With a talented pool of high school students who have a strong desire to teach, the Student to Teacher Enlistment Project Undergraduate Program (STEP UP) was designed to increase the number of local teachers trained and retained in Clark County.

STEP UP, a nationally award-winning program, is currently available at eight comprehensive high schools including Chaparral HS, Cheyenne HS, Desert Pines HS, Eldorado HS, Mojave HS, Rancho HS, Silverado HS and Valley HS. The program is the result of a partnership between the school district, Clark County Education Association Community Foundation, College of Southern Nevada, and Nevada State College. It was founded with the belief that if an incentive could be offered to help local students attend college and perhaps even accelerate their course work, then these students would not only be more likely to pursue a career in education but would also be inclined to remain in the community in which they were raised. The incentive came in the form of grants that amount to the equivalent of a \$20,000 college scholarship.

In exchange for financial aide that allows them to begin college courses while still in high school, graduates are expected to teach full-time for the school district for a minimum of four years upon completion of their degree. STEP UP Project Facilitator Michelle Panik believes the program allows students to not only gain an education, but to give back to their communities as well.

"This program offers an incredible opportunity for our students to receive a free education and make a difference in the community," Panik said. "The school district is always ready to welcome talented educators and this program allows us to benefit from the talent we have in our own backyard."



STEP UP students at Chaparral HS hope to someday teach in

Students in the STEP UP program begin college classes their junior year in high school and build both their high school and college transcripts simultaneously, earning dual credit for the college course work. General education core courses are taught by College of Southern Nevada instructors on the student's home campus as part of the regular school day. As a result of this arrangement, students enrolled in the STEP UP program will have between one-third and one-half of their college degree completed by the time they graduate from high school. Upon completing their Associate of Arts degree at College of Southern Nevada, students transfer to Nevada State College to earn their Bachelor's Degree. All tuition and book fees are paid for through the STEP UP scholarship.

Panik believes the program has already had a positive impact on the community and education throughout Clark County. She notes that many of the students who have enrolled in STEP UP are first generation college students and will be the first members of their family to earn a college degree.

It's exciting to think that in just three years, STEP UP has more than tripled in size from 100 to more than 300 students," Panik said. "Our first group of teachers will emerge in December 2008 and several of our students are already employed as Instructional Aides for the school district."

It takes commitment and dedication to participate in STEP UP. Students interested in the program must first complete an application and interview during the spring semester of their sophomore year. Additionally students must have a strong desire to pursue a career in education and attend classes at Nevada State College upon graduation from high school. STEP UP requires a minimum grade point average of 2.75, and eligible students must have passed Algebra I or Applied Algebra IA and B by the end of their sophomore year. Students must have excellent attendance and have no record of discipline problems. It is strongly recommended that applicants have earned either "A" and "B" grades in English and math courses.

"Students in STEP UP know exactly what they want to pursue in life," Panik said. "They understand that passing along knowledge is a wonderful gift."

Anyone interested in more information on STEP UP should call 799-1047.