



FADIMA Newsletter

Florida Association of District Instructional Materials Administrators

February 2001

President's Message

By Pat LaVergne

FADIMA...a super organization because of so many committed people who make it what it is! I, as many of you do also, belong to several different professional organizations, however, without a doubt, FADIMA is the most active and most results oriented professional organization of any I know. We are small in numbers, and sometimes it seems impossible to believe that such a small group can get so much accomplished. Perhaps, on second thought, the fact that we are small is why we get so much accomplished.

To those of you receiving this FADIMA Newsletter who may not currently belong to FADIMA, we would like to invite you to join. Our professional job responsibilities as they relate to instructional materials for K-12 students provide us the opportunity to represent our districts in this organization. Any person serving in a district or state position who has a responsibility for, or an interest in, instructional materials as they relate to the state-adopted instructional materials program is eligible for active membership. Membership dues are only \$10 per year, and I consider this the best \$10 I spend.

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DR. MARCI BUCHANAN OF ALACHUA COUNTY SCHOOLS, ONE OF OUR HARD-WORKING MEMBERS HAS RECENTLY HAD BACK SURGERY. WE'RE THINKING ABOUT YOU MARCI, AND HOPE YOU ARE "BACK" TO YOUR HARD-WORKING WAYS SOON!!

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Legislative Report – As of February 5, 2001

By Donna Skibo

The 2001 legislative session is just around the corner. We hope no one will make any more changes in instructional materials legislation so we can adjust to the major bill that passed last year. Do you realize that was only nine months ago!

The governor's proposed budget has included \$212,880,370 for Instructional Materials. This number is to include dual enrollment materials, but no specific amount is mentioned. The growth figure for 2001-2002 is \$332.54 per student. Fifteen million dollars of this money is for Library Media Materials and \$3,200,000 is for science lab materials. That would leave \$194,680,370 for classroom instructional materials. Our FADIMA Cost Analysis for 2001-2002 was \$195,338,584. Since they are using different student numbers, I would say we are too close to worry about. Our organization can be proud of the respect our calculations have earned over the years.

As of Thursday, February 2, no one has filed a sick leave bill like Senator McKay's. There appear to be a number of placeholder type bills filed, so we will have to stay tuned. The testing administrators are hoping for some clarification and help with the grading of schools, which is always an interesting issue. The state is facing big expenses for Medicaid, so everyone is saying it will not be a great budget year for schools. The hottest issue in education appears to be teacher recruitment and retention. I doubt anything can be done about that without additional funds. Most teachers want smaller classes, more pay and more respect. A big ad campaign on teaching as a great career choice is probably not the answer.

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Since we all have pretty much the same job responsibilities from district to district, FADIMA provides a tremendous support system of contacts to provide each member with assistance as needed. Many times, I will call others I have met through FADIMA, when I am trying to resolve a problem or issue within my district.

We also have an annual conference each fall where we cover current topics of interest to all. The fall of 2001 conference will be in Orlando in October and topics being considered for the program are: E-Books, Volusia County Pilot Project, (which is to provide customized instructional materials), and keeping track of textbooks through an automated checkout system to students. At this conference, the Department of Education also gives updates and answers questions, and FADIMA members are provided with current information from the Florida School Book Depository.

We certainly would welcome you to our group, if you are not currently a member. If you would like to join, please complete the Membership Form in this Newsletter and return it to Sandra McMichael, Membership Chair, at the address listed.

If you are a member of FADIMA already, a BIG THANK YOU for all your hard work! Our organization is effective because of you!!

FLORIDA SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY

By Davis MacRae

We are rapidly approaching a new ordering season. Florida School Book Depository is working to have the information districts need for ordering available early this year. Draft copies of FSBD catalog text for newly adopted materials are available as PDF files, which requires Adobe Acrobat Reader for viewing. It is important to remember that this information is subject

to change. You may send an e-mail request for the lists of elementary and secondary titles to customerservice@fsbd.com. Be sure your return e-mail address is included.

The completed new catalogs for 2001-2002 should be available on line at www.fsbd.com in early March. Print copies will be distributed about a month later. A catalog needs survey is being sent to IMAs that will request a reassessment of how many catalogs will be needed taking into consideration that an updated copy will always be available on line.

The FSBD website also features a complete database of all materials listed at the depository. Please explore the various look-up and display options. Order and requisition forms may be created from this database to produce accurate, easy-to-read documents that automatically calculate and total the cost. There are multiple functions that allow you to create, edit, and clone orders or make a blank form that can be sent to schools for completion. Feel free to drop us a line at orders@fsbd.com or call Davis MacRae (800-447-7957), if you have questions.

Ordering information. All orders for titles with adoption contracts expiring in 2001 must be received at Florida School Book Depository by Friday, March 30, before they are returned to the publisher or revert to non-adopted status with higher prices. This is also the last day titles adopted in 1998 can be ordered before possible price escalation takes effect. Orders for new titles may be sent to FSBD prior to April 1, 2001, but cannot be processed until the contracts become effective on that date. Please do not combine old titles and new titles on the same order to avoid any conflicts.

The FSBD team is looking forward to helping all of the Florida School Districts get their instructional materials needs satisfied early and efficiently. Please contact us for additional information or help.

NEWS FROM DOE

by Elizabeth Carrouth

Director, Office of Instructional Materials

As you know, effective July 2000, district superintendents are now required to report annually by April 1, intent to purchase a major tool of instruction for each child in the core subject areas. These purchases are to be made within the first two years of adoption. The DOE Instructional Materials Staff has been working with Infinity Software Development Company to design and implement a website (FIMWeb) for reporting of planned purchases and the site is scheduled to be up and running in early March. Superintendents will be notified in February of the URL for the website and given information regarding the contact person listed for their district with password information to the website. The goal of Department staff and Infinity Software is to make the reporting of information as user-friendly and efficient as possible. If you have any questions relating to FIMWeb or new statutory requirements, please contact the Office of Instructional Materials at (850) 487-8791.

Lessons From Geese By Angeles Arrien

1. As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for others behind it. There is 71 percent more flying range in V-formation than in flying alone.
Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of purpose can get there more quickly.
2. Whenever a goose flies out of formation, it feels drag and tries to get back into position.
Lesson: It's harder to do something alone than together.
3. When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the head.
Lesson: Shared leadership and interdependence give us each a chance to lead as well as an opportunity to rest.
4. The geese flying in the rear of the formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.
Lesson: Encouragement is motivating. We need to make sure our "honking" is encouraging—and not discouraging.
5. When a goose gets sick or wounded and falls, two geese fall out and stay with it until it revives or dies. Then they catch up or join another flock.
Lesson: We may all need help from time to time. We should stand by our colleagues in difficult times.

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If you have legislative concerns or questions, you may contact Donna at: Instructional materials Department, Pinellas County Schools, 11111 South Belcher Rd., Largo, FL 33773. Phone (727) 547-7130.

LOOK WHAT FADIMA HAS NOW!!! A Website!!!

FADIMA has a new homepage at <http://fasa.net/fadima>. The purpose of the home page is to continue to promote professional growth and improved communication among district instructional materials administrators. We are hoping all members will use this page to communicate with each other and to exchange information.

Although our site is in its infancy, we have grand plans for its continued growth. Some of the ideas that we are discussing are:

Creating a listserve for our members;

Placing future newsletters on the homepage;
and

Providing registration forms and information about the annual FADIMA conference.

Any member who has suggestions or questions about the FADIMA homepage should contact, Pat Evans, Miami-Dade County Public Schools at evansp@dcps.dade.k12.fl.us. We look forward to improving communication through your comments and suggestions.

FADIMA Board & Cost Analysis Meeting

May 17th – 18th

The next FADIMA Board meeting will be in conjunction with the Cost Analysis meeting at the Orlando/Altamonte Springs Hilton in Altamonte Springs. This combined Board and Cost Analysis meeting is scheduled to start at 1:00 PM on Thursday, May 17th, and will end at 12:00 noon on Friday, May 18th.

The FADIMA Board and other interested FADIMA members annually prepare this Cost Analysis document to assist those individuals responsible for determining the level of state funding for instructional materials. When finished, this document is then shared with the Governor, the Commissioner and Legislature in the hope that adequate funds will continue to be available to provide Florida students with the instructional materials they need to be successful.

The Orlando/Altamonte Springs Hilton Hotel has given us a rate of \$71 per night, but to get this super low rate, reservations must be made prior to May 1st. When calling the hotel (407-830-1985), please reference the FADIMA Board meeting in order to get this \$71 rate.

The hotel is located off Interstate 4, Exit 48. Going east on I-4, take Exit 48 and go right (east) approximately ½ mile. Going west on Interstate 4, take Exit 48 and go left (east) for approximately ½ mile. Turn right on North Lake Blvd. (at a Just for Feet store) and go approximately 1 mile. The hotel is on the right.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 20-21st – FASA Legislative Days in Tallahassee

April 1st – All districts must report purchasing plans to DOE – See Article by Elizabeth Carrouth.

May 17th – 18th – FADIMA Board and Cost Analysis Meeting at Orlando/Altamonte Springs Hilton

October 24th – 26th – 2001 FADIMA Conference at Orlando/Altamonte Springs Hilton

FADIMA/LaVergne
400 E. Lake Mary Blvd.
Sanford, FL. 32773

