

PRESIDENTS UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2021

Happy 2021! I hope this update finds every safe and warm. With the reopening of school, I want to assure everyone that FASSE has been vigilant and advocating for everyone's safe return to school.

With school reopening and students return in the hybrid model, here are a few updates and reminders:

FASSE CONTRACT: The FASSE contract is now published on the FCPS website. [Please take a moment to look over the contract so you know your rights.](#)

MSEA MEMBERSHIP CARDS: New MSEA/FASSE membership cards should be delivered via USPS to members this week if they haven't received them already. Please note that although there is a sticker with activation instructions the card does NOT need to be activated, unless you want to access the benefits, you're eligible for through NEA Member Benefits.

VIRTUAL BINGO: FASSE Membership Committee had its first virtual BINGO on January 18, 2021. It was a success and those who attended had a great time.

FASSE SCHOLARSHIP: The Scholarship Committee has been hard at work getting the information together for the FASSE scholarship. Please be on the lookout for this information. The scholarship is for FASSE members, their students, or grandchildren. The scholarship is in the amount of \$500.00.

FASSE EMERGING LEADER WORKSHOP: There is a zoom training for those seeking to learn more about the association on Saturday, January 27, 2021 from 8:30 to 12:00. If you are interested in attending, register using the following link: <https://forms.gle/QJqJMf6LFSQcismg9> The Workshop will include topics on vision and mission, setting goals/action planning, and parliamentary procedures.

SUPPORT EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR: Applications are available for Support Employee of the Year. If you know of a co-worker that goes above and beyond their job think of nominating them. Also, if you are interested in serving on this committee let me know.

COVID-19: As part of the Board of Education of Frederick County's ongoing effort to support employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, an agreement was reached through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Frederick County Teachers Association (FCTA), the Frederick Association of School Support Employees (FASSE), and the Frederick County Administrative and Supervisory Association (FCASA) regarding a number of COVID-19 issues, which were presented, addressed, and memorialized by the parties.

One issue addressed by the MOU includes the availability of paid COVID-19 Sick Leave for eligible employees. For more information on paid COVID-19 Sick Leave, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) can be found on the Employee Benefits website or by clicking here <https://www.fcps.org/benefits/paid-covid-19-sick-leave-faq>.

Instructions for entering and approving paid COVID-19 Sick Leave in PeopleSoft will be forthcoming for supervisors and timekeepers.

FASSE ELECTIONS: The Election Committee is working to get nomination forms out within the next few weeks. Be on the look- out for more information.

MARYLAND BLUEPRINT MESSAGE FROM CHERYL BOAST, MSEA PRESIDENT: The veto overrides are officially done, and the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future is passed!!! We will move almost immediately to the Blueprint implementation phase. That will be important work. It will matter. It is critical that we do it well and get it right. But, we are only here today because of the incredible amount of research, organizing, legislating, advocating, and mobilizing everyone that is part of Team MSEA has provided. Everyone in leadership and in every job in the union is part of this victory. There are moments in our careers and the work that we do that just matter more than others. This is one of those moments. The moment is a true movement that continues for the students, educators, and communities in Maryland.

Remembering our Members:

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of two (2) former FASSE members who were bus drivers. Our hearts and prayers go out to their family and friends.

Darlene Fogle – Darlene passed away on Jan 27th. She drove for FCPS for 37 years. She retired in 2015.
<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/fredericknewspost/obituary.aspx?n=darlene-fogle&pid=197633258&fhid=18382>

Marjorie Hoy – Marjorie passed away on Feb 1st. She drove for FCPS for 38 years. She retired in 2011
<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/fredericknewspost/obituary.aspx?n=marjorie-hoy&pid=197642099&fhid=9941>

“Inspiration comes from within yourself. One has to be positive. When you’re positive, good things happen”