

# The Solidarity Report

Your weekly VUE Update

1381 Educators Rd.

Daytona Beach, FL 32174

(386)238-1605

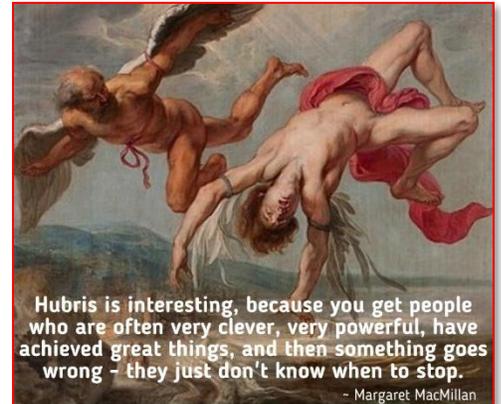
[www.ourvue.net](http://www.ourvue.net)

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## Member Spotlight: Ms. Naomi Schneider!



- \* 27<sup>th</sup> year teaching in Volusia County Schools!
- \* Currently the Media Specialist at Osteen Elementary School
- \* Member of the Florida Association of Media Specialists (FAME)
- \* Member of the Volusia Association of Media Specialists (VAME)
- \* Member of the School Leadership Team, the Technology Committee, & the Council for Exceptional Children
- \* Social Media Contact for OES
- \* Favorite Quote: "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." ~ Anne Frank

Ms. Naomi Schneider is a veteran educator who has dedicated her entire career to the community of Osteen Elementary. Naomi began her journey at OES as a senior intern and has continued to give her best to this quiet little school and its students and families for nearly three decades. Naomi stepped into the role of media specialist because she, "saw an opportunity to make the media center a place that could be a resource for students, teachers, staff, and parents." She also shared, "I have worked hard to transform our library into a welcoming and comfortable place. I envision the Media Center as a Resource Hub for all. Creating and organizing supplies and an area where teachers can find support and resources to add to their lessons." Naomi is also dedicated to making school fun. She has planned cultural awareness events, etiquette and friendship dances, and has partnered with the FFA and Jazz band from PRHS to provide unique experiences for the students at OES. Thank you, Ms. Naomi Schneider, for your dedication, enthusiasm, and vision. You are an amazing educator and such a positive role model. Solidarity!

## District Update

**Mark Your Calendar:** Due to the ERPL this month, only one additional meeting is allowed to occur in February. This applies to meetings before school and after school. PLCs follow a different standard. At the middle school level, this applies to the PSP time that is provided before the student academic day. If you have questions, please reach out.

**Totem PD UPDATE:** Due to the overwhelming number of individuals who did not complete all of the modules in last week's pd, and on behalf of the individuals who used their personal time to complete the modules, as they were unable to be completed with fidelity within the allotted 2 hour ERPL learning time, we have reached out to the district to request a plan for completion and compensation. We will work to collaborate with the district to find a solution and will share the information with you once we have a solution.

**ERPL #8:** The final ERPL of the year is scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup>. This is a school-based learning, and it should align with your School Improvement Plan goals.

**Important VSET Reminders:** Please make sure to mark your calendar with the following information:

- **March 8**- Teacher Deliberate Practice Plans Due (end of day)
- **March 15**- last date to complete VSET Observation cycles
- **March 22**- Teacher's Final Self-Assessments Due; Evaluator feedback on DPPs is due (end of day). **IMPORTANT: Category 2 teachers who did NOT complete a mid-year self-assessment MUST provide evidence for ALL components in Domains 1 and 4 in the final self-assessment.**
- **April 1-19**- Year End Evaluation Conferences

To access additional resources that will help you with the completion of your self-evaluation and the end of the year procedures, please click the following link, [https://volusia.truenorthlogic.com/ia/empari/tab/VSETHelp?\\_ct=VSETHelp](https://volusia.truenorthlogic.com/ia/empari/tab/VSETHelp?_ct=VSETHelp). Please note the "Guiding Questions for Domain 1 and Domain 4" document. This is new this year and is intended to provide support with the final self-assessment evidence. Also, new this year is the VSET End of the Year power point. This step-by-step guide will assist you with completing the VSET process. We want to acknowledge and thank Ms. Fedigan for her collaboration and willingness to work through problems that occurred with the implementation and communication of the new VSET process for category 2 teachers.

## VUE- Our Next Steps

*The truth is like a lion; you don't have to defend it.  
Let it loose; it will defend itself. ~St. Augustine*

A lion doesn't roar for validation, it roars to let others know of its presence. The lion doesn't care about being loud; it's about being heard. The lion stands tall, shows strength, and never settles for less.

The members of VUE are like the lion; tenacious, resilient, and powerful. We never back down from a challenge and we will not let someone take what is ours. Our contract, our

rights, and all that we have fought for are being threatened. We must rise up and stand united against these attacks.

We will not be broken, and we will not relent. We are **THE VOLUSIA UNITED EDUCATORS**, and you know what that means. You know who you are, and you know how important the work you do is in the lives of your colleagues, students, and our union.

When we stand together, we can overcome any crisis we face. Trust must be the commodity in which we trade, but trust with the members of the school board and the superintendent have been shattered. Our agenda is not the agenda of the superintendent and board. Ours is the agenda of educating children and providing for those who do this work. We do our work in the light, not in the shadows.

If you are like me, you are angered by the actions of the superintendent and the members of the board. To deny what was done, and then to take no action to make it right, should send every teacher, paraprofessional, and office specialist a clear message. The message is that they do not care about us, and that they are more interested in working to take away your contract than to protect it.

The time is now to let your voice be heard. We can do this by continuing to recruit new members. Last week we welcomed 19 new members into our VUE family, and we continue to receive new applications daily.

You can use the QR code to help a colleague join. Please remember that it is now a two-step process and completing the online application (portal) is just the first step.



The other way to share your voice is by attending the school board meetings. You don't have to speak, but showing up and being present sends a message that you will not be intimidated by their actions. We are calling for members of VUE, local affiliated unions, retirees, and any public school stakeholder to attend this Tuesday's meeting.

If you plan on attending and would like to speak with the members of the board, we have talking points available.

Through it all, we will show our resilience. Those who plot for our demise will be undone as we continue to rise. We will not allow evil to win over good. We must remain focused on the goal and our mission, which is to make life better for our colleagues, our students, and our communities.

We are **THE UNION** in VCS, and we are not going anywhere but **FORWARD! SOLIDARITY!**

**UNION NIGHT AT THE DAC!**  
(DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION CENTER)

The superintendent and school board members have taken action that could result in the decertification of VUE. We must stand together to protect our union and our voice!

200 North Clara Ave., Deland, FL

THE MEETING STARTS AT 4:30 PM WITH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BEGINNING AT 6:00 PM. PLEASE WEAR RED TO STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH VUE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT 386-238-1605.

*I'm sticking with my union!*

**VUE**

The poster features a green chalkboard background. At the top, the title 'UNION NIGHT AT THE DAC!' is written in large, bold, white letters. Below it, the subtitle '(DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION CENTER)' is in smaller white text. The main message is written in white text, followed by the address '200 North Clara Ave., Deland, FL'. The meeting details are listed in white text. At the bottom, there is a call to action to call the office at 386-238-1605. On the right side, there is a red speech bubble with the text 'I'm sticking with my union!' and a small illustration of a person pointing upwards. At the bottom left, there is a small logo for 'VUE'.

## **NEA RA & AFT Biennial Delegate Elections**

NEA RA & AFT Biennial Delegate Elections Nominations are being accepted for the NEA Representative Assembly and the AFT Convention. The NEA-RA will be held in Philadelphia, PA., on July 3 – 7, and the AFT Convention will be held in Houston, Tx on July 22 -25. The VUE Executive Board has allocated funds to cover costs associated with the NEA-RA and AFT Convention for the automatic delegates only (President & Executive VPs).

Candidates for delegate positions must be members in good standing for a year prior to the conference, but all costs of travel, food, and lodging must be paid by the individual. Nomination forms can be obtained from the VUE office by emailing [beth.friedl@floridaea.org](mailto:beth.friedl@floridaea.org) or by calling 386-238-1605. Nomination forms must be completed and returned to the VUE office no later than 4:00 pm, Friday, March 15, 2024 (faxes or emails will not be accepted). An election will be held, if necessary, Wednesday, March 20, 2024. If you have any questions regarding the conventions or the delegate nomination process, please contact the office.

## **Upcoming VUE Professional Learning**

### **REGISTER TODAY!**

Your union continues to provide top notch professional development led by our members. These courses are free to VUE members.

#### **ESE: Building Relationships w/ Adults**

Course # 72061  
Section #108191  
Time:

#### **Dates:**

**Monday, March 4, 2024**  
VUE Office  
5:00 pm –8:00 pm

#### **Managing Behaviors in the School Community**

Course # 71630  
Section #108379  
Time:

#### **Dates:**

**Monday, Mar. 4, 11, 18, 2024**  
VUE Office  
5:00 pm –8:00 pm

#### **ESE: Building Relationships w/ Students**

Course # 72229  
Section #108374  
Time:

#### **Dates:**

Monday, March 11, 2024  
VUE Office  
5:00 pm –8:00 pm

#### **ESE: Classroom Strategies**

Course # 72059  
Section #108375  
Time:

#### **Dates:**

Monday, March 18, 2024  
VUE Office  
5:00 pm –8:00 pm

**ESE: Student Behavior**

Course # 72060  
Section #108376  
Time:

**Dates:**

Monday, April 1, 2024  
VUE Office  
5:00 pm –8:00 pm

**Grand Canyon University Scholarships & Programs**

**NEW Teacher Preparation Scholarships**

**Online bachelor's or master's degrees  
at GCU's National Center for Teacher Preparation**

Grand Canyon University (GCU) is addressing America's teacher shortage with generous scholarships. Our pledge is to provide affordable and accessible education for aspiring educators.

***Why Choose GCU?***

**Affordable:** • Generous New Scholarships: Opportunities for qualifying school district employees seeking initial teacher licensure in select online bachelor's or master's degrees in education

**Flexible:** • Online Coursework: One class at a time online,<sup>1</sup> allowing you to network with peers and faculty nationwide • Local Field Experiences: Field experience hours and student teaching opportunities in your current district<sup>2</sup>

**Supportive:** • Quick Transcript Evaluations: Unofficial evaluation within 24 business hours after submitting transcripts for a personalized graduation plan including a preliminary schedule and anticipated date of graduation, provided the schedule is followed

• Academic Support: Guidance around licensure prep — including support with teacher certification exams • After College: Lifelong teaching support and resources thanks to GCU's College of Education Promise

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Amy Creasman

602-247-3530

Amy.Creasman@gcu.edu

c.gcu.edu/amy.creasman



**VUE Visits**

The VUE staff has been out and about visiting with teachers, paras, and office specialists at a variety of schools and worksites. We are busy

engaging with our members about the work of our union. We are speaking with potential members about the need to have an advocate, a voice, and a contract.

This week, we had a special opportunity to receive an award on behalf of the Florida Education Association for the “Reading Opens the World” event that was held at the beginning of the year. FEA was honored for the 40,000 books that were distributed on behalf of AFT and VUE.

Additionally, we ran into two veteran VUE members, Erika and Sabrina. Erika was honored for her work to provide books and embed literacy throughout Campbell Middle’s after school program, CNA. Congratulations on a job well done!

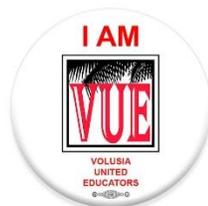


Next week, we will be in the schools listed below. If we are scheduled to visit your school, please make sure to stop by to say hello! 😊

Monday: Deltona Lakes Elementary  
Tuesday: Read Pattillo Elementary  
Wednesday:  
Thursday: Citrus Grove Elementary  
Friday: Deltona Middle/VOL Luncheon

In Solidarity,

Elizabeth Albert  
President



# *SOLIDARITY, UNITY, AND STRENGTH!*

As a member of the **Volusia United Educators** you will join with your colleagues to share your voice and expertise to shape the future of our profession.

Through **Solidarity, Unity, and Strength** of our membership, **VUE**:

- Is a leader in our schools and community on Public Education issues
- Fights to improve working conditions and pay for teachers and educational support professionals in Volusia County
- Provides top notch professional development and training for members
- Communicates weekly with our membership
- Stands for high quality Public Schools

Additionally, when you join **VUE**, you will receive many benefits from our **VUE** office and our state and national affiliates such as:

- Discount auto insurance
- Discounts on credit cards, cell phone service, car rentals, etc.
- Discount legal services
- And much, much more

In Florida you have a choice to make; you can unite with your colleagues as we make our Public Schools the best they can be, or you can stand alone.

*The Volusia United Educators; Teaching Today's Children for Tomorrow's Future!*

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To join VUE, click the QR code below and complete the VUE Fastrack form to become a member today!

