

The Solidarity Report

Your weekly VUE Update

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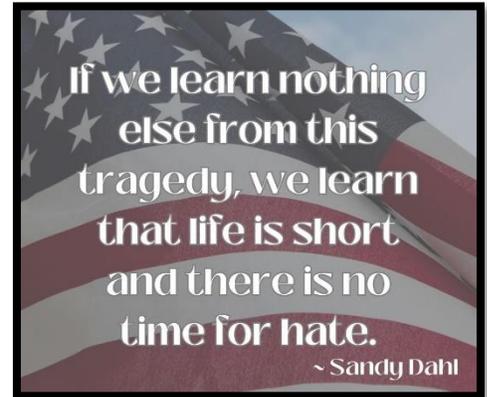
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Issue 21 Number 6

September 11, 2023

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Spotlight: Ms. Maria Conlin!



- * **22nd year working as a professional educator; 19th year with VCS!**
- * **Currently teaching 6th Grade Language Arts at Taylor Middle – High**
- * **Volusia County Schools Mentor Teacher**
- * **Former VUE Steward**
- * **Favorite Quote: “To love and to be loved is to feel the sun from both sides” ~ David Viscott**

Ms. Maria Conlin is a veteran educator and a true leader. Maria has a diverse resume of experience, which includes spending 14 years at the elementary level where she taught every grade except Kindergarten and third. Recently, she decided to venture into the middle grades and for the last five years, she has taught 6th grade. Maria is dedicated to the success of her students. She has given countless hours of her time tutoring and hosting book clubs. Maria shared that she wants to “*build positive engagement and a love for reading,*” within her students. Maria is also an advocate for new and early career educators. As a Volusia Mentor Teacher, Maria offers support, assistance, and guidance to help others navigate the challenges of being a public school educator. Maria is also dedicated to the success of her family. As she eagerly awaits the arrival of grandbaby #2, she could not be more excited! Thank you, Ms. Maria Conlin, for all that you have given to the students of Volusia County Schools, and for your advocacy and support of your colleagues. Solidarity!



District Update

Upcoming Dates to Remember: We are sharing important reminders below:

- **Week of September 11th** – Block Out week due to Interim Reports (Wed. 9-13), PLCs may occur on Thursday, 9-14. The block out includes parent conferences unless scheduled by the individual teacher.
- **Week of September 18th** – Elementary Open House Week (Block Out week for Elem. Meetings)
- **September 22, 2023** – Professional Learning Day for all instructional personnel and paraprofessionals. The schedule of trainings has been modified due to the loss of the Wednesday, August 30th ERPL, however, the format of the day will remain the same.
- **Week of September 25th** – High School Open House Week (Block Out week for HS meetings)

Instructional Agreement Ratifies

NOTICE

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE
INSTRUCTIONAL BARGAINING UNIT

SECRET BALLOT RATIFICATION VOTE OFFICIAL RESULTS

On September 6 and 7, 2023, members of the instructional bargaining unit had the opportunity to participate in the ratification vote on the proposed tentative agreements to the Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2023-2024

The official results are as follows:

YES: 2,295
NO: 88

The tentative agreements have been ratified by 96% of those who voted. The members of the Volusia County School Board will now vote to approve/reject the ratification of the agreement. The item is listed on the agenda as 21.03. Upon board approval, the process for payments will begin.

The instructional ratification vote was held on Wednesday, September 6, and Thursday, September 7, 2023. All members of the instructional bargaining unit were eligible to vote.

The official outcome of the secret ballot vote is:

Yes: 2,295 or 96% of those who voted

No: 88 or 4% of those who voted

The agreement will be brought before the members of the school board for final approval on Tuesday evening. The ratification approval is listed on the agenda as item 21.03.

If the board approves the agreement, we will work with the payroll department to develop an expected timeline for payments. The Longevity and Retention supplements will be paid as lump sum payments. The salary increase will be retro to July 1, 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact your steward or the VUE office, (386) 238-1605.

Know Your Benefits

Back to school means a lot of new things, new backpacks, new subjects to learn and new germs to share. We have been contacted about the return of COVID in our schools and the impact that it is having on teachers and staff who have not yet accumulated sick leave.

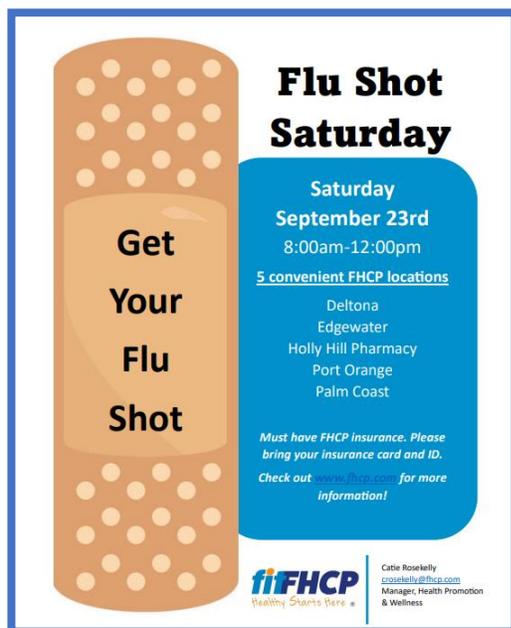
We have contacted the district to begin a conversation about providing assistance with COVID leave due to the CDC requirement to isolate for 5 days, but we cannot guarantee that the district will offer any relief to teachers, paras, or OS personnel.

In order to remain vigilant against the continued spread of these illnesses, we wanted to remind you about the resources you have through Florida Health Care Plans.

FHCP will be holding a Flu Shot Clinic on September 23rd from 8:00 am – Noon at a variety of locations throughout Volusia County. Additionally, if you are interested in a COVID vaccination, it is our understanding that you can walk into your FHCP provider and receive one free of charge.

Additionally, FHCP also provides Extended Hours Clinics which offer assistance when you need it the most. There are eight facilities throughout the county and the copay is only \$8. The EH Clinics are listed here, <https://fhcp.healthtrioconnect.com/public-app/consumer/provdir/search.page?startRow=0&provType=EH>

Finally, if you are too ill to leave your home, you can use the Doctor on Demand tool to receive no cost medical advice from a board certified provider. For more information, please visit, <https://doctorondemand.com/microsite/fhcp/>.



Flu Shot Saturday

Saturday
September 23rd
8:00am-12:00pm

5 convenient FHCP locations

- Deltona
- Edgewater
- Holly Hill Pharmacy
- Port Orange
- Palm Coast

Must have FHCP insurance. Please bring your insurance card and ID. Check out [www.fhcp.com](#) for more information!

FHCP
Healthy Starts Here

Catie Rosekelly
crosekelly@fhcp.com
Manager, Health Promotion & Wellness

Sick Leave Bank

The Sick Leave Bank (SLB) is available to all instructional and support personnel, regardless of union membership. The SLB provides protection in cases of long-term catastrophic illness. In order to draw from the bank, individuals must be a member of the SLB prior to the diagnosis. In order to join the bank, individuals must have at least 1 year of service with VCS and have accumulated 5 sick days. A donation of 1 sick day is required to join.



We strongly encourage you to consider joining the SLB. Eligibility requirements and applications for support and instructional personnel can be found at <https://www.ourvue.net/sick-leave-bank/index>, or you can reach out to the VUE office at 386-238-1605.

VUE's FYRE Committee



Are you an early career educator who is looking for networking opportunities? Are you interested in collaborating with fellow VUE members who teach the same grade/subject as you?

VUE's FYRE Committee is the place for you. FYRE stands for Florida's Young Remarkable Educators and with the support of the Florida Education Association, FYRE's purpose is to engage early career educators through identifying and connecting their core values to FEA's union values of integrity, advocacy, respect and empowerment.

FYRE continuously engages and empowers diverse teams of early career educators through training, collaboration, networking and opportunities to experience their union in action — giving a voice to new members with which to advocate for their students, their union and their profession.

For more information on how you can engage in this powerful committee, please contact Amanda Talton at amandatal123@gmail.com.

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!

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

