



Foreign Language Association of Chairpersons and Supervisors

www.flacs.org

Dr. Elaine Margarita, President, Jericho Public Schools
Lillian Carey, Immediate Past President/Technology Liaison, Hauppauge Public Schools
Joan Anderson, Chief Operating Officer, East Williston UFSD
Jennifer Nesfield, 1st Vice-President, Northport-East Northport UFSD
Alba Gallegos, 2nd Vice President, Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools
Madel Soriano-Mazzella, Secretary/Treasurer, North Shore CSD

August, 2014

Greetings,

I hope your summer was full of sunshine and relaxation! FLACS was busy, working behind the scenes to ensure a productive and successful 2014-2015 for our membership. We look forward to collaborating with you throughout the year.

Some Important News and Updates:

The FLACS executive board has determined that because our organization has grown tremendously and continues to take on new challenges and endeavors, our current organizational structure needs additional support and resources. To that end, we have added two new positions to the executive board, appointed by the president and approved by the board. They are: Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Technology Liaison/Public Relations Officer (TL/PRO). The role of the COO is to assist with the responsibilities of the president, to assume duties assigned by the president and/or the board, and to act on the part of the president and the board. The role of the Technology Liaison/Public Relations Officer is to manage and inform the webmaster of changes to the website, to advise and assist with technological needs of the executive board, and to support public relations of the organization.

In this time of great demands on each and everyone of us, we are pleased that two exceptional colleagues have agreed to take on these roles: the COO will be Joan Anderson and TL/PRO will be Lillian Carey.

We have already begun planning our workshops and meetings for the upcoming year...

We hope you will attend our Opening Meeting on September 19th at The Wheatley School, East Williston Schools, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM.

Our Item Writing Workshop will also be held at several locations on October 2nd, from 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM. The locations are: The Wheatley School in East Williston, Commack Schools, Pelham, Western New York, and Guilderland. We will share more specifics in future notices.

The FLACS exam will have several changes this year. We will review those changes at each meeting, and we will provide examples on the website, but below is a quick summary for your reference:

Checkpoint A:

30 Speaking (0/1/2)
30 listening
20 Reading
20 Writing

Checkpoint B:

24 Speaking
26 Listening
30 Reading
20 Writing

The writing section (Part 4), for Checkpoint A and B exams will now include a Read to Write Common Core task. The other task will be chosen from typical descriptive or narrative writing prompts. The current rubrics will be modified to address scoring for the writing tasks. This will be the last year with a picture option for Checkpoint B. As of 2016 a writing prompt will replace the picture.

The listening sections have been reduced for both exams. Checkpoint A will have 15 listening items (5 items for each section 2a, 2b, 2c). Checkpoint B will have 13 listening items (8 with questions in English, 5 with questions in the target language).

The speaking section for Checkpoint A will allow for a score of 0 (no credit); 1 (minimal proficiency); 2 (proficiency/beyond).

Our intention is to continue to provide quality exams that reflect the standards for World Languages and alignment with Common Core standards. We have also set deadlines for joining the exam consortium in order to facilitate the development of the exams and to address the need for a calendar that is responsive to the every growing pressures of our field. To that end, a deadline for membership has be set as October 1, 2014 (\$100 late fee imposed beginning October 1st through December 15th, 2014. No enrollment possible after December 15).

Our Spring Conference is set for April 24th 2015 at Queens College...further details will be forthcoming. We are considering offering winter workshops for professional development. Let us know if you'd like to present or if you would like to recommend someone. Some ideas we have so far are: Read to Write Tasks, Common Core Test Items, 21st Century World Language Classrooms, Formative Assessment, Finding Quality Authentic Texts, Inter-rater Reliability, Curriculum Development, 21st Century Skills, and Training New Teacher to Administer the FLACS Exams...

We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer and we look forward to seeing you in September!

Warm regards,

Elaine