

FADIMA MONTHLY

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ADMINISTRATORS

President's Message: Bill Purtell, Palm Beach County



I hope that everyone is excited about the upcoming 42nd Annual FADIMA Conference in Palm Beach Gardens, FL. The Double Tree hotel has undergone extensive remodeling since the conference was held there ten years ago. You have until the end of October to make your reservations in order to receive our conference rate. If you are not planning on attending the Conference and wish to renew your membership, you may use the same form located on our webpage and send it to Vicki with a check made payable to FADIMA for only the membership dues. The Association needs the efforts of each and every member to remain an effective and viable organization.

We have planned sessions that should be helpful and informative. There will also be an opportunity for the conference attendees to interact in some sessions with each other and with the speakers.

Last month the Legislative Committee traveled to Tallahassee to deliver the 2011-2012 Cost Analysis and FADIMA's Digital Position Paper. This allowed us the opportunity to share ideas, common concerns, and realistic solutions and recommendations with different Legislative organizations.

We met with Link Jarrett, Deputy Commissioner Executive Director of Budget and Terri Golden, Governor's Office of Policy & Budget, to specifically go over the Cost Analysis.

We also met with staff members from the House and Senate Education Appropriations Committees with mixed reviews. Much of our time was spent discussing the future of digital content in the State of Florida.

Later in the day, we had a very nice conversation with Mary Jane Tappen from the Department of Education.

Much of what we discussed will be shared at the November Conference.

I would like to thank our lobbyist, Juhan Mixon, for a job well done in organizing our itinerary and making the committee feel comfortable.

Finally, I would like to thank Peggy Finch, Kathy Green, Nan Palermo, Michele Rivera, and Burt Jordan for taking the time out of their busy schedules to make this visit a successful one.

Mahalo!



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Are Textbooks in their Waning Years?

August 19, 2010

By Davin White

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Children in Paula Hill's second-grade classroom at West Side Primary School were working out of their "Reading Street" textbook on a recent day, exploring the camping trip a young character named Henry took with his parents.

They started with the textbook, that is, but Hill and resource teacher Janessa Spence pulled out so much more.

Henry's father enjoyed singing Elvis Presley's "Love Me Tender." To bring it to life, Spence found the song online and played it for the children.

"You laugh now. You'll be singing this to a girl someday," she joked with one boy.

Hill used a document camera -- sort of a new-age overhead projector -- to illustrate how her students should jot down details about what Henry's mom did in the story.

As children across Kanawha County return to school today -- joining their year-round peers at [West Side Primary](#) -- textbooks remain a staple in the classroom.

Yet the texts -- the primary learning tool for generations -- have become just one piece of the puzzle in school.

"Today we have the textbook, and technology really enhances the information that they're getting out of the textbook," Hill said. "Being the 21st century ... I think it's really just getting it all working together -- getting the best of both worlds."

Students in West Side Primary's second-grade class also work on an interactive smart board, where Hill sometimes likes to show pictures or photos of vocabulary words. (Chandler Elementary has been renamed West Side Primary.)

During one Read Aloud session, for example, Hill pulled up an image of a [saltbox house](#) as she read students the book, "If You Lived In Colonial Times."

"They tend to pay better attention than if I just stand up at the board," she said.

Some teachers are now offering "interactive textbooks," where students do more than just read and answer questions, said Cindy Daniel, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in Kanawha County.

For example, the interactive element might be an online discussion board to post que "There's certainly going to be a place for the textbook, but the role is changing," Daniel said. "It's not the primary source of information."

Waning Years continued.....

"There's certainly going to be a place for the textbook, but the role is changing," Daniel said. "It's not the primary source of information."

Last year, changes to state Board of Education policy opened up textbook adoptions to include "multiple instructional materials in a classroom," said Carla Williamson, director of the state Department of Education's Office of Instruction.

Textbook vendors are encouraged to go beyond print and offer online and interactive materials. "Books aren't going to excite today's kids. They just don't learn that way," she said. "What is it that will make school meaningful and engaging? Schools can't look like schools that served me."

Teachers and students are using Global Imaging Software, Global Positioning Systems and new websites such as "Learn 21" in the classroom, Williamson said.

[Learn 21](#) is a resource where students in elementary and middle school can play games and fine-tune their math skills. For high school students, it features videos to help them improve their algebra, geometry, trigonometry and pre-calculus skills. Social studies and science are also coming to the site.

Still, limits on the number of computers per student and Internet bandwidth issues get in the way of really amplifying the breadth of technology offered in West Virginia schools, Williamson said.

Yet she can foresee a classroom without any textbooks, perhaps within a decade.

"I can see that in 10 to 15 years," she said. "They're getting so expensive."

This year, she expects the average social studies textbook will cost between \$60 and \$80.

Kanawha County schools are currently paying off a \$2.7 million tab for math textbooks alone, said Kanawha Schools Treasurer Harry Reustle.

Textbook adoptions run in six-year cycles, Daniel said, so those books bought this year will be in classrooms in 2016.

A former principal, Williamson remembers how students lugged around four or five heavy books in their backpacks every day. Software and online programs could make textbooks obsolete in the future, she said. For instance, an online learning collaborative allows children to study alongside their peers in other countries. A textbook can't offer that experience, she said.

Williamson, who coordinates a teacher leadership institute, believes West Virginia's teachers will embrace the latest technology.

"Our teachers in this state are ready for this, they truly are," she said.

Double Tree Hotel

42nd Annual Conference—Palm Beach

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**November 17, 2010
through
November 19, 2010**

**Ask for the
FADIMA
rate of \$93.00**

**A warm chocolate
chip cookie will be
waiting!**

FADIMA Survey results

Below you will find the link with the results to our online survey. I have shared this information with the DOE, as well as members of the K-12 Appropriations' Committee. This will be a topic of discussion at the conference.

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?
sm=Tx5QhbwvLc3_2bmsfutrkJQmmQsFfUTlOumQftGcM86Bto_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=Tx5QhbwvLc3_2bmsfutrkJQmmQsFfUTlOumQftGcM86Bto_3d)