

UNITER

A Publication of the United School Employees of Pasco

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USEP Spring Elections

Beginning with the 2021 Elections and for all subsequent yearly elections, Executive Board Members At Large will serve 3 year terms.

For the 2021 election cycle, USEP received 2 qualified Instructional Executive Board nomination forms and none for the SRP seat. Therefore, Fai Fai Ho and Mark Englander are elected by acclamation to continue on the Instructional Executive Board. However, since we had 1 seat to be filled on the Instructional Executive Board, and 1 seat to be filled on the SRP Executive Board, the Rep Council agreed to extend the nomination timeline. Two candidates submitted forms for the Instructional seat and one, Ginger Blomeley, submitted forms for the SRP seat. Ginger will retain her SRP seat by acclamation but there will be a run-off between Susan Cullum, WCHS, and Erin McWilliams, CENMS, for the remaining Instructional seat. You will be hearing short speeches by these two candidates at the upcoming Rep Council.

The USEP Executive Board

The Executive Board acts on behalf of the organization between Representative Council meetings and reviews and recommends the budget and dues, the adoption of policies and programs, and the censure of Officers, Executive Board Members, Building Representatives or members for cause. The Executive Board is responsible for directing the implementation of policies as adopted by the Representative Council, approves expenditures beyond the budget and establishes parameters for the management of USEP property and operations. The Executive Board also negotiates and ratifies contracts with staff and officers, acts as an appeal/review board in matters of USEP policies and programs including elections, grievances, and staff matters.

Executive Board members are **chosen from and by the members of the respective unit** (Instructional and SRP). Because Executive Board positions are not fulltime release, members receive a small monthly mileage stipend.



USEP: One Union — Two Units

Although USEP is one union, it is composed of two units—the Instructional unit and the SRP unit. **All members, regardless of whether they are Instructional or SRP, vote on the four officers: President, SRP Vice President, Instructional Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer. However, none of these positions are up for election in this Spring 2021 election cycle.**

However, only teachers elect Instructional Executive Board members and Convention Delegates and only SRP elect SRP Executive Board members and Convention Delegates. The Executive Board membership is determined by the ratio/proportion of teacher and SRP membership. The Executive Board will have 9 Instructional member seats and 3 SRP member seats.

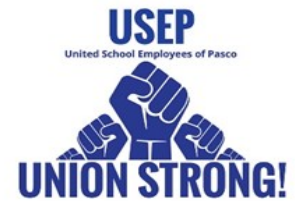
Candidate Statements

Susan Cullum:

I have been teacher science in Pasco County for 17 years, all of which have been at Wesley Chapel High School. While I have been very proud of and content with my professional and personal growth and success over the past 17 years, I have had some minor bumps along the way. Some of these incidents have been related to administrative personnel, some with other teachers, and some with students or parents of students. No matter the situation, I have always been supported by USEP and for that reason, I am a firm believer in the good that USEP provides for our teachers and staff. I would like the opportunity to make USEP stronger and more cohesive in the upcoming years by becoming an executive board member. Now is the time to protect the future of our employees and anticipate potential circumstances by being proactive and reinforcing USEP's mission.

Erin McWilliams:

I have been part of USEP and teaching for over a decade. In that time I have served as a building rep, bargaining committee member, and FEA delegate. I would like to become part of the executive board because I believe that as a union we can do more and be better. I want to help make that change. I feel we can improve our union and member retention by becoming better educated about our contract, increasing communication, and utilizing the talents of our members more effectively. The USEP office alone can't do everything that is needed to improve our union; we need to organize not only for political action but for action to support each other. I have always believed that we are stronger together. USEP has great talents that can mentor and lead the way. I would like to be a part of making that happen.



USEP Election Timelines

3/24/2021. Election *UNITER* sent to worksites via school courier.

3/30/2021. March Rep Council - candidates can make campaign speeches per the procedure's guidelines.

4/19/2021. Balloting by paper ballots.

5/7/2021, 6:00 PM. Election results released by the USEP Office.

5/10/2021 - 5/21/2021. Run-off balloting by paper ballots.

5/27/2021 at 6:00 PM. Election results released by the USEP Office.

