



Issue # 11

May 24, 2007

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

Many Delta teachers breathed a sigh of relief when the Board set this year's layoff line at 2.70 years which is lower than last year's 2.96 years. Last year, the equivalent of 115.4 full time equivalent (FTE) teachers received notices and this year, the number was slightly lower at 115.3 FTE. While receiving a Notice of Layoff is never a pleasant experience, the fact that the Delta collective agreement provides for all teachers to be hired to continuing contracts, even those in term specific positions, necessitates layoffs each year. What the contract also guarantees is the right of recall to teachers who are laid off at the end of June. Several districts hire teachers to term contracts but at the end of the school year, these teachers have no entitlement to employment under their collective agreements.

Factors influencing the layoff line include:

- declining enrollment – 400+ students last year, 200+ projected this year,
- the number of retirements,
- teachers taking personal leaves of absence and returning from leaves,
- teachers taking other leaves such as maternity leaves and sick leaves,
- the number of job share partnerships and
- the ability of newly hired teachers to “port” up to ten years of seniority

The first posting book will be sent to schools on Monday morning. Teachers who are not in receipt of Notice of Layoff are entitled to apply for these positions.

At Tuesday night's School Board meeting, Superintendent, John Anderson, provided an update on Delta's Bill 33 information. Four intermediate classrooms have over 30 students because of the integration of students from resource rooms. Seventy-nine of 390 elementary classes have more than three students with special needs. At the secondary level, 86 of 1918 blocks have more than 30 students while 305 of the 1918 blocks have more than three students with special needs.

Bill 33 has now been in effect for one year. While intermediate teachers had their class size capped, secondary classes experienced little change in either class size or composition. Bill 33 has created greater awareness among teachers of the need to be vigilant and vocal about student learning conditions in their classrooms. In September, principals will affix their signatures below the following statement: ***“I believe the class organization discussed to be appropriate for student learning.”*** If teachers do not agree with this statement, they need to indicate their concerns on the form. Neither the DTA nor the Board can respond to concerns of which they are unaware.

DTA Executive Committee Elected May 15, 2007	
President	Val Windsor
1 st VP/Bargaining Chair	Paul Steer
2 nd VP/Grievance Support	Richard Kirincic
Treasurer	Paul Leroy
Secretary	Phyllis With
Local Reps	Jacque Schierer
	Pat Truelove
	Phyllis With
Alternate Rep	Paul Steer
Members at Large	Angelika Hedley
	Simon Isbister
	Chris Yang
Teacher on Call	Susan Yao
Adult Ed Rep	Marianne D'Souza
Committee Chairs:	
Public Education Advocacy	Tashi Papau
Health & Safety	Greg Stafford
Social Justice	Sukhy Dhillon
Professional Development	Jacque Schiere



Good! Great! Fantastic News!

The Professional Development Committee has approved some policies this year that will enable all members to access more funds to help offset the rising costs of workshops and conferences. Once these policies have been approved by the Executive Committee and share with the Staff Rep Assembly, you will inform through this bulletin.

Reminder: Our “new year” begins July 1st if you are thinking of summer PD and have already used your allotment.

Delta's Spring Teach-In

By Pat Truelove

On April 24 and 26, shoppers at Scottsdale Mall and Tsawwassen Town Centre Mall were treated to something different. Throughout the day, shoppers were able to observe real students doing real work. In place of sidewalk sales or cars being raffled, seven Delta teachers took their classes to the mall. Lessons proceeded exactly as usual, and neither the teachers nor the students seemed the least concerned to be working in a “goldfish bowl.” The event was covered by the Delta Optimist and attracted a lot of attention, questions and positive comments from onlookers. Many thanks to Julie Lymburner, Phyllis With, Angela Dop, Greg Dennett, Elen Nikas, Toby Mundy and Adrienne Richters for their courage and initiative in this event: some great PR for Delta public education!



Adrienne Richters' Grade 3 Class from Jarvis Elementary at the Scottsdale Mall Teach-In April 24.



DTA Retirement Reception

Monday, June 11, 2007

4:00 – 5:15 pm

Delta Town & Country Inn

All district employees are invited to attend this reception to honour our retiring colleagues.

A dinner for retirees, their guests and all DTA committee members will follow.



“TAD BOYES SCHOLARSHIP

Application forms are available from the DTA office or online at www.deltateachers.org

The deadline is June 20, 2007

DTA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, June 1

Tsawwassen Golf Course

\$35.00



This is a fun event! Format is “best ball”. There are lots of prizes to be won.

Register your team with the DTA office. Call 604-946-0391 for more details.

Job Exchange

South end Primary Teacher (1.0 FTE) looking to exchange positions with another Primary teacher for the 2007/2008 year. All locations will be considered.

Please contact picabo@telus.net.

12 Month Pay Plan

Near the end of May the Board will provide Delta teachers with a form to sign should they wish to participate in the 12 month optional pay plan. Completed forms must be received by the Board by June 15th.

Employees hired after June 15th can elect to participate by informing the Board by September 30th.