



Issue # 10

April 23, 2008

## NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

### *President's Column*

Representatives of the CUPE 1091, the Delta Teachers' Association and the Delta District Parent Advisory Committee, met with Secretary Treasurer Grant McRadu, and Superintendent Steve Cardwell on April 21, 2008 to receive information concerning the proposed 2008 – 2009 Delta Board of Education Budget. At the meeting, the DTA was informed that Senior District Staff would be recommending a budget which will see \$3.082 million cut from the 2008 – 2009 Operating Budget, with fewer resources and personnel in virtually every realm of school district activity. With salaries representing almost 90% of the district's total budget, it is inevitable that the cuts being contemplated will result in layoffs of both teaching and support staff, with district administrative time also being curtailed. While the effect of these planned cuts on everyone employed by the Delta School District is acknowledged, remarks here will focus on the impact on DTA members and their students.

In smaller elementary schools, principals will see their administrative time curtailed by .2, meaning that principals will have to teach .2 in order to maintain their full-time status. One obvious outcome of this measure is that a school-based non-enrolling teacher will lose .2 of their assignment. In addition, Teacher-Librarian time in Delta's three smallest elementary schools will be further cut below current levels which are in the vicinity of .6 FTE. At the secondary level, Vice-Principals will now be teaching one block in addition to their administrative duties; teachers will lose work as a result. Proposed budget cuts will also bring increases to class sizes at the secondary level. When non-enrolling teachers are absent due to illness, teachers-on-call may not immediately be assigned to replace them. Teachers-on-call will also be adversely affected as a result of a marked reduction in the amount of TOC support for in-service activities held during school hours.

Schools will receive 50% less money to fund teachers' Professional Development initiatives outside of regular PD days. SEI grant money, which has previously helped to fund and support innovative, school-based collaborative projects, is also being reduced. Another area that will impact teachers and classrooms is the 15% reduction of "Quick Response" funds that have, in the past, provided EA support to help alleviate class composition issues or the emergency issues (often behavioural) that arise in classrooms.

On Tuesday, the DTA attended one of two special meetings of the Delta Board of Education scheduled to provide opportunities for individuals and groups to respond to the proposed budget.

Issues mentioned in this column were highlighted in the response made by the DTA. Although the Board is legally obliged to submit a balanced budget to the Ministry of Education, the DTA has requested that a "needs budget" also be submitted. By bringing forward what stands as a "second budget" which runs parallel to the "balanced budget" mandated by the Ministry, the Board of Education can advance a realistic accounting of what is **actually** required in order to maintain the status-quo in an educational system that is chronically under-funded.

Instead of community educational goals driving the budgeting process, provincial funding constraints ensures that the budget drives the goals!

During its presentation to the Board last night, The DTA extended a challenge and an invitation to all members of the Delta education community, including the Board of Education; unite with us in protest of the continued under-funding of public education not only in Delta but in districts throughout British Columbia. For the first time in many years, the DTA looks forward to presenting a common and unified front to Government as we continue to advocate for the schools we **need** and our students certainly deserve!

### **DTA AGM - Call for Nominations**

The DTA AGM will be held on **Tuesday, May 13, 2008** at 4:00 pm in the cafeteria at Seaquam Secondary. **Daycare provided upon request.** In addition to approving a 2008 – 2009 budget, members will be elected to fill the following positions:

#### **Executive:**

President, 1<sup>st</sup> VP/Bargaining Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Grievance Support, Treasurer, Executive Secretary, Local Representatives (3), Alternate LR, Members at Large (3), and Teacher on Call Rep

#### **Committee Chairpersons (Executive Positions):**

Professional Development, Social Justice, Public Education Advocacy, and Health and Safety

#### **Committee Members:**

Bargaining, Professional Development, Social Justice, Public Education Advocacy, and Health and Safety

This is an opportunity to get involved and to serve your colleagues. If you are interested in letting your name stand, please email [debbie-dta@telus.net](mailto:debbie-dta@telus.net) or call the DTA office at (604) 946-0391.

# The PD Perspective

Jacquie Schierer, PD Chairperson



Here is a snippet from the book I just got called “*Beyond PD Days – Teacher’s Work and Learning in Canada*” put together by the Ontario Teacher’s Federation (2007).

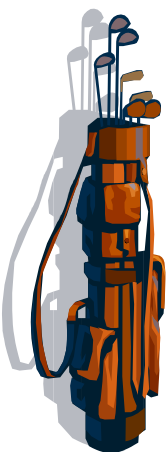
## FINDING THE BALANCE

Teacher learning comprises a wide range of activities from formal credentialed post graduate courses and large scale conferences to informal conversations with a colleague or internet searches. It is therefore critical to take a balanced approach to enhancing teacher learning which offers what Thomas Guskey called the “optimal mix”. Guskey argued that “because of the enormous variability in educational contexts, there will never be ‘one right answer’”. (Guskey, 1995, p.117).

### Guskey’s Seven Models of Professional Development:

1. training
2. observation/assessment
3. involvement in a development/improvement process
4. study groups
5. inquiry/action research
6. individually guided activities
7. mentoring

Of these seven options, the first is most cost effective. It is simply easiest for school board or school PD committees to rely on what Little (1993) calls the “training model” of workshops and in-service days devoted to the transmission of new ideas or teaching practices. Guest speakers with PowerPoint presentations are the norm and informal learning time is viewed with suspicion.



## DTA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, June 6, 2008

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 604 964-0391 for more details.

## Thinking of Retiring? Planning a Leave of Absence?



Once you have made your decision, please inform Human Resources at the Board and submit your paper work ASAP. This will be helpful for next years staffing needs.

## Making Change—Taking Action

### Talk:

Interrupt homophobic slurs when they occur.

### Educate:

Book a BCTF anti-homophobia workshop, call toll-free 1-800-663-9163, local 1857, or 604-871-1857.

### Act:

Change school policies to specifically address homophobia.

### Collaborate:

Work with your teacher-librarian to buy gay-positive books.

### Help:

Form a Gay-Straight Alliance or Diversity Club in your school.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual School District Aboriginal Youth Program



## POWWOW

Being held this year on the evening of April 25 and all day 28 and 29 at Delview Secondary School, 9111 – 116<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Celebrate Delta's International Treasure - Burns Bog!

Public Forum - Sunday, April 27, 1:30-4:00pm  
Delta Municipal Hall  
4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent, Ladner  
Guest Speakers with open question period to follow.

Admission by donation. Seating limited.

Call 604.572.0373 or visit [www.burnsbog.org](http://www.burnsbog.org)

## CONDOLENCES



The DTA sends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of **Huguette Jalbert** who passed away on April 15 in Montreal. Huguette was a former French Immersion teacher at Burnsvew.