

Issue #8

April 8, 2009

President's Column

School Closures / Teacher Rights

In an attempt to help balance a budget that has a projected \$4.47 million shortfall, (recently revised upward from \$3.0 million), the Delta Board of Education is contemplating closing two elementary schools: Delta Manor and Boundary Beach. The communities surrounding both of these schools are rallying to support the campaign to keep both schools open. Staff at both schools are, understandably, upset at the prospect of their schools being closed and are concerned about their employment situations.

The Collective Agreement has language to cover a school that has surplus staff, but is silent on the specific issue of school closures. The DTA Executive Committee unanimously passed the following motion as a means of providing support to teachers in both closing and receiving schools:

"That in the event of school closures, the following process for the placement of DTA members in the affected school(s) be recommended to the DTA Staff Rep Assembly (on April 20, 2009) for recommendation to the Delta Board of Education:

1. That classes created in receiving schools as the result of closure of one or more Delta schools be first made available to teachers from the closing school(s) only;
2. That placement of teachers into these positions be made on the basis of Seniority within the district, and qualifications;
3. That the internal staffing process in the receiving school(s) proceed without the inclusion of students from the closing school(s).

This process would permit the school staff of the closing schools to have priority posting rights in any newly created positions in the receiving schools, but it would not impact the positions of current staff in the school. The administration would create two staffing templates: one that does not factor-in the students from the clos-

ing school, and one that does. Staff at the receiving schools would first create classrooms in the usual way but without the new students factored in. The new students would then be added into the school numbers and any new positions created would be accessible only by the teachers displaced by school closure.

The Board is suggesting a model that would isolate the newly created positions similar to the DTA proposal but would see those positions going into the first posting book for every teacher in Delta to access. The DTA Executive Committee is of the opinion that the newly created positions would not be available to teachers if the school was not being closed and that no DTA member would, therefore, be disenfranchised by this motion. When the Board, several years ago, reconfigured secondary schools in the North End, a 'without prejudice' agreement was negotiated that gave secondary teachers in the four affected schools similar rights.

Staff Reps have been asked to bring this issue to your attention and to get your input on this and two other issues. Please give this matter your full attention and make sure your views are shared.

DTA Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

4:00 pm

Seaquam Secondary Cafeteria

This is the first call for nominations.
Please contact the DTA
office if you are interested in running for
an executive or committee position.

Daycare upon Request

All Candidates' Meetings

Hosted by the Delta Teachers' Association, Delta Parents' Advisory Council and CUPE 1091

South Delta

Delta Secondary School Library
Thursday, April 16
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Moderator: Ted Murphy, *The Optimist*

North Delta

North Delta Secondary School Library
Thursday, April 23
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Moderator: Beau Simpson, *The Now*

TOC Wine & Cheese Social

Thursday, June 4
3:30 - 5:30pm

DTA Office (#210 - 5000 Bridge Street)

Check for a notice at school sign in near
the end of April

2009-2010 BCTF EXECUTIVE

President: Irene Lanzinger
1st VP: Susan Lambert
2nd VP: Jim Iker

Members at Large: Michelle Davis
Rick Guenther
Glen Hansman
Jill McCaffery
Teri Mooring
Fred Robertson
Christine Stewart
Robert Tarswell

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Annual DTA Golf Tournament

Friday, June 5, 2009
Cove Links Golf Course

More information to come.



"TAD" BOYES SCHOLARSHIP

Application forms for the "Tad" Boyes Scholarship are available from the DTA office or can be downloaded from the DTA website (www.deltateachers.org). Applicants must be the son or daughter of a Delta teacher and graduating from a public school in BC. The scholarship is \$750.00 and the criteria is based on academic excellence.

Deadline is June 19.

9th Annual Delta School District POWWOW

Friday, April 24th, 6:30 - 10:00pm
Saturday, April 25, 12:00 - 10:00 pm
Sunday, April 26, 11:am - 6:00 pm

Delview Secondary

9111 - 116th Street, North Delta

Highlights: Silent auction, raffles,
great selection of Aboriginal craft
sales, great food and Bannock!!!



Thinking of Retiring?

Once you have made your decision, please inform Human Resources at the Board Office and submit your paper work ASAP. This information will be helpful for the spring staffing process.



Robin Geza Masters 1958—2009

Delta Secondary theatre was filled to capacity on February 28 as friends, family and colleagues gathered to celebrate the life of Robin Masters. The afternoon was both touching and amusing as stories were shared by those who knew Robin. The display in the library featured many pictures and memorabilia about Robin's life.

Robin taught in Delta for over twenty years beginning in the elementary schools—Port Guichon, Ladner and Pebble Hill—before moving on to Delta Secondary library. He was an active member in the DTA as well as the librarians' LSA. Robin touched the lives of many, both colleagues and students, he will be deeply missed.