

Issue #4

January 14, 2010

President's Column

FSA Campaign Update

This week, the DTA has distributed sealed envelopes to Staff Union Representatives in elementary schools for Grades 4 and 7 students to take home to their parents. The envelopes contain information from the DTA/BCTF concerning the Foundation Skills Assessment, which teachers oppose.

This year, BCPSEA and BCTF have signed a protocol agreement about the distribution of these assessment materials. In Delta, the Employer and the Board have met, discussed the protocol, and engaged in a respectful exchange of views. DTA members should know that the actions we are currently engaged in are taking place in a manner consistent with the BCPSEA/BCTF protocol. Moreover, the DTA has informed the employer of our actions, shared our information with them – in a manner consistent with our professional working relationship.

As always, the DTA strives to ensure our FSA message home to parents is accurate, respectful, timely, and concise. We want parents to know our concerns; we trust parents to make a decision that works best for their family; we believe parents have the right to decide whether or not their child will write the FSA.

Full Day Kindergarten

At the January 12 meeting of the Delta Board of Education trustees, it was announced that the Ministry of Education has committed funding to Delta for 673 full time equivalent Kindergarten children for the 2010-2011 school year (including the 227 current full day K students in the district). These spaces will be allocated to schools across the district based on: 1) Early Development Index criteria; 2) the number of assessed 'vulnerable' children in specific catchments; 3) available space in schools; and 4) the need to not displace existing Strong Start or other childcare programs.

It is anticipated that this announcement may result in as many as 10 new full-time equivalent teaching positions being posted.

DTA members who might be interested in posting into Kindergarten positions during the Spring Staffing process are encouraged to contact the DTA for advice concerning acknowledged qualifications for Kindergarten positions.

The Search for a Superintendent

In the week prior to the Christmas/Winter break, it was announced that the Superintendent of Schools, Steve Cardwell,

would be leaving Delta to assume the Superintendent's position in Vancouver. In response to this news, the DTA immediately requested an assurance from the Board that in filling this vacancy, the Board would involve the various professional, employee and parent groups in a consultative process as part of the Board of Education Trustees search for the next Delta Superintendent. In response, the DTA has been informed that there will be a consultative process and that the DTA input will be received by trustees' search committee. The DTA welcomes this affirmative response and will be meeting soon with the trustees to discuss what this input will be.

Whither the 'Delta Way'?

To be sure, these are difficult, challenging times for all who devote their best energies and efforts, in the services of the Delta School District. For the Union's part in advocating for teachers, and our profession, we are mindful that we are not alone. A hint of this is embodied in the expression, "The Delta Way", which many in Delta have heard and repeated many times over the years. What does it mean? One possible definition is that, despite all of the challenges that might arise, we are determined to find an acceptable solution: a way, hopefully a "Delta" way, through. It's not always easy; problems abound, and may seem insurmountable. But the idea is – don't give up; we'll make our way. Just keep on walking.

DTA General Meeting 4:00 pm, Tuesday, February 9 Seaquam Secondary Cafeteria

Agenda Items:

- Election of BCTF AGM Delegates
- DTA Audited Financial Statements
- Report of the President

If you require daycare, please call the DTA office at 604 946-0391.

BCTF Annual General Meeting Hyatt Regency Hotel March 6 - 9

Contact the DTA if you are interested in letting your name stand for election as a delegate. Candidates are encouraged to forward a statement (maximum 100 words) to the DTA by February 1, 2009.

Maternity Leave Workshop

Wednesday, February 3 – 4:00 pm
Delta Manor Education Centre
Education Room

Guest: Rob Taylor, BCTF Income
Security Staff

Topics Include:

- What are your contractual rights?
- What are the pension implications?
- Other

For catering purposes and printed material availability, please RSVP to the DTA Office at 604-946-0391 or e-mail deltateachers@telus.net.

Category 5+ (PB+15) Information

The new provincial language term for Delta's PB+15 salary category is **Category 5+**. As a result of TQS issuing Category 5+ status three times a year, the Board will now upgrade teachers' salary categories for this certification three times a year - August 31, December 31 and April 30. Once you receive your TQS card, forward a copy to the Board immediately. Your pay will be retroactive to the date the card was issued. For example, if your TQS card arrives at the end of May and is dated May 6, you will be paid retroactively to the beginning of May. Remember to have a copy of your transcript sent to the Board for their records.

Job Share Meeting

Teachers interested in job sharing in the 2010 - 2011 school year are invited to an information meeting:

**Wednesday, March 3
4:00 pm at the DTA Office**

Job share approvals have to be renewed annually.

Pension Seminars

Two new Pension Seminars are presented jointly by the BCTF and the BC Pension Corporation.

Seminar 1 - Your Pension, Your Future Membership does have its privileges. Your contributions to the Teachers' Pension Plan now will be your income down the road. Come and see what your future holds.

Seminar 2 - Thinking About Retiring You've worked hard. You're moving into a new phase of your life, and ready for your years of membership in the Teachers' Pension Plan to begin paying off. Come and check out your options.

[Pension Seminar Schedule and Registration](#)

For Pension Seminar Schedule and Registration go to www.tpp.pensionsbc.ca.

Retirement Planning Workshop: "[There's More to it than Money](#)" Contact the BC Retired Teachers' Association at 604-871-2260 for more information.



Dates to Remember Dates to Remember

January 25 - Staff Rep Meeting, 4:00, DSS

February 3 - Maternity Leave Workshop, 4:00, Education Room, Delta Manor Education Centre

February 9 - DTA General Meeting, 4:00, Seaquam Cafeteria. Snacks provided. Childcare provided upon request.

February 10 - Staff Rep and PD Contacts Training, 8:30, Delta Manor Education Centre

Inclusive education seeks to provide a welcoming environment for all students, not by ignoring gender, race, disability, or sexual identities but by recognizing and validating difference.

~ Heather-jane Robertson

