

Newsletter of the Delta Teachers' Association



TODAY

President's Column

Date: April 1, 2015

Issue: #4

DTA Presentation to DSD Budget Planning Meeting

On March 10th, the DTA made a presentation to the Board as part of its annual budget setting process. It's always important to take these opportunities seriously. We believe strongly that trustees and senior district staff deserve to have accurate and reliable information upon which to base their important decisions. We also try very hard to ensure that what we say is based upon what teachers are reporting to us, as individuals, through Staff Union Representatives at the school level, and through discussion among teachers at their school/worksite committees.

We told trustees that would be asking teachers to respond to three questions, which we sent out to Staff Reps during the week before Spring Break and again this week. Our commitment to the Board was that we would provide trustees with a summary of the feedback we receive, based on the responses of our members. Here are the questions we are asking DTA members to respond to:

Three Important Questions

1. What is the number 1 additional support/resource that your students need?
2. What programs, resources or services need to be protected at all costs?
3. What additional advice do you have for the Delta Board of Education Trustees as they make further budgetary cuts, as mandated by the government?

During the course of our presentation, we also suggested 5 themes that trustees could think about. We made this suggestion based on feedback from teachers, on the basis of our regular daily contact with teachers, telephone conversations, and feedback received from Staff Union Representatives, and face to face conversations with teachers during our continuing lunchtime visits to schools.

Five General Themes

1. No further cuts to school and classroom-based personnel and services.
2. The provision of fully trained teachers and support for students with special needs.
3. The need to address numerous problems within DSD buildings that affect the general cleanliness and healthiness of school indoor environments.
4. The need to alleviate employee stress, and to reduce the need for employee's access to district Sick Leave.
5. The need to limit administrative hiring in favour of hiring in support of teaching services for students.

Media and Board Response

The public Board meeting was covered by a reporter from the local newspaper "The Optimist", who published a story which focused mainly on one of the themes: our concern about general cleanliness and healthiness of Delta schools. The story was also picked up by "The Vancouver Sun" as well as CBC radio, to whom I provided comment on or about March 12.



On March 13, I was contacted by the Superintendent of Schools who informed me that the District would be sending out an "All Staff" communication on the subject. We received our copy of the Board's letter on the same day.

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DTA Annual General Meeting Tuesday, May 12, 2015 4:00 pm - Seaquam Secondary Theatre

ELECTIONS

Executive Committee

President
1st Vice-President
2nd Vice-President
Treasurer
Executive Secretary
Members-at-Large (3)
BCTF Local Representatives (2)
Alternate Local Representative
Professional Development Chair
Social Justice Chair
Public Education Advocacy Chair
Health & Safety Chair
Teacher on Call Rep
Adult Ed, Itinerant, Non-Enrolling Teachers Rep

Committee Members

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

Please contact Debbie (debbie@deltateachers.org or 604-946-0391) at the DTA office if you are interested in running for an executive or committee position.

Daycare upon Request

The DTA Response to the Board's letter of March 13

Between now and April 21, as part of the Board's budget-setting process, the DTA will be following through with our commitment to the Board and compiling as much feedback and advice from teachers as possible about the three questions we've posed. In doing so, we are guided and rely upon the advice of teachers who, through their Staff Union Representatives and Staff Committees are taking the time to express their honest concerns to the employer, through their union. Our hope, always, is that teachers' honest concerns will be heard, addressed, and acted upon in a way that brings a positive result for everyone.

The DTA will also be responding to the Board's "All Staff" communication of March 13 in due course.

Bill 11

On very short notice, the BCTF was advised earlier this week that government would be tabling new legislation, Bill 11, in the house, just ahead of a two week break.

Our union's preliminary analysis: Bill 11 is a distraction from the growing concern about public school underfunding. Government should reverse these announced cuts and provide enhancements to education services instead.

Bill 11 also undermines democratically elected school boards and concentrates more and more power in the hands of the Minister of Education, who would be empowered to replace elected trustees with government appointees. This is clearly an attempt by government to coerce Boards into implementing more and more cuts: "Implement these cuts or we will do it for you."

Bill 11 also interferes with teachers' Professional Development through a top-down, government-mandated approach. In our view, this is unnecessary, as teachers are constantly striving to seek out new and more effective ways to achieve greater excellence of instruction and better student-learning outcomes.

DTA advice: Continue to be constant in your devotion to the learning needs of your students and always open to new methods, approaches and ideas. And concerning Professional Development, rely upon and be guided by our BCTF's General Professional Development Policies and advice about PD, as stated in Section 30 of the Members' Guide.



"Tad" Boyes Scholarship



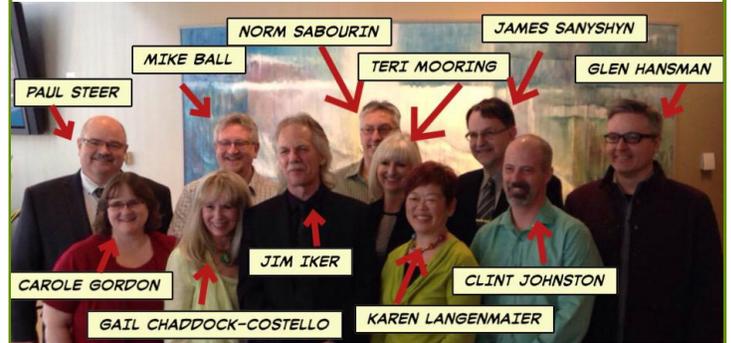
Applicants must be the son or daughter of a Delta teacher and graduating from a public school in BC. The scholarship is \$800.00 and the criteria is based on academic excellence.

Application forms for the "Tad" Boyes Scholarship are available from the DTA office or can be downloaded from the DTA website at www.deltateachers.org under Forms.

Deadline is June 26, 2015

2015-2016 BCTF Executive Committee

President:	Jim Iker (Burns Lake)
1st Vice-President:	Glen Hansman (VESTA)
2nd Vice-President:	Teri Mooring (Quesnel)
Members at Large:	Mike Ball (Nanaimo) Gail Chaddock-Costello (Langley) Carole Gordon (Kelowna) Clint Johnston (Chilliwack) Karen Langenmaier (Comox) Norm Sabourin (Boundary) James Sanyshyn (Burnaby) Paul Steer (Delta)



Job Share Information Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

4:00 pm - DTA Office

110 - 4977 Trenant Street, Ladner

Agenda:

- * Collective Agreement Provisions
- * Personnel Practice
- * Components of a Successful Job Share Partnership
- * Time to Network

Please contact the DTA office by phone (604-946-0391) or email marilyn@deltateachers.org to confirm your attendance.

Staff Rep/Health & Safety Rep Training

Thursday, April 23, 2015

8:30 - 3:00

Delta Manor Education Centre

WORKSHOP: Joint Health and Safety Committees/Worker Representatives. This workshop highlights the member's role on the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

Call Marilyn at 604-946-0391 or email marilyn@deltateachers.org to confirm your attendance and obtain your release code.

