



# TODAY

## President's Column ~ Susan Yao

Date: May 12, 2022  
Issue: #6



On Tuesday, May 10 the Delta Teachers' Association convened an in-person Annual General Meeting at Seaquam Secondary School. The planning for this event was supported by the wonderful DTA office staff, as well as Alison Roche (1<sup>st</sup> VP), Kathy Macfarlane (2<sup>nd</sup> VP) and myself. Since this was our first in-person event in almost two years, we were quite excited about this chance to see DTA members in a non-virtual setting. We ordered plenty of food from the Seaquam Secondary culinary arts programme, we had door prizes and we prepared ballots, agenda, scripts and other details in advance of the meeting.

Some people wondered why we were not offering a virtual link to the meeting. Last year's virtual meeting was over four hours long and involved the support of staff from the BCTF and Simply Voting. While virtual meetings have their positives (e.g., the ability to meet while at home in our fuzzy slippers being one), meeting in person allows for the cross-pollination (metaphorically-speaking!) of colleagues who can sit together, chat and provides the opportunity for community. That is much harder to achieve virtually. It was energizing to be in a room together, to re-connect with colleagues and to be able put faces to names.

At the AGM DTA members were given updates on Provincial Bargaining from BCTF 2<sup>nd</sup> VP-elect Robin Toscak. DTA members can check out the current proposals and updates by accessing the BCTF Members Portal. This information is considered to be "in committee" in that it can only be discussed with BCTF members. This is standard practice for bargaining.

I am really grateful for the DTA members who showed their solidarity for their colleagues and their union by coming out for another meeting. And I am happy to be returning next year to continue this work of supporting and advocating for Delta's public-school educators in the role of president. Grateful also for the all of those teachers who let their names stand for positions. I look forward to working with Alison and Kathy for another year, as well as the new and returning EC and committee members.

Alison and I have also been meeting teachers in person in our round of school visits which we've deemed a



### 2022 - 2023 DTA Executive Committee

<b>President/LR</b>	Susan Yao
<b>1st VP/Bargaining Chair</b>	Alison Roche
<b>2nd VP/Grievance Support</b>	Kathleen Macfarlane
<b>Treasurer</b>	Stephen Platzer
<b>Executive Secretary</b>	Trish McCullough
<b>Local Rep: (2 year)</b>	Matt Huang
<b>Local Rep: (1 year)</b>	Kathleen Macfarlane
<b>Alternate Rep</b>	Sandra Cadez
<b>Members at Large</b>	Luana Foulkes Jeff Hacker Elen Nikas
<b>Adult Ed, Itinerant and Non-Enrolling Teachers Rep</b>	<i>Vacant</i>
<b>Committee Chairs:</b>	
<b>Aboriginal Education</b>	<i>Vacant</i>
<b>French as First or Working Language</b>	<i>Vacant</i>
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	Sandra Cadez
<b>Professional Development</b>	Jeanie McKay
<b>Political Action Committee</b>	<i>Vacant</i>
<b>Social Justice</b>	Amar Sull
<b>TTOC</b>	<i>Vacant</i>

### *DTA Retirement Reception*

*Monday, June 13, 2022*

*4:00 - 5:30 pm*

*Tsawwassen Springs Ballroom*

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

*A dinner for retirees and invited guests will follow.*



“Listening Tour”, although we’ve also been sharing some information regarding Staff Committee, Professional Development, School-Based Team and some provincial bargaining news. What we’ve heard from schools range from troubling lack of supports for students to problems with school schedules and even issues of health and safety. Is every worksite having monthly Joint Occupational Health and Safety meetings and posting the minutes for all workers to read them? If not, why not? This is a WorkSafeBC compliance issue.

Jamming school visits into the DTA’s schedule in order to get to all worksites in Delta means that we are sometimes not able to get to all the calls from members that we would normally take at lunchtime. We encourage you to be persistent in reaching out to us. It is always helpful to put the question or concern into a brief email. Thank you to everyone for their continued patience.

At the May 3 School Board meeting there was opportunity for the elected School Trustees to hear from the education partners as well as the members of the public who cared to share their thoughts on Delta’s proposed budget. The DTA appreciates that 92% of the district’s operating costs are staffing related. Sadly, and as we have now seen with this year’s proposed budget, this means that the district’s attempt to follow the School Act’s stipulation of a balanced budget means that the District has chosen to reduce staffing.

Looking at social media posts prior to the meeting, I read comments from members of the public unhappy about the cuts. I hoped this would translate into a long queue of speakers ready to speak their minds about the budget. What makes a great public education great is when it’s supported by the public!

What really surprised me last week was that even though the School Board meeting was devoted to hearing from the public, there were only three speakers at the mic: myself representing DTA members, followed by CUPE President Daun Frederickson and then one parent. It was surprising that even with so many cuts and a well-publicised shortfall and all the social media chatter, that there were no other speakers. Not even from all of the education partners. I do wonder where were all the citizens of Delta to decry these cuts to Delta’s public education.

But I will end with this: I am going to keep on advocating for Delta’s public-school educators—you! As well as for better funding for the system and ultimately, the students, families and community of Delta.

Happy Spring!



After 22 years of supporting the teachers in Delta, as Office Manager, Debbie Omand is retiring.

There will be an open house social event in celebration at the DTA Office on June 21 from 3-5pm. Please forward any cards, note of congratulations or donations towards a gift to Jane (jane@deltateachers.org) at the DTA office.

♥ We will miss you ♥

### “Tad” Boyes Scholarship



*Class of*  
**2022**

Applicants must be the son or daughter of a Delta teacher and graduating from a public school in BC. The scholarship is \$1,000.00 and the criteria is based on academic excellence.

Application forms for the “Tad” Boyes Scholarship are available from the DTA office or can be printed from the DTA website at [www.deltateachers.org](http://www.deltateachers.org), under Forms.

**Deadline is June 30, 2022**

### PD Reminders

***Have you attended a course, workshop, or completed a course and have not received your reimbursement?***

The deadline for submitting receipts is **June 30**. When submitting your receipts please confirm your home address as cheques will be mail.

***Are you planning on attending a course, conference, or workshop during the summer or the first week of September?*** Please submit your application to the DTA office by **June 15** to ensure approval before the summer break.

Please always use the forms from the PD home page on the DTA website as they are the most current.

### *In Memoriam*

**Robin Hope** passed away on April 13, 2022. He taught Junior High and Elementary and retired in 2015.

**Pen Peneff**, retired, passed away on May 1, 2022.

**Wendy Perry** passed away on May 5, 2022. She taught for 40 years supporting hearing-impaired children.