



SCHOOL STAFF COMMITTEES

Dear ADTA Member,

I would like to encourage teachers to form a staff committee within their school if they have not yet done so. The landscape of how school budgets in District schools are dealt with has changed, and the SBO has directed their school administrators to meaningfully include teachers and parents in determining how these budgets will be allocated.

The establishment of a staff committee within each school is crucial for teachers, as they serve as important communication vehicles to discuss and then relay teachers' issues and concerns to administration. You'll find that the formation and purpose of these committees is outlined within our collective agreement, and that over time they have taken on a variety of formats and structures.

At some schools, teachers feel most comfortable meeting without administrators present in order to facilitate more open discussion of their issues. The outcomes from these meetings are then often relayed to school administrators by the chair of the committee or in some cases the school's staff reps; this process is certainly an acceptable one to follow.

I would encourage that teachers not view or fear these committee meetings as being simply an open arena to attack other programs or requests from fellow teachers in the school, but more as vehicles to further communication that will support a unified and collegial school atmosphere.

I've included the school staff committee language from our collective agreement below, and should you have any questions or would like assistance in forming a staff committee within your school, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Doug Smuland
ADTA 1st Vice-President

ARTICLE A.31 SCHOOL STAFF COMMITTEES

- 1. The Board and the Association encourage each school to develop committees to foster communication and collegiality among teachers and Administrative Officers through discussion of issues relevant to the teaching staff.*
- 2. Each school has the right to establish a recognized staff committee.*
- 3. Staff committee size, quorum and membership shall be determined by the staff.*
- 4. The school committee is entitled to review all school level budget and financial information and all relevant information to assist the teaching staff in making educationally sound decisions.*