



# PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN

November 10, 2008

The election of Board of Education trustees is imminent. On November 15, 2008 we have an opportunity to elect our employer! In this election seventeen candidates have stepped forward to offer themselves for the position of trustee on a Board that establishes policies for the delivery of education and administers a budget of about \$ 150 000 000.

Of the seventeen candidates, eight have approached Jeff and me to discuss their candidacies. Our conversations ranged widely, from needs budgets to social justice and, while not all topics were discussed with all candidates, our conversations drew from the following issues.

- The Collective Agreement
- The role of unions
- Teacher, including Learning Assistance and Special Education, workloads
- Class size and composition
- The need for open Board governance
- Board secrecy
- Public Education for the development of citizens
- Standardized testing; workload and misuse issues
- Trustees as advocates for public education

- Communication between the trustees and the ADTA
- Board respect for teachers
- Choice schools
- Public Education in a diverse society
- The influence of religion on Board decisions

I place high value on these discussions and I believe that, by seeking our views, these candidates are demonstrating respect for the ADTA and for the teachers that we represent.

John Fisher  
Freddy Latham  
Alex Green  
Preet Rai  
Judith Reeves  
John Sutherland  
Cynthia Higgins  
Jean Hakizimana

All of these candidates have connections to public education. John Fisher and Freddy Latham are teachers who retired from Abbotsford School District and Preet Rai's wife teaches in Abbotsford. John Sutherland is a former trustee whose wife is a current Abbotsford teacher. Alex Green and Cynthia

Higgins support their childrens' education by participating in their school PACs while Judith Reeves has served for several years on the District PAC executive. Jean Hazikimana, a native of Rwanda, works with a community organization and the Ministry of Families to help disadvantaged children.

Seven of the eight have not served as trustees. However, they bring a passion and concern for public education, along with diverse experience, that presents the possibility of a Board of Education with fresh perspectives and inclusive practices. In my view, open governance, a willingness not just to hear but to thoughtfully consider the views and

advice of all interested parties with due regard to the role of public education in a diverse democracy, would be a refreshing change. When you cast your ballot, please reflect on the virtues and needs of public education and choose wisely.

Rick Guenther



## REMEMBER!

Take five people to the polls.

Election day is November 15.

Advance Polls on November  
5 and November 12.

Teachers live in every School  
District.

We can make a difference!

