

NEWSLETTER

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BCTF's 2009 AGM Information

From March 14th to the 17th almost 700 teachers from around the province gathered in Vancouver for the BCTF's 2009 AGM. Included in the 700 were 18 Abbotsford teachers representing the hard-working members of the ADTA. The highlight of the entire 4 days was the election of ADTA President Rick Guenther as Member-at-Large to the BCTF executive. Rick's victory represents the first time that a member of the ADTA has been elected to sit on the BCTF executive. Others elected or acclaimed were Irene Lanzinger - President, Susan Lambert - 1st Vice-President, Jim Iker - 2nd Vice-President, Members-at-Large: Glen Hansman, Jill McCaffery, Teri Mooring and Christine Stewart. Christine's win was historic; she is the first self-identified Aboriginal person to be elected to the BCTF executive.

The amount of reports and resolutions presented to the AGM delegates to deal with over the course of 4 days were far greater than the meeting's capacity. The meeting was able to complete the business of

the day on Saturday evening, but come Sunday morning the debate at the mike was vigorous and intense and did not let up until the last motion on Tuesday night.

Highlights of the meeting included a plan to involve members in preparations for the next round of bargaining through training bargainiers, concentrating on professional autonomy and professional development. The BCTF will also be conducting a benefits review of all districts with the hope of improving our benefits package.

The meeting also decided to increase the SIP deductions from 1.50% to 1.89% for next year. 1.89% reflects the true cost of the program. The government pays each full-time teacher a 2% allowance for SIP, meaning teachers will not be out of pocket as a result of this increase. The meeting also decided to maintain the BCTF membership fee at 1.45%, although the allocations were adjusted.

Did you know: The Collective Agreement used to include class size and composition numbers before the Liberal government unilaterally had them removed.

Struck Language on CLASS SIZE AND COMPENSATION

4:1 Class Size
 4:1.1 The parties agree to the following class size limits:

Kindergarten (P 1)	20 students
Kindergarten/Grade 1 (P 1/P 2)	24 students
Primary (including P 2 or grade 1)	24 students
Primary (excluding P 2 or grade 1)	26 students
Intermediate (grades 4 10)	30 students
Graduation (grades 11 12)	30 students
Primary Splits	25 students
Primary/Intermediate Splits	25 students
Intermediate Splits	28 students
Special (EMH/TMH)	10 students
Multi Grade Splits (Grade 7 to 12)	28 students

4:1.2 In a multi grade elementary group, the lower class size limits shall apply.

4:2.3 Non Enrolling Staffing Ratios

4:2.3.1 Employee staffing ratios in each category shall not decrease below the number report in the 1997/98 Ministry Form 1530, as follows:

Teacher Librarians:

one teacher librarian to one thousand four hundred ninety six (1,496) students

Counselors:

one counselor to seven hundred eighty nine (789) students

Learning Assistance Teachers:

one teacher to five hundred sixty seven (567) students

Special Education Resource Teachers:

one special education resource teacher to three hundred sixteen (316) students

Support for ESL Students:

one ESL teacher to eighty one and one tenth students (81.1)

4:3.8 A maximum of three (3) students with special needs (other than Gifted) may be included in a single class.

4:3.8.1 With the agreement of the School Based Team and the receiving teacher, the maximum number of students may be exceeded by one (1) student.

Over the past 2 months the ADTA has been surveying members via Survey Monkey. The link was posted on our web site and e-mailed out through staff reps. The survey produced a number of interesting results, but there were 2 questions where the membership's opinion was overwhelming.

To the question "there are sufficient opportunities for movement between schools." The results were:

Strongly disagree: 56.5%
 Somewhat disagree: 18.6%
 Neither disagree or agree: 19.8%
 Somewhat agree: 5.2%
 Strongly agree: 0%

No other question had a possible response receive 0%. This is clearly an issue for our members and changing the Filling Vacant Positions language has long been a priority of the ADTA, but there has been little movement on the part of District. As mentioned in a previous newsletter this is a by-product of the layoff procedure, which unfortunately takes precedent over teachers posting to a position. At the time this language was added to the Collective Agreement there was little thought of layoffs. We have since experienced a movement away from local bargaining to

provincial bargaining leaving little opportunity to deal with the issue of filling vacant positions. It is also the District's policy that a continuing teacher cannot apply for a temporary position, leaving continuing teachers unable to change schools. The ADTA has expressed our desire to change this language and see more continuing postings, but the District is reluctant to make any changes to the current system.

5:10 FILLING VACANT POSITIONS

5:10.1 The Board shall fill vacancies in the following priority, provided that the teacher has the necessary qualifications to perform the duties of the vacant position:

- 5:10.1.1 teachers returning from a leave of absence,*
- 5:10.1.2 teachers on the recall list pursuant to Article 3:8.3.1,*
- 5:10.1.3 transfers of assignment pursuant to Article 5:10 ,*
- 5:10.1.4 teachers posting to a position pursuant to this Agreement,*
- 5:10.1.5 teachers on call other than those who qualify under Article 5:9.6, and new appointees.*

The other survey question that received an overwhelming response was, "the diverse learning needs of my students significantly increases my overall workload."

The results were:

Strongly disagree: 1.3%
 Somewhat disagree: 1.3%
 Neither disagree or agree: 4.9%
 Somewhat agree: 27.4%
 Strongly agree: 65%

As a result of Bill 33, districts are allowed to place 4 or more students entitled to IEPs in any classroom provided the classroom teacher has been consulted, that is for all grades. In terms of class size in the 8-12 courses as long as the administration has consulted with the teacher, regardless of the teacher's thoughts, opinions or concerns, the District is free to exceed the limit of 30 students.

In Abbotsford, as of September 30, 2008, we had 110 classes with more than 30 students, 182 classes with 4 or more students entitled to an IEP and 181 classes with 4 or more ESL students. Abbotsford's district average class size is above the provincial average in all four grade groupings. The grades 4-7 class size average is tied for 3rd highest in the province with the grades 8-12 class size average tied for 6th highest.

April	May
Monday - Tuesday, April 6 & 7 District Public Speaking	Wednesday, May 13 Retirement Information Workshop Facilitator: Wayne Anthony Presented by the ADTA
Monday, April 6 @ 4:00 Executive Meeting	Monday, May 18 Victoria Day
Wednesday, April 8 @ 4:00 Grade 3 & Grade 6 Teacher's Meeting	Wednesday, May 20 Annual General Meeting
April 10 & April 13 (Happy Easter) ADTA office is closed	June
April 17 & 18 Zone Meeting at Harrison	Wednesday, June 3 ADTA Rep Appreciation Dinner
Wednesday, April 22 & 23 Health & Safety Training (ADTA Hall)	Wednesday, June 10 ADTA Retirement Tea
Friday, April 24 PRO D	Friday, June 26 Last Day of School

**NO SWEAT CLASSES
NO COMMITMENT IS NEEDED**

**(Every Tuesday and Thursday)
Cost: \$2.00 per class**

Where: ADTA Hall
2570 Cyril Street,
When: Tuesdays & Thursdays @
3:30-4:30

Sessions are open to all ADTA and Teamster members.

Routine changes every month so it is never too late to join. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN WORKOUT MAT, TOWEL, WATER BOTTLE AND FREE WEIGHTS - 3, 5 POUNDS FOR BEGINNERS, MORE FOR VETERANS.

The ADTA website

Is updated on a regular basis with new and current information. Check it out at www.adta.bc.ca