

NEWSLETTER

Rick Guenther, President
2570 Cyril Street, Abbotsford, BC V2S 2G2

Jeff Dunton, 1st Vice-President
604.854.1946 www.adta.bc.ca

BC School Trustee Association (BCSTA) Convention 2009 Report From The BCTF

Motions On Assessment, Accountability, and FSAs

Review of assessment and accountability

That BCSTA work with appropriate partner groups to conduct a broad review of all ministry-mandated district performance assessment and accountability measures. (Carried)

It was argued that there was a huge increase in time for all staff, including "our senior leadership," to deal with assessments. "It is time to get all partners together at the table to work with government to hopefully reduce and streamline those kinds of measures."

One speaker only. (Carried. Only seven opposed—seemed to be mainly Chilliwack and Abbotsford)

Foundation skills assessment training

That BCSTA work with the minister of education and other partner groups to resolve current problems regarding FSA testing and develop a long-term solution. (Carried. Seven opposed—Abbotsford, Chilliwack)

Rolli Cacchioni, Kelowna: We realize the FSA debacle caused an uproar. It's time for ministry to take action, and work with partner groups to ensure it **doesn't** happen again.

Randy Cairns, Mission: Assessment **is** more than one or two segments of an FSA test. We also have to stop allowing cherry picking for an agenda to support private schools. A far broader mandate is needed on assessment.

FSA assessment testing methods random sample (tabled after vigorous debate)

That BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education conduct the FSA on a random-sample basis, or by the use of other testing methods that will provide the results required for the assessment of students, while eliminating the misuse of the results by such groups as the Fraser Institute in the unfair evaluation and ranking of schools. (Tabled)

This resolution was tabled after repeated criticism that it was "confusing," "unclear," that "misuse" was not defined, that "this motion would perpetuate FSAs and we need to come up with more meaningful assessment that is more appropriate, includes more than just literacy, but all facets of a student's education," and that "BCSTA Council asked for masking FSA results."

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

PLEASE INFORM THE ADTA OFFICE IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS SO WE MAY KEEP OUR RECORDS AS UP-TO-DATE AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU.

At its April 2-4 meeting the Executive Committee dealt with a referral from the January 2009 RA and adopted the following strategy around teachers organizing classes for 2009-2010.

choose to, teachers may also include information regarding where students should be placed, which students should be split up, how students with IEPs should be divided among the classes, and so on.

- 2 school days before a decision is made respecting the size and organization of the class allow the teacher to consider the proposal and provide the principal with the teacher's views in that regard.

That:

1. Teachers participate in organizing classes for September as they normally would.
2. If it becomes evident that classes cannot be organized within the legislative limits, or are in any other way not appropriate for student learning (safety issues, for example), teachers document and advise principals of their opposition to the proposed organization.
3. Teachers submit to principals simple and general "needs organizations appropriate for learning" for 2009-2010 (for example: 90 grade 4 students, 12 with IEPs - 2 classes of 22 and 2 classes of 23, with 3 students with IEPs in each class). If they

4. Teachers withdraw from the process of organizing classes unless ordered to continue.

Please note that any class size violation for grades K-7 require the teachers' consent, for grades 8-12 the administration is only required to consult with the teachers. Also, for all grades if the administration wishes to place more than 3 IEP students in a class they only have to consult with the teachers.

For the purposes of the School Act "consult" means that during the first two weeks of the school year the principal must provide teachers with:

- "information relevant to a proposal for the size and organization of the class", this includes every effected teacher and class, not just the homeroom.

Class size limits:

- 22 Kindergarten (consent required)
- 24 Grades 1-3 (consent required)
- 30 Grades 4-7 (consent required)
- 30 Grades 8-12 (consultation required)
- 3 IEP Students, all grades (consultation required)

| May | June |
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| Layoff Meeting for ADTA Members Wednesday, May 6th 4:00 pm (ADTA Hall) | Wednesday, June 3 ADTA Rep Appreciation Dinner |
| Wednesday, May 13 @ 4:00 Retirement Information Workshop Facilitator: Wayne Anthony Presented by the ADTA | Wednesday, June 10 ADTA Retirement Tea |
| Monday, May 18 Victoria Day | Wednesday, June 17 Employment Insurance Workshop |
| Wednesday, May 20 BBQ Dinner Social & Annual General Meeting 3:00 - BBQ Dinner Social 4:15 - Meeting Begins | Friday, June 26 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL |

The ADTA
website is updated on a regular basis with new and current information.
 Check it out at www.adta.bc.ca

**NO SWEAT CLASSES
 ARE CANCELLED EFFECTIVE
 IMMEDIATELY**