

Questions delivered to Board Members at Board Meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 11/05

1. In good conscience how can the government accuse the teachers of setting a bad example when the Premier of the province was charged and convicted of drunk driving? What example does that set! Teachers are taking a stand on moral grounds opposing a bad law. Do you think the teachers of school district 83 are justified in standing up to the Bully in Victoria? Please explain.

(Addressed to Bobbi Johnson, Trustee for Salmon Arm)

2. Have you considered the fact that school boards are now the scapegoats of our provincial government? When parents ask why they don't have services the government says the local board made their budget decisions yet the government does not fund programs adequately. Have you done anything to press the government to give further funding? If yes, have you notified NOSTA of your action? Teachers need to know they have your support.

(Addressed to Quentin Bruns, Trustee for Enderby)

3. Has it occurred to you that the current dispute has its roots in the move to provincial bargaining? Would you support the return to local bargaining?

(Addressed to Maureen Kalynchuk, Trustee for North Shuswap)

4. The government talks about public sector wage freezes. Have trustees and central staff been included in the 0-0-0 wage freeze? If not, what have their increases been over the past 5 years?

(Addressed to Gerry Nevdoff, Trustee for Falkland/Ranchero/Silver Creek)

5. The government maintains that the class size and composition has been set by the school planning councils. Is this true?]

(Addressed to Dr. Saab, Trustee for Salmon Arm[apologies for stating in his letter that he represents Falkland/Ranchero/Silver Creek])

6. BCPSEA is supposed to be the board's voice at the bargaining table. Have they asked for your input and if so what direction have you given them?

(Addressed to Pat Biblow, Trustee for Armstrong)

7. I am the parent of a child whose math mark declined by 20% from the time when class sizes were reasonable to last year when she had 35+ kids in her French Immersion math class. How is this flexibility "good for kids"?

(Addressed to Bobbi Johnson, Trustee for Salmon Arm)

8. Does this board believe that education is an essential service? If so, does the board allow parents to withdraw students for family holidays and other special events during school terms?

(Addressed to Bob Fowler, Trustee for Armstrong)

9. The United Nations declared that it was inappropriate for the B.C. government to make education an essential service. Has our board questioned the government on why it is not respecting international recommendations?

(Addressed to Bob Fowler Trustee for Armstrong)

10. Are imposed contracts consistent with a democratic society? If no, have you addressed this issue with BCPSEA and the B.C. government?

(Addressed to Alvina Gooch, Trustee for Carlin/Sorrento)

11. Do you remember when George Abbott and Central Staff informed the media about a poor little kindergarten child from Sicamous who had to be bussed to Malakwa because of the class size limits? They blamed teachers for forcing this imposition on families. Yet months later the school trustees approved the closure of schools bussing not one kindergarten child but whole school populations. Would you please comment on this apparent hypocrisy? (It appears that it is “bad” behavior if teachers act in this manner but okay if Central Staff and Trustee behave in the same manner)

(Addressed to Teresa Hebert, Trustee for Sicamous/Malakwa)

12. Other school boards have written letters to our government in support of teachers: example: **Southeast Kootenay School Board ...**”It has always been our position that the 0% net mandate of the government is wrong”

example: **Surrey School Board...**”We intend to make clear to the government our belief in the importance of positive and respectful teacher relationships”

example: **Cowichan Valley School Board...**”The Board strongly urges government to provide for fair wage increases and cease the stripping of collective agreement contracts.

example: **Vancouver School Board...**”Legislation to extend the current collective agreement of B.C. teachers is contrary to long-term stability in public education”

The letters from these School Boards clearly show support for their teachers. What message do you feel you have conveyed to your teachers in your letter of Oct. 7th to Honorable M. de Jong and S. Bond?

(Addressed to Alvina Gooch)

13. How many letters have been sent from our Board to the government or BCPSEA questioning their decisions over the past 5 years? How many of those letters were cc to the STA/NOSTA office? Would you consider sending copies of such past correspondence to NOSTA so we know we have your support? I heard we have only 1 letter on record showing such communication. Have there been more?

(Addressed to Alvina Gooch, Trustee for Carlin/Sorrento)