

REPORT FROM HENNING DRIVE

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FALL 2018

Welcome Back & Welcome New Burnaby Teachers!

By the time this newsletter reaches you the summer will seem far behind. Hopefully, many of you found time for leisure, restoration and the rewards of family and/or friends. This is certainly a profession where we hit the ground running. Many new faces have and will continue to join us. The Burnaby School District has hired approximately 350 new teachers since June of 2017. With close to 250 teaching vacancies currently existing throughout the province, recruitment and retention strategies are of importance.

As we prepare for this upcoming round of bargaining we will keep our eyes on what matters; our students. To do well by our students we must do well for ourselves. We will seek improvements for our working and learning conditions.

Please take the time to welcome and greet each other. Visit your staffroom, exit your comfort zones and seek new collegial connections. Our union is and will be as strong as we collectively work to make it.

Bargaining

As many of you are aware, provincial and local bargaining are set to begin in early 2019. Last spring, the BTA General Meeting adopted BTA Provincial and Local Bargaining Objectives. These objectives will be available through your staff reps. The BCTF bargaining conference takes place in October of 2018 and Burnaby will be sending delegates who will be elected through the BTA bargaining committee. At this conference, provincial bargaining objectives will be ratified. The BCTF has indicated that the goal is to reach a deal by June 30th, 2019.

2018 - 2019 Executive Members

President - Leanne Sjodin

Past President - Frank Bonvino

1st Vice-President - Daniel Tétrault

2nd Vice President - Heather Skuse

Secretary - Rae Figursky

Treasurer - Patti Jukes

Elem. Rep - Renee Kerluke

Sec. Rep - Richard Storch

Elem. Member-at-Large - Jen Heighton

Sec. Member-at-Large - Katie Marsh

Local Reps to the BCTF - Derek Cockram, Donna Morgan & Shanee Prasad

Rep to the Labour Council - Vacant

Ab. Ed. Chair - Mary Hotomanie

Adult Ed. Chair - Terry Callender

Bargaining/WLC Chair - Kevin Potvin

Health & Safety Chair - Cora Kinoshita

PA/PR Chair - Derek Cockram

Pro-D Chair - Christina Fernandes

Social Justice Chair - James Sanyshyn

TOC Chair - Rachel-Lynn Baird

District TOC's

The Burnaby School District and the Burnaby Teachers' Association have renewed the District TOC agreement. With this agreement, the District will once again allocate 25 FTE for District TOC positions. These positions will first be offered to new hires with less than 1.0 FTE or whose position ends before June 30th 2019. The FTE from these positions will be used to make these individuals whole. These individuals shall be offered continuing contracts provided they began part of their assignment prior to October 1st. It is understood these individuals will be available to TTOC on any day or time they are not in their school based position. These individuals will receive all benefits available to a teacher in a 1.0 position.

The remaining FTE will be used to create District TOC positions. These positions will be 1.0 positions and the TOCs in these positions will also receive all benefits available to a teacher in a 1.0 contract position. These positions will be posted as secondary and elementary positions with priority given to specific qualifications and criteria (eg. Primary, FRIM, Tech Ed, etc.). These positions will be considered in the same manner as other temporary assignments for the purposes of time accrued towards conversion to a continuing contract.

This agreement will expire again in June 2019.

Mentorship

In August the rejuvenated Joint Mentorship program group kicked off the year with an informative day at Burnaby Central and then on to an overnight retreat at Loon Lake Lodge in Maple Ridge. Approximately 70 teachers are participating in the mentorship program this year and there continues to be opportunities to participate. The program has changed or morphed since its inception several years ago and this year we are building mentor mentee groups using a cohort style with the goals of creating long lasting collaborative relationships amongst our teaching professionals.



Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP)

The Burnaby School District now has a new EFAP provider – Life Works. Members are able to access this jointly funded benefit for a variety of needs. These include but are not limited to personal, family and financial counselling and legal advice as well as a variety of other wellness or professional issues. Should you encounter any problems or concerns with the new carrier please contact the BTA office to provide confidential feedback.

FSAs

At the BTA Office we are aware FSAs are fast approaching. Information and letters to parents will be shared with schools as soon as we have it.

BTA Facebook Page

If you are a FACEBOOK user you might be interested to know that the BTA hosts a Peer to Peer, closed group BTA FACEBOOK page. If you request to be added, BTA FB hosts will secure that you are a member or a special guest of the BTA and then will add you to the group. When participating on the FACEBOOK page please keep note of a few things: 1) While it is a closed group, it is not a secure private media. 2) It is not the intention of the BTA to use this page for members to ask direct questions to the elected executive of the BTA. While table officers or exec members may sometimes respond to questions or comments in the group we cannot keep our eyes to it 24/7. If you have a question that requires a swift response it is best to contact the BTA office, your staff rep, or a table officer directly. 3) It is intended that members of the page engage in conversation and dialogue on any matters of interest. If incorrect information is being disseminated and is noted by an exec member, we will work to correct it. 4) PLEASE consider that anything you write in this closed group might be viewed by your employer. Infidelity to the employer can trigger discipline. Please refrain from overt criticism that might better be addressed through direct, ethical communication and or strategic social/political action.

Website

The BTA has launched it's new website (www.burnabyteachers.com)! The website will be updated regularly with information of calendar meetings and events. Here you can also find important documents and forms.

T.O. Thursdays

As we begin our new school year the table-officers are preparing for school visits. We understand that for teachers, life is one of constant juggling and with all the tasks that one might have on their "To Do" list it can sometimes be difficult to find time to locate a staff rep or call the BTA office. It is our plan to visit a school site every Thursday during lunch for as long through the school year as our workload permits. For this bargaining year these visits will be more formal than in the past year. Stay tuned to when your school is being visited through reports made to your school staff rep, noted on the BTA website, or on the BTA peer to peer Facebook page. You can also call the office to inquire. Please note that as members of the BTA you can invite a table officer to visit your staff at any time.

Municipal Elections

Municipal elections are taking place October 20th. In Burnaby, one Mayor, eight Councilors and seven School Trustees will be elected for a four year term. In the past, the BTA has been heavily involved in the process through educating our members and endorsing school trustees. Once again, the BTA will be surveying candidates and bringing recommendations and endorsements to the September BTA Representative Assembly. If you would like to get involved with the BTA with the upcoming election, contact our PA/PR chair Derek Cockram at dcockram@hotmail.com or the BTA office.

Kinder Morgan Pipeline

It may be of interest to note that the previously run BTA Ad hoc Pipeline Committee had submitted participation with the National Energy Board inquiry. The committee withdrew its participation when we learned that the downstream and environmental impacts were not being meaningfully addressed. A recent ruling of the Supreme Court found that meaningful consultation did not take place. The Federal Court's acknowledgement of what constitutes meaningful two-way dialogue is a welcomed ruling. We wish to congratulate and acknowledge the Tsleil-Waututh Nation for this important court win!

We would also like to note our appreciation to Susan Lambert, former president of the BCTF and the many others who have been actively speaking out against Kinder Morgan and for the future of our children.

For future campaigns and action check out: <https://riseforclimate.org/>

Get Involved!

Does your school have a Staff Representative? Each school site is allotted one Staff rep for every twenty (20) members. Staff reps are selected by the staff through an agreed upon democratic process. Often there are just enough interested people to hold the positions, but on occasion staff will hold an election. BTA table officers are available to visit your site and assist in your process of ensuring that you have at least one staff rep for this bargaining year. These representatives are supported by the BTA Executive, and through monthly Representative Assemblies (the RAs). Any member can attend and RA, but only the elected or appointed staff reps can hold a vote. It is okay to have an Alternate Staff Representative to share meeting attendance. Staff reps provide a firm base for providing resource that is useful in strengthening our collective capacity. Dinner is provided at the RAs and child care is available upon request.

Committee Vacancies

Executive Committee:

Representative to the Labour Council (Term to end June 30, 2019)

Adult Educators' Committee:

1 LINC Position (Term to end June 30, 2020)

1 Foundations Position (Term to end June 30, 2020)

Health & Safety Committee:

1 Elementary Position (Term to end June 30, 2020)

Political Action/Public Relations Committee:

1 Position Any Area (Term to end June 30, 2020)

Professional Development Committee:

1 Elementary Position (Term to end June 30, 2020)

1 Secondary Position (Term to end June 30, 2020)

Social Justice Committee:

1 Position Any Area (Term to end June 30, 2019)

1 Position Any Area (Term to end June 30, 2020)

Teachers On Call Committee:

1 Position Any Area (Term to end June 30, 2020)

Events and Announcements

Tuesday, September 18th:

Detached Duty application deadline for the October PSA Day are due at Burnaby Mountain at 4:00 pm.

Wednesday, October 3rd & Thursday, October 4th:

Pro-D Contacts Training 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Burnaby Mountain Secondary - Multi-purpose Room

Thursday, October 4th:

Meet and Greet for New Hires 3:30 - 6:00 pm

Steamworks Brewery & Taproom 3845 William Street, Burnaby

Wednesday, October 10th & Thursday October 11th:

Staff Rep Training 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Burnaby Mountain Secondary - Multi-purpose Room