

Newsletter of the Delta Teachers' Association



TODAY

President's Column

Date: May 2, 2013

Issue: #6

Delta School District 2013/2014 Budget

In front of a packed Board Room last Tuesday evening, Delta Board of Education Trustees passed an operating budget which included \$1.9 million in across-the-board cuts to District Education and Support Services and Staffing. In response to vociferous input from members of the public, including teachers who lobbied the board in support of their own programs in some instances, the District carried through with cuts to student busing, and District Cafeteria programs, although cuts to the so-called Culinary Arts subsidy were significantly reduced – a direct result of teachers' action and involvement.

Learning Improvement (LIF) funding

On May 15th, The DTA has agreed to a meeting with Senior District Staff to participate in the consultation required as part of the 2nd Annual Learning Improvement Fund (LIF) Allocation. As was the case last year, this year's LIF allocation is far, far less than what would be required to ameliorate the cumulative effects of staffing and specialist service reductions over the past decade. Nevertheless, the DTA will be advocating that Delta's entire 2013/14 LIF allocation be dedicated to teacher staffing – the shortest and best road to improving the twin challenges of excessively large, and unreasonably composed classes.

Standardized Provincial Extended Health Benefits Plan

The DTA is continuing to respond to the concerns of teachers who have been experiencing claims difficulties with Pacific Blue Cross, which is the District's new dental plan provider, as well as those experiencing difficulties with the Provincial Standardized Benefits provider. DTA members are reminded that dental coverage provided by Pacific Blue Cross should be *exactly the same* as the coverage previously provided by the former carrier, Manulife. Teachers who have been denied coverage, or asked to provide additional payments for various treatments by their dentists, should contact PBC directly. If they are unsuccessful in resolving matters there, both the DTA and the District are willing to look into matters on teachers' behalf.

Teachers experiencing difficulties with the new Provincial Standardized Extended Health Benefits Plan, should also take up their concerns directly with Pacific Blue Cross, but the DTA will continue to advocate on behalf of teachers, and will refer unresolved issues to the BCTF, as necessary.

2013 Staffing

The Spring Staffing Process will pick up pace during the months of May and June. Teachers have already been advised by the employer of several significant dates, as follows: April 30th is the

date successful candidates for Ed. Leave will be announced, with May 1st being the suggested date for submission of Job-share applications from continuing teachers. This the 12- Month Pay Plan application is posted for teachers wanting to opt-in or out on this day. May 2nd will be the day some teachers will receive Notice of Layoff.



From May 13th to 17th, the school-based staffing gets underway. School Staff Reps. Should schedule meetings with their school/work-site administrators to plan and discuss the Article E.27 POSITIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS including the annual "Collegial Process", for determining the staffing needs of the school and individual assignments for the subsequent year.

DTA members are encouraged to contact the the DTA with any and all questions/concerns about staffing. It is always preferable to seek and receive advice prior to making a decision; it's easier to avoid making an error than it is to rectify the situation after the fact.

Delta School District Administrative and Senior District Staff Remuneration

Last week, the DTA received copies of spread-sheets listing containing information compiled from the annual Statement of Financial Information, (SOFI). On the basis of the information received, the DTA requested a meeting with Senior District Staff last week. During the course of an hour and a half conversation at the School Board Offices, I listened to responses to our questions concerning an apparent rise in Senior District Staff salaries and those of Vice Principals and Principals between 2010 and 2012. While it remains our understanding that no District Administrative staff received a percentage salary increase between 2010 and 2012, the SOFI numbers nevertheless show an average rise of 5%, during a period of time when teaching staff received no increase apart from those gained by annual experience increments or the payment of Allowances for those working in Positions of Special Responsibility.

The DTA will be continuing to follow up with the Board with further questions arising from these apparent increases in Senior District and School Administrators' remuneration.

Teachers have not seen any increase to their salaries since 2010, and the value of money has diminished roughly 6%* during the same period of time.

* Bank of Canada Inflation Calculator: <http://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/related/inflation-calculator/>

2013 - 2014 DTA Executive Committee Elected April 30, 2013

President	Paul Steer
1st VP/Bargaining Chair	Arabella Bowman
2nd VP/Grievance Support	Simon Isbister
Treasurer	Matthew McKay
Executive Secretary	Kathleen MacFarlane
Local Reps: 1 year	Toby Mundy
2 year	Karen Symonds
2 year	Trevor Spilchen
Alternate Rep	Simon Isbister
Members at Large	Annie Coblin
	Janice Falk
	Elen Nikas
	Kim D'Souza
TTOC Rep	
Adult Ed, Itinerant and Non-Enrolling Teachers Rep	Peter Yang
<u>Committee Chairs:</u>	
Professional Development	Fiona Higgs
Public Education Advocacy	Nicole Jarvis
Health & Safety	Greg Stafford
Social Justice	Trevor Spilchen

"TAD" Boyes Scholarship



Applicants must be the son or daughter of a Delta teacher and graduating from a public school in BC. The scholarship is \$800.00 and the criteria is based on academic excellence.

Application forms for the "Tad" Boyes Scholarship are available from the DTA office or can be printed from the DTA website at www.deltateachers.org, under Forms.

Deadline is June 28, 2013

Thinking of Retiring? Planning a Leave of Absence?

Once you have made your decision, please inform Human Resources at the School Board and submit your paper work ASAP. This will be helpful for next year's staffing needs.

Teaching is not a lost art, but the regard for it is a lost tradition. ~ Jacques Barzun

EI Workshop

The DTA TTOC Committee is sponsoring this BCTF facilitated workshop which is open to all teachers.

Thursday, May 23, 2013

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Delta Manor Education Centre

This seminar will help in understanding the steps to follow in applying for, and obtaining, EI Benefits.

Please register with Debbie at the DTA by **May 8th** debbie@deltateachers.org or 604-946-0391

Refreshments will be available.

DTA Retirement Reception

Monday, June 10, 2013

4:00 - 5:15 pm

Delta Town & Country Inn

All district employees are invited to attend this reception to honour our retiring colleagues.

A dinner for retirees, their guests and all DTA committee members will follow.



PD Reminders

Have attended a course, workshop, or completed a course and have not received your reimbursement?

Please make sure you submit your receipts to the DTA office **after** you have attended your workshop or conference. If you have completed a credit course you need to submit your grade and proof of payment. A cheque will be issued to you once we have received the required documents. The deadline for submitting receipts is **June 21** if you wish to receive a cheque before the school year end.

Are you planning on attending a course, conference, or workshop during the summer or the first week of September?

If you are, you need to submit your application to the DTA office by **June 14** for workshops and conferences, and by **June 28** for credit courses.