

Newsletter of the Delta Teachers' Association



TODAY

President's Column ~ Susan Yao

Date: April 8, 2021

Issue : #5



Welcome back after a now distantly remembered Spring Break and the recent long weekend! Spring is upon us bringing an impulse for change and growth.

The Delta Teachers' Association looks forward to its Annual General Meeting on May 11 via a virtual platform (to be announced). The BCTF is offering support and we'll be sharing with members—when we know—details of how the meeting will be offered. Along with the usual business of electing new executive members, committee chairs and committee members, approving the DTA budget and receiving committee reports, **there are several proposed constitution changes**. So, we're asking members to consider these and prepare to vote on May 11 via the virtual platform (details to be confirmed).

The DTA's yearly AGM is when changes to the Constitution and Bylaws are possible. Some years no changes seem necessary. This year, however, there are things that need change. One is the need to create safe and welcoming spaces for people who identify as Black, Indigenous and/or People of Colour. To support and show solidarity with BI-POC members, the DTA proposes a bylaw amendment to add a Member-at-Large position on the EC for a BIPOC member. The DTA supports all DTA members who want to share their energies, commitment, experience and expertise on behalf of colleagues and we want to affirm this support by adding this position.

There are other constitutional changes proposed, including changes to how we accomplish some banking tasks and a "housekeeping" change involving re-numbering of the bylaws. The DTA has to publicise proposed changes to members in advance of the AGM and so please consider this your due notice! Look for a memo next week listing the proposed changes. I invite you to engage colleagues in respectful discussions in advance of the May AGM.

This year the BCTF Annual General Meeting was attended by fifteen of Delta's teachers on behalf of their DTA colleagues. The meeting was a four-day event smack-dab in the middle of Spring Break. I would like to thank all of those DTA members who gave up a big part of their break to attend and to participate in the debate.

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DTA Virtual Annual General Meeting Tuesday, May 11, 2021

ELECTIONS

Executive Committee

President/Local Representative
1st Vice-President/Bargaining Chair
2nd Vice-President
Treasurer
Executive Secretary
Members-at-Large (3)
BCTF Local Representatives (1 for 2 years)
Alternate Local Representative
Aboriginal Education Chair
Adult Ed, Itinerant, Non-Enrolling Teachers Rep
French as First or Working Language Rep
Health & Safety Chair
Local Election Contact
Professional Development Chair
Public Education Advocacy Chair
Social Justice Chair
Teacher on Call Rep

Committee Members

Aboriginal Education Committee
Bargaining Committee
French as First or working Language
Health and Safety Committee
Professional Development Committee
Public Education Advocacy Committee
Social Justice Committee
Teacher on Call Advisory Committee

Please contact Debbie (debbie@deltateachers.org or 604-946-0391) at the DTA office if you are interested in running for an executive or committee position.

As it was a virtual meeting using the LUMI platform, it was tricky to navigate because it was not really possible to read body language or be able to ask for support from people sitting around as we would be able to do in a non-virtual setting. The DTA had a WhatsApp chat group for the 15 delegates to share thoughts (and photos of their busy-work) while listening, and that was a great way to ask for and receive support when the business of the meeting was confusing or difficult.

It was NOT an easy experience and I certainly came away from the meeting feeling exhausted and somewhat disenfranchised with the process. If the BCTF is to consider using virtual platforms in future years, there will need to be additional supportive measures to allow delegates to feel heard and to address issues in a more timely and satisfactory way. A great deal of time was used up with various amendments to the agenda—delegates' strategic attempts to prioritize certain resolutions. This frustrated the efforts to actually work on the recommendations and resolutions. Some of these will go forward to the Rep Assembly slated for later this spring and some will have to be re-visited next year.

See the list of new and returning BCTF Executive members in this newsletter. Among many things that passed at the AGM, the fee remains unchanged at 1.69%, there are changes to regulations for the Salary Indemnity Plan, and after many amendments to the agenda and a last minute save from Delta, a local resolution passed that the BCTF apply to the Labour Relations Board for a mandate: once a local reaches a certain number of covid infections, the local would switch to remote learning.

How about some crystal-ball gazing into the future? Now that we're all waiting our turn in the vaccination queue, it's my sincere hope that we'll be able to meet "in the reals" sometime soon. But for the foreseeable future, pandemic restrictions continue. As a result, the DTA won't be hosting a retirement social and dinner this year, sadly. We'll find another way to honour our colleagues who have chosen to start the next chapter of their lives. The future depends on so many things, especially you. Take the time to respond to the DTA's bargaining survey which opened this week and closes April 19. Call us or email if you have questions!

Yours in Solidarity,



In Memoriam

Peter Liedtke passed away on February 21, 2021.

2021 -2022 BCTF Executive Committee

President: Teri Mooring (Quesnel)
1st Vice-President: Clint Johnston (Chilliwack)
2nd Vice-President: Carole Gordon (Central Okanagan)

Members at Large:

- Peggy Janicki - Aboriginal (Mission)
- Benula Bunjun - Racialized (Sooke)
- Violette Baillargeon (Surrey)
- Rae Figursky (Burnaby)
- Mariah Franzmann (Prince George)
- Jody Polukoshko (VESTA)
- Robin Tosczak (Victoria)
- Katherine Trepanier (Prince George)
- Matt Westphal (Surrey)

"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 \$1,000.00 and the criteria is based on academic excellence.

Application forms for the "Tad" Boyes Scholarship are available from the DTA office or can be downloaded from the DTA website at www.deltateachers.org under Forms. **Deadline is June 30, 2021**

Retirement Workshop Webinar ***Making Sense of Your Pension, CPP, OAS and Group Benefits***

The important decisions that will determine your retirement lifestyle should not be made at the last minute. This seminar will prepare you to confidently make choices that are right for you.

Please pre-register at <https://bcrt.ca/workshop>

The agenda includes:

Teachers' Pension Plan, Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, and voluntary group benefits. Information about choosing your group benefits (dental, extended health and travel). We show some of the differences between the plans and help equip you to select the plan that best suits your needs.

Upcoming Sessions....

- April 21, 2021: 7:00 to 8:30 pm
- May 12, 2021: 4:00 to 5:30 pm
- May 26, 2021: 7:00 to 8:30 pm
- June 2, 2021: 4:00 to 4:30 pm