

Newsletter of the Delta Teachers' Association



TODAY

President's Column ~ Susan Yao

Date: May 18, 2021

Issue : #6



It is with great pleasure and relief that I share with you that the DTA had its AGM last week—virtually via GoToMeetings and using the Simply Voting platform! We had amazing support from the BCTF: Miguel Gomez to get things set up, Sandy Biggerstaff earlier in the process and amazing Mike Barnes who helped the DTA navigate the waters of virtual voting on the actual night.

And shout out to BCTF President Teri Mooring for sharing her perspectives as our guest speaker and taking so many questions from DTA members. Last week's DTA Annual General Meeting was the LONGEST in living memory! Clocking in at an impressive 4 hours and 15 minutes it was replete with run-off votes, drop-down elections, constitutional questions galore and more!

Many thanks to the amazing team here at the DTA office who helped put the meeting together and allowed it to run as smoothly as possible under the circumstances: 1st VP Alison Roche, 2nd VP Kathy Macfarlane and the DTA office staff (Marilyn, Debbie, Jane and Brianna). Special thanks to secondary teacher Toby Mundy (Seaquam) who accepted the challenge to serve as Nominating Chairperson through a grueling (long and tricky) set of elections.

We really appreciate the help we received from all. It was an exciting event and notably the BIGGEST turnout we have ever seen at a Delta AGM. WE HAD QUORUM!!!! So great to have so many show up to participate and be part of the process. We know it's hard to come to yet another meeting but this is the one necessary to elect representatives, pass budget and fee motions, make constitutional changes and to receive reports from the table officers and EC members. The DTA is pleased to have passed a budget that allows for both the work of advocacy to continue and also offered no increase to the fee for the upcoming school year.

Please note: the DTA fee is a flat fee that DOES NOT automatically rise as a percentage fee would when members receive a pay increase. As costs rise, the DTA fee is adjusted from time to time to be able to cover the many services to members.

All EC spots were filled at the AGM except for one—the French as First or Working Language Representative.

Members have elected an EC of 18 and many committee members. The AGM also passed an important constitutional change to add a BIPOC Member at Large position on the EC. All constitutional changes take effect for the 2021-2022 school year. All in all, the AGM was a stellar night!



I am honoured to continue my work as President on behalf of DTA members. This work is about relationships, asking hard questions, advising and seeking solutions for members—some in crisis in their lives—be it health or workplace concerns. I'm happy to continue in this challenging role with the amazing team of Alison Roche, Kathy Macfarlane, the wonderful new and returning EC members and staff reps, and of course all DTA members.

Changes at the DTA!

Please be advised that our long-time employee Marilyn

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2021 - 2022 DTA Executive Committee

President/LR	Susan Yao
1st VP/Bargaining Chair	Alison Roche
2nd VP/Grievance Support	Kathleen Macfarlane
Treasurer	Stephen Platzer
Executive Secretary	Matt Huang
Local Rep: (2 year)	Kathleen Macfarlane
Alternate Rep	Stephen Platzer
Members at Large	Bryce Hamade Kelsey Leung Janice Wilson
Adult Ed, Itinerant and Non-Enrolling Teachers Rep	Antar Deol
Committee Chairs:	
Aboriginal Education	Laurine Dane
French as First or Working Language	<i>Vacant</i>
Health & Safety	Sandra Cadez
Professional Development	Jeanie McKay
Public Education Advocacy	Kevin Garvey
Social Justice	Amar Sull
TTOC	Jeff Hacker

Kelly, DTA Administrative Assistant has given her notice of retirement for this year. We wish Marilyn the very best in her retirement and we know that members have appreciated her hard work over the years with such things as PD applications, Staff Rep meetings and so much more. She has been a steady, caring part of the DTA office team and we will miss her! Marilyn has been working with two new members to the DTA office, Jane Randazzo (since November 2020) and Brianna Redwood (started mid-May 2021) in advance of her retirement. We would like to welcome our new employees and share our excitement with members to be able to bring these two new faces to the office. In order to plan for succession, Jane is also working with Debbie Omand, DTA Office Manager to learn the aspects of Debbie's role.

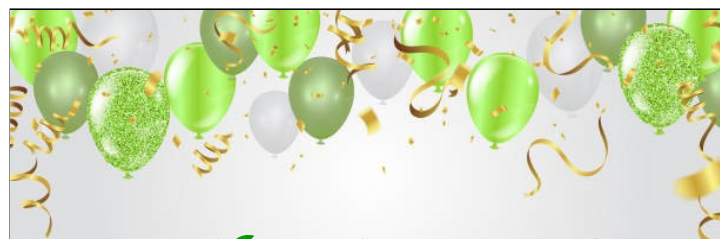
Your Calls and Messages

Thanks to everyone who calls or emails the DTA with concerns, issues, questions and the occasional message of support (we so love to hear these!). But sometimes members reach out to the released table officers through less "official" means—Facebook messenger, texts or other. The DTA maintains records for use in grievances and other and it is important that we have records of your important issue—this needs to be either our hand-written notes from meetings and phone calls or emails received. Harder to manage this if I am getting a text, Facebook comment or messenger message, tweet or similar. So please use email to our deltateachers.org addresses or phone us. We strive to maintain some necessary work-life balance and wish the same for you. And we need to keep a paper trail!

Donation News!

At the May 4th meeting of the DTA's Executive Committee a motion was approved unanimously for a donation in the amount of \$800 to the United Way's Period Promise Campaign. The Delta Teachers' Association Policy allows for donations to organizations in Delta that provide services which are consistent with the goals of the DTA/BCTF. A donation to the Period Promise Campaign fulfills the criteria of support to organizations and residents in Delta and aligns with the BCTF's priority of advancing equity and providing leadership on social issues. Donations to the Period Promise Campaign are used to support local organizations in Delta, including DeltaAssist, Mamas for Mamas and the United Way Food Hubs.

Please note: the DTA's donation policy is covered by Article 26 of the DTA's Constitution and By-laws and is an amount equal to one-half of one percent of the annual DTA budget.



Marilyn is Retiring!

After 15 years of working for the teachers in Delta, administrative assistant Marilyn Kelly is retiring.

Due to COVID-19 we will not be holding a social event in celebration but anyone who would like to send an email, card, note of congratulations or a donation towards a gift please send to Debbie (debbie@deltateachers.org) at the DTA office.

"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 printed from the DTA website at www.deltateachers.org, under Forms.

Deadline is June 30, 2021

PD Reminders

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

The deadline for submitting receipts is **June 21**. When submitting your receipts please confirm your home address as cheques will be mail.

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 21**.

Please make sure you always use the forms from the DTA website as they are the most current. Please check the PD home page for complete details.

In Memoriam

Robert Putnam passed away on May 5, 2021. He taught at Delta Secondary and retired in 2001.