

Newsletter of the Delta Teachers' Association



TODAY

President's Column ~ Susan Yao

Date: February 3, 2022

Issue: #4

Two years ago, I posed this question to the membership:

To Ratify or Not?

That was February 2020 and we were on the cusp of the COVID-19 pandemic although we didn't really know it. We had plans for Spring Break—or some of us did—and things seemed pretty “normal” for the time. Except we were hearing bits and pieces in the news about a lockdown in a place called Wuhan in China.

In a relatively short period of time, most of us had canceled travel plans, were wondering about the availability of toilet paper and masks, and had started washing our groceries when we brought them in from forays to the grocery store. Some of us even bought large quantities of yeast and flour to make—gasp!—our own bread. The BCTF AGM was put on hold and we were baking bread!

Then we started getting into the groove of the Zoom and here we are now, well-versed in best etiquette for virtual meetings, since that's what we've all been doing. This year we had hopes rise with the advent of various vaccines and now, while most of us are boosted or waiting for our email about when we can book our third vaccination, the Zooming continues.

Unfortunately, this includes the upcoming BCTF AGM scheduled for March but in virtual form. Thanks so much to seven intrepid DTA members who put their names forward to attend as delegates in March along with Delta's three Local Representatives (Susan Yao, Kathleen Macfarlane and Sandra Cadez). The AGM will be virtual but we'll carry on our new tradition of a WhatsApp chat group to discuss and share information with Delta delegates throughout the AGM. Each local across the province sends delegates to vote on members' behalf. Delegates will debate and vote on motions, creating policies and procedures followed by the BCTF, setting fees for the upcoming school year and electing the new Executive

Committee to lead the BCTF for the next year, including a new BCTF President.



Back the question “to ratify or not”, it's almost two years since we ratified our previous local agreement and that of the provincial collective agreement. This round, things are playing out differently and local teachers' associations in BC are doing local bargaining ahead of the work of the provincial bargaining committee. This is new for everyone.

The DTA booked half a dozen bargaining dates with the District and then the unthinkable happened: we concluded all items in a single day in December. This is partly because of a concept called the “split of issues” which restricts what we can bargain locally, leaving the bulk of items for provincial bargaining. Usually that means anything with costs attached.

But suffice to say, we made some gains and DTA 1st VP and Bargaining Chair, Alison Roche, presented new language for the membership's consideration at the General Meeting on February 1st. Later in February, DTA members will review this language with their staff reps and will **access a voting link (TBD, likely between February 14—28)** to ratify. Please attend this meeting to present the new language when your staff rep schedules it.

Last week the DTA welcomed a donation of over 2000 N95 masks from the BCTF via private donation. Shout out to the BCTF for bringing these to BC teachers and to Vitacore Industries, a medical manufacturer in the Lower Mainland, for gifting these to BC's public school teachers.

The DTA's distribution of N95s to all members is credited to the hardworking DTA office staff (in particular, Debbie Omand, DTA Office Manager). Thanks, in advance, to Staff Reps for the work at their end to make sure these are distributed to DTA members. CUPE members have access to N95s from the Delta School District as needed, as well as DTA

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members who work with medically fragile students or similar.

We know some DTA members have questions about the District's vaccine mandate and we encourage members to contact the DTA with specific concerns. The DTA wants to ensure members have advice and support for their particular concerns rather than have members send chastising emails to the District or Trustees and put themselves at risk of discipline or insubordination. Please contact the DTA; let us advocate for you. It's our job and protects you.

These are not easy times: we're all seeing effects of a system chronically underfunded and stretched. The one thing we can control is choosing to take care of our own health and asking for help.

The work we all do is about relationship and why I continue to show up for the important work of unionism. I believe in the work of helping and know we are stronger together.



2022 BCTF AGM DELEGATES

Mike Bylsma	Burnsview
Trish McCullough	Annieville
Louise O'Brien	Neilson Grove
Luke Pasin	South Park
Tarun Porter	DOC
Alison Roche	DTA
Jovina Sorbetti	Burnsview

Local Representatives:

Susan Yao	DTA
Sandra Cadez	Hawthorne
Kathleen Macfarlane	NDSS

PAID EDUCATIONAL LEAVE

Teachers interested in making application for Paid Education Leave (60%) for the 2021-2022 school year must submit an application to the Human Resources Division by **FEBRUARY 28, 2022**. The application form will be sent out by Judy Maranda, HR Director, and will be posted on Info Teams.

One of the main criteria for this leave is that the candidate shall have been employed continuously by the Board for five (5) years prior to being granted Educational Leave.

Please review Article G.29 of the current Collective Agreement to ensure eligibility.

VACCINE STATUS

As per the District's expectation, don't forget to upload your vaccine status information to the District by March 1.



New Teachers' Conference 2022 - Creating Connections

NTC 2022 is a place to connect with teachers across British Columbia and further your own teaching practice. This conference is designed for those in their first five years of teaching, student teachers, TTOCs, and those who are coming back to teaching after moving or being away from the classroom.

Saturday, May 14th, 2022 (Online)

Learn more and get notified when registration opens
<https://mailchi.mp/bctf/newteachersconference>



February 23 - Pink Shirt Day

April 13 - International Day of Pink