

Newsletter of the Delta Teachers' Association

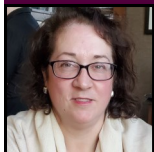


TODAY

President's Column ~ Susan Yao

Date: April 13, 2023

Issue : #5



Spring break is long gone but I wanted to thank the 14 DTA members who gave up 4 days of their break to attend the BCTF Annual General Meeting. Please see the list of new and returning BCTF Executive Committee members and Full Time Table Officers. This was the first in-person BCTF AGM since 2019! Needless to say, everyone was pretty excited to get together. The DTA delegation was lively and thoughtful in debating the issues. (We also received a couple of reminders to quiet down, which speaks to how lively we were!!)

Passed this year was the fee for members which for next year will be 1.69%, unchanged from this year's fee. Note that the BCTF fee for the following year is always set at the BCTF AGM. There were several attempts to lower that fee, but the meeting decided to maintain the fee to allow for enhancing the Collective Bargaining Defence Fund and the Public Education Defence Fund. There were also attempts to raise the fees for Teachers Teaching On Call to 1.69% but this was defeated and TTOCs fees are set at 1.59% for the upcoming school year.

An important change to the makeup of the BCTF Executive Committee for the upcoming year is the addition of a Member-at-Large position designated for a 2SLGBTQ+ member. Here is the new language in the Standing Rules of order to address this change:

That Annual General Meeting Standing Rule 13.3 be amended as follows:

That the election be conducted in the following order:

- a. President
- b. First Vice-President
- c. Second Vice-President
- d. Member-at-Large designated for an Aboriginal member
- e. Member-at-Large designated for a member of colour
- f. Member-at-Large designated for a 2SLGBTQ+ member
- g. Members-at-Large.

THE DTA BCTF AGM DELEGATES



Toby Mundy, Susan Yao, Alison Roche, Alina Ismaguilova, Tanja Cvekic, Jeff Hacker, Kathy Macfarlane, Trish McCullough, Elen Nikas, Wendy Yamazaki, Mike Bylsma, Mahima Lamba, Jessica Van Ryk, Louise O'Brien

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DTA Annual General Meeting
Seaquam Secondary Library
4:00pm - Tuesday, May 16, 2023

DTA ELECTIONS

Executive Committee

President/Local Representative
1st Vice-President/Bargaining Chair
2nd Vice-President
Treasurer
Executive Secretary
Members-at-Large (2)
Members-at-Large - BIPOC (1)
BCTF Local Representatives (1 for 1 year)
Alternate Local Representative

Chairpersons

Aboriginal Education
Adult Ed, Itinerant, Non-Enrolling Teachers
French as First or Working Language
Health & Safety
Professional Development
Political Action
Social Justice
Teacher Teaching on Call

Committee Members

Aboriginal Education Committee
Bargaining Committee
French as First or Working Language
Health and Safety Committee
Professional Development Committee
Political Action Committee
Social Justice Committee
Teacher Teaching on Call Advisory Committee

Please contact Jane (jane@deltateachers.org) at the DTA office if you are interested in running for an Executive, Chairperson or Committee position.



District Budget Process

The DTA met with the District prior to Spring Break to hear projections for next year's budget which will be voted on by the Board of Trustees later in April. The DTA gave a submission to the April 4th School Board meeting with suggestions to the Trustees for them to consider carefully their decisions regarding the upcoming budget. The impacts of the past few years of the pandemic coupled with chronic underfunding of BC's public education means the decisions of the Board will impact the future for teachers, students, and the community.

One foundational support in Delta right now is the District's Peer Support Program, now in its second year. Teachers from elementary to secondary have been supported by the powerful teamwork of the two District Peer Support Coordinators, Dana MacDonald and Fiona Fraser. The DTA has seen how this team has been so caring and responsive, supporting the needs of educators who have taken on new teaching assignments or who have had other needs in the vital work they do.

The DTA has seen the wisdom of creating this two-person team to support the larger team of educators in Delta. The DTA's message to trustees included a plug for the Peer Support Program to continue in its current format with two Delta teachers providing support. Additionally, the DTA urged those budgetary decisions favour keeping more of the team—such as the dedicated education assistants, the child and youth care workers and the so many others who help to build that supportive scaffolding for the students in Delta—in place for next year. The Board will share the proposed budget and then the public will have opportunity to respond at the April 18th (next Tuesday) School Board Meeting. The DTA will be there with a response. How about you?

As the District has now publicly announced its draft budget, one of the savings the District is proposing is a change in Library unallocated flexible time to provide for prep time for teachers. In other words, that additional ten minutes that elementary teachers are getting for prep time is largely going to be provided by teacher librarians. The DTA contends that this is an erosion of the valuable services provided by teacher librarians and find this change unacceptable. We will be discussing this proposed change with our union colleagues from the BCTF at our upcoming BCTF Metro Fraser Valley Zone Meeting this weekend.

Thinking of Retiring?

Retirement

NEXT EXIT ➔

Excuse the impertinence of the question but did you know that letting the Delta School District know early helps determine the lay off line? There's no advantage to you letting the

District know at the end of June or in July or August. If you wait until the end of June or later to let the District (and the Teachers Pension Plan) know, you lose out on a pension payment for July and/or August. You need to give a minimum of 30 days notice to the District.

A question the DTA receives a lot: *Where is the form for telling the district about retirement?* In fact, there is no such form. You just need to send a letter or an email to Shannon Hunt (shunt@deltaschools.ca) letting her know your plan.



DTA Retiring Teachers Social

June 19th 4 - 6 pm

The DTA was thrilled to host an in-person DTA Retirement Social and Dinner last June. This year's social is set for Monday, June 19th (4 pm—6 pm) and is open to all District employees and will be held at the lovely Tsawwassen Springs Golf Course with appetizers and a no-host bar (although retirees and their guest receive a complimentary beverage of their choice!).

This wonderful event honours retirees and is an opportunity to mix and mingle with Delta colleagues. The social is followed at 6pm by a dinner for the 2022-2023 Retirees (and their guests) and is an invitation-only event with the DTA Executive and other special guests. I am looking forward to seeing the many happy faces at that event so please **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**. If you are retiring, let us celebrate you!

HAPPY RETIREMENT

2023-2024 BCTF Executive Committee

President: Clint Johnston (Chilliwack)
1st Vice-President: Carole Gordon (Central Okanagan)
2nd Vice-President: Robin Toscak (Victoria)

Members at Large:

- Rick Joe - Aboriginal (Chilliwack)
- Benula Bunjun - Racialized (Sooke)
- Marilyn Ricketts-Lindsay (Surrey)
- Jelana Bighorn (VSTA)
- Mariah Franzmann (Prince George)
- Lisa LaBoucane (Vernon)
- Rick Kumar (Surrey)
- Katherine Trepanier (Prince George)
- Winona Waldron (Greater Victoria)

"Tad" Boyes Scholarship



Class of
2023

Applicants must be the child of a Delta teacher graduating from a public school in BC. The scholarship is awarded based on academic excellence. The amount to be confirmed at the DTA AGM, May 16th.

Application forms can be downloaded from the DTA website at www.deltateachers.org under Resources/Forms. **Deadline is June 30, 2023**

Next BCRTA Workshop

<https://bcrt.ca/workshop/>

April 19th - 7 PM
 May 24th - 7 PM
 May 31st - 4 PM



RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS

Presented by the
BC Retired Teachers' Association