

KTTA News - December 16, 2016

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Next General Meeting - Tuesday, January 17, 2017 (Tentatively at 4:30 PM at NorKam Secondary Library)

Draft documents will be at www.ktta.ca in topics under General Meeting

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We wish you all a wonderful, restful and well-deserved holiday. Thank you for all the work you do and the sacrifices you make on a daily basis for your students. It is a testament to your resilience and the reason the public education system continues to be strong.

Take time over the next two weeks to rest and look after your health and well-being.

From the KTTA Office

A. Class Size / Composition Grievance

The KTTA had the first meeting with the district today to discuss the Step 3 grievance filed on your behalf regarding class size, composition, and staffing ratio breaches based on the 1998-2001 language (see language attached to the email). The district has received the information though is raising concerns about being able to address the breaches as early as January. The KTTA pressed that positions need to be posted in January to alleviate class size and composition concerns. There was agreement that the mechanics and full timelines of all of this will be worked out by the provincial parties.

We ask members to continue putting pressure on school administration about alleviating class size and composition issues in the school as that message is reaching the Board office and is putting pressure on them.

We are continuing to work on the secondary class size/composition portion of this grievance but have provided the known breaches in elementary schools and for specialist teacher ratios (based on surveys). Please continue to provide this information through the survey (links noted in **C. KTTA Survey**)

Elementary Breaches:

The KTTA has noted in excess of 210 breaches of class sizes and composition for

elementary. The district will be providing us with all the information they have for 425 elementary teachers.

The nature of the breaches in elementary are:

- 1) *K or K/Primary Class Size*: class sizes that exceed 20 in Kindergarten or K/Primary classes
- 2) *Primary Class*: class sizes that exceed 22 in Primary classes
- 3) *Intermediate Single Grade*: class sizes that exceed 29
- 4) *Intermediate Split Grades*: class sizes that exceed 27
- 5) *Class Composition*: any class with a student with designation are in breach of integration language as there was no plan prior to integration.
- 6) *Class Composition*: any class with more than three (3) designated students (high or low incidence)
- 7) *Class Size / Composition*: reduction of maximum based on number of low incidence students

B. Class Size / Composition Implementation Meetings

Kamloops Thompson language attached and at www.ktta.ca (link at top of the page)

The BCTF has been negotiating with government on the implementation of the class size/composition language since late November. Some new developments to report are:

- 1) Superintendents had conference calls with BCPSEA and government yesterday;
- 2) The parties agreed to send a series of questions related to local process language;
- 3) There is a meeting today and then meetings will resume in early January.

The BCTF is pressing to have positions posted in January to alleviate the class size and composition concerns in members' classrooms.

The BCTF has also provided an overview of the Court Decision and discussions with government for members on **YouTube** at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQ5k4NwHopQ>.

C. KTTA Survey on Class Size/Composition

If you have not already sent a survey regarding your class size and composition, please complete the survey that corresponds to your situation(s) through the links below.

If the link doesn't work, please cut and paste the link into the URL bar in a new browser screen.

ELEMENTARY:

Please complete **ONE (1)** survey for your class. If you have more than one class, please complete a SEPARATE survey for the other class.

<https://goo.gl/forms/ieTc18ALfPUIkgKy1>

SECONDARY:

Please complete a survey for **EACH** of your classes. If you have SEVEN (7) classes then please complete this survey SEVEN (7) times - one for each class.

<https://goo.gl/forms/g2UIPnnCf8ACRmpA3>

SPECIALIST TEACHERS:

Please complete **ONE (1)** of these surveys. This information will be used to determine the number of specialist teachers in the system vs. Is required under the pre-2002 collective agreement language.

<https://goo.gl/forms/l1XNzrW1veZc3N6k1>

ALTERNATIVE TO SURVEY:

If this doesn't work, email us back (president@kttta.ca) with the key information we need for each grade level or class, or FTE info if you are specialist teacher - which is:

Name, Assignment, Class Size, Composition

If you are a specialist teacher (i.e counsellor) then we need the following:

Name, Specialist Assignment, FTE, Students in School

D. Cheat Sheet / Info for Parents and Public

A "cheat sheet" is attached regarding class size numbers according to the pre-2002 collective agreement language regarding class size, composition, and specialist ratios.

Please copy one for yourself to determine if your classes so that you can have conversations with community members of parents noting what changes the Supreme Court of Canada decision will mean to their children's education.

The key points to re-iterate with the public and parents about the re-instated rights are:

- 1) This will mean smaller class sizes.
- 2) This will mean more 1:1 support for children.
- 3) This will mean school libraries are re-opened or open for longer hours.
- 4) This will mean more counsellor and special education support for children.