

KTTA News - December 5, 2016

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Winter Break Starts: December 17th (9 Working Days)

Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women - December 6th

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

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

New Salary Increase of 0.35% on May 1, 2017

Positions are Posted on SD 73 Website. Check at - <http://www3.sd73.bc.ca/careers>

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A. Class Size / Composition Implementation Meetings

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

The BCTF had their third meeting today with BCPSEA and government representatives regarding the implementation of the pre-2002 class size and composition language.

The BCTF team includes Glen Hansman (BCTF President) and Diane MacDonald (BCTF Legal Counsel) and they have reported that the first two meetings were positive.

At Wednesdays meeting (November 30th), the BCTF proposed a timeline of the implementation of the 2002 class size and composition language including:

January 4, 2017: All process and ancillary language implemented

January 16, 2017: All non-enrolling / specialist teacher job descriptions, ratios, and/or caseloads to be implemented. Acknowledgement that post and fill can take a few weeks to complete.

January 28, 2017 (or beginning of second semester): All class size and composition language, pre-2002 grievance and/or arbitration decisions pertaining to language and any other remaining language and grievance/arbitration decisions to be implemented.

March 1, 2017: Local parties to advise BCTF/BCPSEA regarding potential terminology updates (i.e.. Students with special needs instead of special needs students, etc.)

At Friday's meeting (December 2nd), the parties met for several hours and there was recognition of these key elements including that progress needs to be made this school year and sooner rather than later, and that there is value in a phased approach.

More information will be provided by BCTF Communications regarding the progress of these discussions.

B. Worksafe BC Order - Violence Prevention

A Worksafe BC Officer investigated an alleged unsafe condition at a school in the district after a worker refused unsafe work. The unsafe condition related to an incident of violence (hitting) by a student towards the worker that caused the worker injury. As a result of that inspection, the Officer issued a very detailed order to the district around its obligations to ensure that violence in the workplace are minimized or eliminated.

This includes:

1. The Employer is to conduct a risk assessment that includes consideration of previous experience in the workplace, occupational experience in similar workplaces and the location and circumstances in which the work takes place.
2. Following the recommendations of the risk assessment, establish policies, procedures or work environment arrangements to eliminate or minimize the risk of injury from violence to workers.
3. The employer is ordered to provide a response that outlines how the responsibilities of supervisors are communicated to supervisors and how the compliance with these responsibilities is monitored and assessed.

As a result of this, all employee groups (representatives for teachers and support staff) and the employer have met to review the employer's proposed actions to ensure it is in compliance with this order. This will include first a model at the site where the incident took place and then expand to all worksites.

Teachers would have or will receive a survey from the employer around their experiences with violent incidents and we encourage everyone to complete this survey. This will assist the all-party committee on what needs to occur in all schools and worksites.

C. Day of Remembrance / Action on Violence Against Women - Dec. 6th

December 6th marks the anniversary of the tragic murder of 14 young women at the l'Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal who died because they were women. Canada marks December 6th as the day to remember this tragic event and to work on actions to prevent violence against women.

There will be a Shoe Memorial held at St. Andrew's on the Square tomorrow (December 6th) from 10AM to 1PM to commemorate the lives of women who have been the victims of violence. For more information, please contact Lynn Chase 250-299-3363.

D. PD Opportunities - February 24, 2017

The following are workshops that the KTTA is aware of that are scheduled for the February 24, 2017 professional development day. As with today's PD, February will be a school based PD day and the school PD committee can consider these options as workshops that teachers at your schools may want to attend. Please make them part of the school's PD plan for that date.

Westsyde Tech Institute

Time: 8:30 AM to 3PM

Location: Westsyde Secondary (855 Bebek Road)

Lunch Included

Contact: Jeremy Reid (jreid@sd73.bc.ca)

Registration: EventBright Website (link TBA)

Teachers of Inclusive Education PSA

2017 CrossCurrents Conference

February 23-24, 2017

Location: Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel (7551 Westminster Highway, Richmond)

Registration: www.seaofbc.ca

If there are any events that members or schools would like to open to other members in the district, please contact us at office@kta.ca or 250-554-1223.

E. Grade 10-12 Curriculum Postponed

(Glen Hansman - BCTF President)

The Minister made an official announcement last week that the implementation timeline for Grades 10–12 will be extended for another year. The province has agreed to respond to the call from the BCTF and others to push back the timelines, in particular due to all of the logistical considerations with preparing course calendars for courses that may or may not exist, courses that still may change considerably during the revision process still underway, and other practical realities.

Many school districts had already been operating on the assumption that the Grades 10–12 timelines would be extended, so this announcement will be no surprise to them. The BCTF is frustrated that this announcement did not come weeks earlier, as it has been hinted for a while. However, it is good that this decision has finally been made.

F. New FSAs - BCTF Advice

(Glen Hansman - BCTF President)

After many, many months of pushing, the Minister has also confirmed that the province will not be going with the Advisory Group on Provincial Assessment's recommendation that FSA school and student data be protected from misuse by third parties. The Minister will be walking the media through the information about the "replacement FSA" that has already been posted on the Ministry's website for several days now. Instead of protecting the data from misuse, the Minister has informed the Federation that the data will be released in a way that tells the "holistic whole story." What that will mean in practice remains to be seen.

Given that this does not satisfy any of the Federation's concerns about the misuse of school or student data, or about standardized testing, we will not be in a position to be reinstating members on the development teams—and the Federation will continue its opposition to the FSAs.

The Minister did not address the protection of school and student data from the replacement provincial exams. Presumably, though, they will take a similar approach.

After many years of work on this it is extremely unfortunate that the Minister has decided to not go with the Advisory Group on Provincial Assessment's recommendations.

Members should **NOT** put forward their names for the FSA or provincial exam development teams that the Ministry has put out.

G. New Salary Increase - May, 2017

(Glen Hansman - BCTF President)

We received some good news this week on the Economic Stability Dividend. You'll be happy to hear that there will be a 0.35% wage increase on May 1, 2017. The 3.3% growth exceeded the Economic Forecast Council (EFC) forecast of 2.6%.

Under the terms of the Economic Stability Mandate, the wage increase is calculated at 50% of the positive difference between the EFC forecast and the data released by Statistics Canada. Because that difference is 0.7% our members will realize an increase of 0.35%. While not a lot, it does mean that an average teacher earning \$75,000 will receive an increase of \$262.50 in their annual salary starting in May 2017.

Salary grids will be amended to reflect this change and we will work with BCPSEA to verify the grids in the new year.