

KTTA News - January 18, 2017

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A. Curriculum Day - January 20th

Note: NorBrock Family of Schools Schedule Attached to E-Newsletter and Barriere / Clearwater Family of Schools Schedule was sent out to members of those schools. If members want to do "planning" please email school administration and advise that this is the option for the day (in place of the workshops). If this opportunity is denied, please let the KTTA office know (250-554-1223 or office@kttta.ca).

Note: After the initial 30-45 minute activity in the morning, members who are doing "planning" with their partners may work at an alternate location off site. If there are any issues related to this, please contact the KTTA office (250-554-1223) or the Table Officers (info at the top of this email).

The **following was sent out from Trish Smillie** (Director of Student Support Services) to reflect the agree to plan for the day.

January 20th Format (Information from SD73 Director Trish Smillie):

January 20th is Curriculum Implementation Day! This day has been developed to immerse teachers in the re-designed curriculum and plan for its further implementation. Teachers are asked to bring their own device and all the materials required to have a successful planning session with colleagues.

Each family group will meet at the secondary school in the family group for a morning activation event.

8:30 – 9:15 Activation event at the start of the day (30-40 minutes). All staff will attend this session.

9:30 – 10:30 Breakout Session Option A - Rethinking Assessment or **Planning (small group)**

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee

10:45 – 11:45 Breakout Session Option B - Building Capacity with Self-Assessment or **Planning (Small Group)**

11:45 – 12:45 Lunch (Provided)

12:45 – 1:00 Reconnect

1:00 – 2:45 **Planning**

After the initial activation session, teachers may choose to attend additional breakout sessions, ***or get started planning with their planning partners right away. Teachers will have the flexibility to meet with colleagues who are interested in planning around the same topic/area at an alternate location.*** All teachers will have the afternoon to work with their learning partners on their pre-selected focus.

Breakout Session Option A (9:30-10:30): Rethinking Assessment

Are you wondering how to connect learning standards to letter grades or achievement bands? Do you have questions about what learning is for practice and what counts? If yes, this workshop about building learning maps is for you. Learning maps provide a foundation for focused planning, meaningful learning, and student growth. In a collaborative, immersive experience you will explore a clear five step assessment framework to develop learning maps that you can transfer to your own practice that in a way that works for teachers and makes sense to students and parents.

Focus on Big Ideas

Determine three levels of performance

Identify key evidence

Highlight descriptions of performance on a learning map

Decide on a letter grade or achievement band

Breakout Session Option B (10:45-11:45): Building Teacher Capacity Through Student Self-Assessment

How can we deepen our understanding of core competency development?

Teachers will have an opportunity to engage in the process of self-assessment in order to have a deeper understanding which they can immediately implement in their practice. They will then be able to involve their students in the self-assessment process to help build student ownership, voice, and responsibility for the development of core competencies. Finally, they will leave with a tangible tool for self-assessment.

Calibrating criteria for core competency profiles

Develop self-assessment tool(s)

Reflect on evidence of core competency growth

B. Extended Spring Break Matter

(Petition Attached - you can ask community members and parents to sign the petition outside of school hours)

District management was requested by the School Board to engage partners to look into whether support exists or not for a continuation of the extended Spring Break.

The KTTA negotiated a three year trial with the district and then incorporated the Letter of Understanding into the Collective Agreement. However, that agreement ends this year. The KTTA surveys members and nearly 600 members responded to the survey with 94% of

members (and 75% of TTOCs) indicating support for a continuation of the extended Spring Break. The November, 2016 carried a motion to authorize the KTTA to start negotiations with the district to extend that agreement. The KTTA representatives met with Human Resources and shared a proposal that addressed some of the concerns members had about the structure of the work day.

District management took all of the input from all partner groups including teachers, support staff, school administration, and parents and all groups indicated in a large majority that they wanted the extended spring break to continue. This included 69% of parents surveyed (through Thought Exchange). A report was prepared and provided to trustees. This included a motion that the Board approve a continuation of the two week spring break.

Monday, January 16, 2017 Board Meeting

There were seven trustees at the school board meeting last night. A report and motion regarding the continuation of the Spring Break came to the Trustees. Three spoke against the motion and three supported the motion. One trustee had concerns about professional development days but was hesitant to support the motion to continue the extended spring break. The vote on the motion ended up being a 4-3 vote against the motion essentially ending the extended spring break beyond this school year (for the 2017-18 school year).

The Trustees who voted **for the motion** were: Joan Cowden (jcowden@sd73.bc.ca), Joe Small (jsmall@sd73.bc.ca), and Megan Wade (mwade@sd73.bc.ca).

The Trustees who voted **against the motion** were: Gerald Watson (gwatson@sd73.bc.ca), Kathleen Karpuk (kkarpuk@sd73.bc.ca), Cara McKelvey (cmckelvey@sd73.bc.ca), and Rhonda Kershaw (rkershaw@sd73.bc.ca).

The two missing trustees were: Denise Harper (dharper@sd73.bc.ca) and Shelley Sim (ssim@sd73.bc.ca).

The trustees who opposed the motion stated that they did not take stock in the survey of parents because parents could vote more than once. One noted that it isn't educationally sound but didn't provide evidence of how that is the case (management noted that there was no negative impact on student achievement). There was also some concern about hardship around some families. Trustee Watson noted that the survey was not a referendum and trustees could vote as they wished.

The trustees who were in favour of the motion noted that the district surveyed partner groups and should not disregard the desire of the majority and that issues around hardship were not supported by the evidence.

The trustees then voted for a motion to look at alternatives to the two week spring break.

NOTE RE: EMAILS: If members choose to email individual trustees, please remember that the school district is your employer and encouragement is more likely to get reconsideration than stronger language. The key issues below may help with your message.

Possible Actions

Letter of Understanding No. 41 was a negotiated provision, but does end on June 30, 2017. The KTTA expected good faith negotiations from the district and district management were willing to engage to continue the extended spring break. Members will undoubtedly be upset about this surprise decision of the district's trustees who disregarded the will of those they consulted with.

We note that the issue of an extended spring break has an educational component to it and that has to be stressed.

The key issues members identified in our survey were:

- It allows teachers to catch up on preparation work, marking, and reporting.
- Students are more rested and it is easier to proceed with instruction
- It addresses issues of children missing instruction when they are taken on holidays during the week prior to or after spring break

Petition and Board Presentation:

The KTTA has sent a petition to every school that highlights the educational reasons for an extended spring break. This can then be presented at a public board meeting with an encouragement for trustees to reconsider their response.

C. Foundation Skills Assessment

(Letter attached and also at www.ktta.ca)

Note: that pursuant to BCTF policy / actions, members **should not be marking or preparing for Foundation Skills Assessments**. However, members may be required to administer the assessment which includes orientation on computers or with the tests.

The BCTF has produced a newsletter that teachers can send home to parents (in an envelope through students or directly provided to parents) outlining the concerns with the FSAs. While the BCTF had worked with government to try to have these assessments eliminated, the government decided to continue with these assessments.

As such, pressure from parents is the only tactic that can result in a change of will from the government.

Attached to this newsletter is the FSA form that can be provided to parents. Parents would complete the bottom of the form if they are requesting that their child not write the FSA and give the copy to the Principal.

The BCTF and BCPSEA have already agreed to this form so further permission isn't needed.

NOTE: Please ensure that if you are sending these letters home through students that they are in sealed envelopes. If you would like the KTTA to provide these for you, please let us know and we will do that work for you.

NOTE: The BCTF advises members not to participate in the planning of FSAs unless directed to do so. Further, teachers do not have to prep students for the FSAs as per a grievance resolution from 2009. However, orientation is a required part of administration of the test.

D. Class Size and Composition

KTTA representatives (Kerilyn Scott, Amanda Jensen, and David Komljenovic) met again this morning with the district committee regarding the implementation of \$1,370,856 from the provincially negotiated interim Memorandum of Agreement. The district uses the figure of \$92,300 as the average teacher salary + benefits based on the average cost of a teacher placed using the Education Fund.

The parties amended the draft documents created on January 11th and again on January 16th to address what appropriate consultation should look like in the schools.

Consultation:

The KTTA and District agreed that there needs to be **good faith consultation** between teaching staff at each of the schools regarding the allocation of staffing to their schools from the Priority Measures fund. This should look like whole group discussion with all members of staff participating. If a staff wants a representative from the KTTA to meet with staff, please contact us and we will try to accommodate a meeting as quickly as possible.

Staff representatives (or someone appointed to represent staff on this process) should be involved in discussions with administration around allocation as would occur for the Education Fund. The focus should be on addressing collective agreement needs - smaller class sizes, addressing composition (i.e. behaviour support, resource room/relief teacher or split classes), and specialist staffing (LART, Library)

Phased Staffing:

The allocation of staffing to **secondary schools will occur first** to ensure positions are posted before the start of Semester 2. The next allocation will be for **staffing to elementary schools where additional classrooms** are being created. Once these processes are completed, **then the funds will be distributed to other elementary schools** to ensure maximum possible staffing for all schools based on their need.

We are hopeful this entire process will be completed by early February

E. Consultation on Reporting

As required, the district is seeking input from partner groups about the reporting process moving forward. The district has provided an opportunity for feedback at a meeting

scheduled for **January 30th at the Henry Grube Education Centre**. The meeting will start at 5PM.

If you are able to attend, please do. The KTTA Executive Committee will have representatives at the meeting too.

F. General Meeting Minutes

(Relevant Documents at www.ktta.ca)

The General Meeting was held on January 17th and the minutes are attached to this e-newsletter.

The following are key decisions from that meeting:

Election Chair

Jeremy Reid (Westsyde Secondary) was acclaimed as the KTTA Elections Chair for the 2017 election cycle.

BCTF AGM Delegates

Acclaimed as delegates to the 2017 BC Teachers' Federation AGM are:

Ryan Bonderud (Brock Middle School)
Amanda Jensen (KTTA)
Laurel Macpherson (Summit Elementary)
Brenda Celesta (Brock Middle School)
David Komljenovic (KTTA)
Simone Stella (Kamloops School of Arts)
Tina Dalglish (Haldane Elementary)
Sandra Konkin (Aberdeen Elementary)
Danielle Fisher (Westsyde Sec.)
Don Wilson (SKSS)
Jami Griffiths (Chase Secondary)
Nichelle Penney (HGEC)
Jarrett Schill (Brock Middle School)

Acclaimed as alternate delegate for the 2017 BC Teachers' Federation AGM is:

Kim Komljenovic (Brock Middle School)

Audited Report for 2015-16

Shawn Birkenhead of Daley LLP presented the audited report to the meeting.

The motion "***That the audited report for 2015-16 be accepted as presented***" carried unanimously. The audit report can be found at: http://www.ktta.ca/images/Audit_2016.pdf.

Class Size / Composition Plan

The meeting discussed the Class Size / Composition plan as prepared by the KTTA Executive Committee and carried the motion to adopt the plan. The motion can be found at: http://www.ktta.ca/images/Class_Size_and_Comp_Strategies_2016.pdf.

The meeting also discussed the allocation of funds from the BCTF/ Government Memorandum of Agreement to address class size, composition, and specialist teacher numbers. It was noted that three times that amount would be needed to address all needs, but that good faith consultation needs to occur with teaching staff and staff reps prior to allocating those funds to address where the greatest needs are in the school.

Extended Spring Break

The meeting discussed the recent announcement by the School Board that the 2 week spring break will go back to 1 week in the 2018-19 school year. There was discussion about what can be done immediately and the Executive Committee will meet soon to discuss what actions or plans can be taken to the members to support a re-engagement with trustees on this issue.

PD Initiatives Policy

The meeting carried a motion "*That the KTTA amend Policy 9.A.01.1 as follows... That any requests from funds from PD initiatives be approved as received (to the KTTA) up to the maximum of available funds in the budget line.*"