

KTTA News - January 6, 2017

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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

BCTF AGM Delegates (13) elected at this meeting - please let us know if you intent on running

KTTA Elections Chair elected at this meeting - please let us know if you intend on running

Deadline for Nominations for Table Officers / PD Chair Positions - Friday, March 3rd

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A. Class Size / Composition Implementation (Memorandum of Agreement Attached)

The BCTF and the BC government / BCPSEA negotiated an interim Memorandum of Agreement regarding the implementation of the Supreme Court of Canada ruling from November. This agreement is without prejudice to the interpretation of local language and is intended to get positions posted this month to address class size and composition issues.

Some of the key issues that the were addressed are noted below.

The Memorandum of Agreement will be made available on the www.MyBCTF.ca portal later today.

The key points are:

- 1) **\$50 million** in new funding from the Ministry of Education to create 1,000–1,100 teacher full-time equivalents (FTE) for the balance of the 2016–17 school year
- 2) The new funding will be used to implement two priority measures: adding enrolling-teacher positions and non-enrolling positions in schools (for example: counsellors, teacher-librarians, special education teachers, and other specialists across all grades).
- 3) Allocation of the net new funding at the school district level needs to be jointly developed and decided through a district committee established by the superintendent and the local union president. Decisions about what jobs will be posted and where needs to be decided by the local parties. There will also be a dispute resolution process if there is no agreement between local parties.

Negotiations will continue on full implementation for next school year and the progress of those discussions will be communicated to members.

Note that the KTTA and district will now be in a position to meet and discuss the resolution to the class size and composition issues in the district. We have a meeting set up for Friday, January 13th

to finalize the staffing plan. The KTTA will be sending out a message to staff representatives and all members to seek feedback on what works best for each school. Our school visit information and the grievance information will help but we want to provide another opportunity for members to let us know what the staffing needs are at their schools. The district will be allocated about 24-25 FTE for the entire district but this can help resolve some of the most difficult class composition situations.

B. 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.

C. Curriculum Day - January 20th

The District Curriculum Implementation Committee met in October and early December to discuss the structure of the Friday, January 20th Curriculum Day. The parties agreed on a structure that would have groups meet within the family of schools and to ensure teachers are able to meet in small groups in contrast to the structure from last year. The KTTA raised the need to ensure that there was an option for teachers to meet and discuss curriculum without a great deal of structure.

As such, the committee agreed to include two options for the morning and afternoon time periods. One option provides the flexibility for members to meet within their grouping and discuss planning. The other option will be more structures for those teachers who want to learn about assessment within the new curriculum.

Members are free to choose whichever option works best for them. The planning will take place between the schools and may involve the school PD committees or chairs if that works for the family of school grouping.

If there are any concerns that arise limiting an option for members, please contact us at the KTTA office (250-554-1223).

D. Health and Safety Training (January 9th @9AM at HGEC)

The KTTA Health and Safety rep at the school should have been approached by school administration about attending the training session on Monday, January 9th. The KTTA was provided with this information after the holidays so our apologies for providing this information this close to the training. Ensure a teacher representative at your school does attend.

The training will be on January 9th from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Henry Grube EC which will focus on hazard assessment and risk assessment. This information will be extremely helpful in conducting your worksite risk assessment, as required by the WorkSafeBC orders.

The district has encouraged all members of the site safety committees (Administration, KTTA Representatives, CUPE Representatives) should attend. It would be very beneficial if each location was able to attend as a "committee".

District Information:

Please note: replacement costs, where applicable, will be paid for up to 2 union representatives (CUPE/KTTA) per location. These persons must be current site Safety Committee members, as selected by their unions. Administration, if in a teaching position, will be replaced as required.

Teachers will be able to log their absences through OASIS by selecting In-Service District and then the event for Health and Safety Committee Training.

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.