

KTTA News - June 22, 2017

David Komljenovic (president@kttta.ca / 250-320-1825) / Amanda Jensen (1vp@kttta.ca / 250-819-3090)

Go to KTTA website for information (<http://www.kttta.ca>)

KTTA Annual General Meeting Minutes (http://www.kttta.ca/images/AGM_2017_Minutes.PDF)
KTTA Fee Reduced Next Year to \$475 per year (pro-rated) and \$2/day for TTOCs

Joint Labour Liaison Committee Minutes: (www.kttta.ca/joint-labour-liaison.htm)
District Health and Safety Committee Minutes: (www.kttta.ca/oh-s.HTML)

Summer Hours: The KTTA Office will be open July 3-7 and July 10-14 and will CLOSE July 14th for the Summer

Labour Day Picnic / Activities - MacDonald Park (North Shore) on Monday, September 4th at 11AM - 2PM

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A. Class Size / Composition in the News

We, along with the BCTF, have been pushing for full implementation of the class size and composition limits that were restored through the Supreme Court of Canada decision and the Memorandum of Agreement signed in March.

The KTTA had recorded an editorial on NL Radio on Monday, June 12th that calls on the School District to work with us to get the maximum amount of funding from the provincial government for full implementation. The BCTF has also put out a release doing that same and Glen Hansman was interviewed on June 16th (go to <http://www.radionl.com/podcasts/audio-vault/> to listen to these).

The KTTA has been very clear with our position that the cut to 18 Certified Education Assistants is unnecessary particularly when there are unnecessary increases to administration and Public Relations positions. Attached is the KTTA's response to the district budget and the district's reply.

BCTF News Release

With only two weeks before BC school districts must finalize budgets for the next school year, BC Teachers' Federation President Glen Hansman is calling on school board trustees to speak up for more provincial funding and decisive government action to ensure the next school year starts with the smaller classes and better student supports in place that all three political parties promised.

"Parents and teachers have been working hard to push for all the necessary government funding and the successful implementation of our teachers' court-restored collective agreement for months," said Hansman. "What we haven't seen is a concerted effort by school boards or elected trustees to ensure their districts have the full funding required to deliver the smaller classes, more specialist teachers, and better supports for children with special needs that were promised. As the June 30 deadline for school district budgets rapidly approaches, too many districts are still contemplating cuts to teaching, CUPE support staff, and other front line services instead of pushing for the provincial funding they are owed."

Hansman pointed to two news stories this week that show school boards are not getting the funding they need to meet the needs of students or achieve compliance with the collective agreement that was restored by the Supreme Court of Canada. In Langley, for example, a district official said publicly that they are waiting for the government to provide the full funding necessary to hire the new specialist teachers that the district needs. And in Kamloops, the school district is looking to lay off as many as 18 education assistants because of a lack of funding certainty from the provincial government.

"BC students need all of the adults in the system, like teachers and education assistants that are already in place, plus the additional teachers mandated by the agreement on implementing teachers' restored collective agreement," said Hansman. "School districts shouldn't be making any cuts to front line education services. If they are, then they're not doing their jobs. They should be out advocating for the funding they need and an end to the political uncertainty that has paralyzed government decision-making."

"Teachers, parents, and the public expect improvements for students after all these years, not more shell games with public education funding. School boards shouldn't be using the Supreme Court of Canada ruling to make cuts to any educational services."

B. Round 3 Postings - Next Week?

Human Resources notified us that Round 2 postings are still being filled and Round 3 postings should be coming out at some point next week. The volume of positions posted has resulted in the rounds of postings taking longer than usual.

We would encourage members who are offered positions to take only as much time as needed to consider the offer. While you are entitled to take 48 hours to make a decision, it is important to not use that full allotment of time unless you need it.

C. Early Dismissal Days

The KTTA filed a grievance regarding the district's unilateral decision to reduce Early Dismissal Days to one (1) for next year. The KTTA provided alternatives including adding one minute of instructional time to ensure instruction time is in compliance with the School Calendar Regulations or an increase to instructional time on the first day of school. The district rejected both options even though it was noted that it could designate two (2) Early Dismissal Days and still be in or near compliance with the Regulations.

The KTTA has referred this matter to the BCTF to be assessed for arbitration.

D. Calendar / Survey

The article from Kamloops This Week expresses our frustrations around the district's lack of effort in negotiating in any meaningful way on the extended spring break option.

While three trustees have been supportive (Joe Small, Joan Cowden, and Denise Harper), the majority of the Board were unfortunately more interested in bad faith negotiations to try to pass off the blame for their decisions.

Kamloops This Week captured our sentiments of what this exercise was:

<http://www.kamloopsthisweek.com/kamloops-teachers-union-disputes-sd73-stance-spring-break/>

Kamloops This Week Article:

The president of the Kamloops-Thompson Teachers' Association said School District 73 brass didn't give teachers a chance to agree to a compromise that could have preserved a two-week spring break in 2018.

David Komljenovic said the KTTA met only twice with district officials for half-day bargaining sessions and was not given a chance to discuss the possibility of merging spring break with the Easter long weekend before SD73 called the negotiations to a halt and announced a one-week break for the next school year.

Superintendent Alison Sidow told KTW in an earlier interview that merging Easter and the break was one of the options on which staff and teachers could not agree.

The school district also suggested teachers move some professional development days outside of the regular school calendar to make up for the five days of instructional time that would be lost to the break.

But Komljenovic said teachers were interested in discussing the Easter proposal.

"We came yesterday and suggested that was something we were willing to entertain, but they concluded negotiations," he said.

"If you only have two half-days to bargain, they're not really working towards a solution."

The KTTA also felt the district's previous strategy of making up lost educational time by extending the school day was working well, despite concerns from the district that the extra minutes were not adequately replacing lost instructional days.

Komljenovic said the school district told the KTTA it had a narrow mandate to negotiate and only pursued one solution — moving professional development days outside of the school year.

"We were interested in negotiating and looking at options, but they were basically stuck to that one proposal, which was to add days to the work year for teachers without any extra pay," Komljenovic said. "That wasn't an option that was acceptable to our members."

He said it's not clear why the district is so concerned about lost instructional days during spring break when its Sun Peaks schools, which operate on a four-day calendar, are permitted to miss upward of 40 instructional days per year.

"We asked why the discrepancy and they said it's because parents at Sun Peaks wanted that calendar," he said. "Well, parents in this district have stated in the majority they would like to continue on with the two-week spring break."

Komljenovic said he hopes teachers and staff can make another attempt to negotiate in the future.

Trustees first chose to go back to a one-week break at the beginning of the year, with some trustees citing concerns the extra week out of school could be a financial hardship for some families.

After an outcry from some parents and teachers, the board took another vote on the issue in March, opting to stick with the one-week break unless it reach an agreement with the KTTA.

The contract between the district and the teachers' union expires in 2019.

Survey and KTTA Position:

Note that the KTTA Executive Committee established a position on the Calendar after considering the results of a survey completed by 630+ members (included in the minutes found here: http://www.ktta.ca/images/KTTA_EC_June_7_2017.PDF).

The survey information is attached and it was clear that although nearly all members prefer the extension of the spring break period, **almost three-quarters (73%) reject the district's proposal** of eliminating the instructional year bookends from the collective agreement to achieve this (the district's only proposal is attached).

For clarity, an elimination of the bookends means that the work-year would no longer be limited to the day after Labour Day and June 30th (or earlier) and would no longer protect members from being required to conduct work activities in the summer months. The district was also clear that its proposal meant that teachers who are absent (due to illness or who haven't been hired year) from the required summer work would lose pay during the extended spring break.

E. Non Instructional Days

The district professional development committee established the non instructional days and curriculum day for the 2017-18 school year as follows:

September 22 - Inservice Day (for curriculum purposes)
October 20 - Professional Development Day (Provincial / School)
December 4 - Professional Development Day (School)
February 22 - Curriculum Day
February 23 - Professional Development Day (School)
April 23 - Professional Development Day (District)
May 18 - Professional Development Day (School)
June 29 - Administrative Day

F. Kamloops Pride Events - August 17-20, 2017 *(From KTTA Social Justice Chair Nichelle Penney)*

If you haven't heard already, Kamloops is organizing it's first downtown Pride Parade and you're invited!

Kamloops Pride is excited to be hosting its inaugural downtown Pride Parade and celebration weekend August 17th-20th, 2017! Our organization aims to provide a fun, inclusive, and affirming event lineup that will appeal to both members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, Trans, queer/questioning, two-spirit (LGBTQ2S+) community and the Kamloops community at large.

Our Pride weekend will kick-off with a burlesque showcase at The Blue Grotto on Thursday, August 17th.

On Friday, August 18th, members of the LGBTQ2S+ community and their allies will be invited to a family-friendly sign-making event.

Representatives from Kamloops Pride will be on-location at the Kamloops Farmer's Market on Saturday, August 19th to rally the community ahead of the Parade the following day.

Celebrations will kick into high gear on Saturday evening with a dance, allowing members of the LGBTQ2S+ community and their allies to come together in solidarity to celebrate visibility, community, inclusivity, love, and diversity.

Kamloops Pride's celebrations will culminate with the city's first-ever downtown Pride Parade on Sunday, August 20th. Marchers will begin to **gather at 10AM in Riverside Park** for mustering and last-minute registration before the Parade at 11AM. Local musicians will provide entertainment during this first hour as participants mingle and learn more about community organizations at a collection of booths in Riverside Park. A handful of food trucks will be on-site selling food to Parade-goers. Participants will be officially greeted with an address from our president Kirstin McLaughlin before being directed to assemble. The procession will include invited arts and entertainment groups such as local dancers, performance artists, and musicians. **The Parade will wind past City Hall and up Victoria Street, turning left on 5th Avenue before returning to Riverside Park via Lansdowne Street.** Upon return, participants will enjoy more live music and entertainment until 2pm.

For more information or to get involved please visit:

<http://kamloopspride.wixsite.com/kamloopspride/registration>
<https://www.facebook.com/kamloopspride/>

*Please note that unions are asked to fill out the community organization form, unless people are marching separately.

NOTE - the KTTA will be participating in the parade and will also consider organizing a booth.

G. BCTF Summer Conference (Aug. 22-25, 2017)

The BCTF Summer Conference will be held at **Thompson Rivers University** from **August 22-25, 2017**. There are opportunities for KTTA members other than delegates to participate.

Opening Plenary with Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond (former BC Children's Watchdog): Grand Hall - Campus Activity Centre on Wednesday, August 23rd at 9AM

Closing Plenary with Ivan Coyote (Canadian Spoken Word Performer and LGBTQ Advocate): Grand Hall – Campus Activity Centre on Thursday, August 24th (***check at BCTF Registration Desk at Student Residence Building for time***)

Elective Sessions (with permission) - Wednesday, August 23rd (11AM - 12:30PM and 2PM - 3:30 PM) and Friday, August 25th (10AM - 11:30 AM and 11:45 AM - 1PM) - Please ask the BCTF Registration Desk for permission before attending. A list of electives is attached to this email.

The BCTF has also sent the following message to us share with KTTA members regarding an event on Wednesday, August 23rd:

*At this year's Summer Conference we have an exciting session scheduled for the afternoon of **Wednesday August 23 from 3:30 to 5:00 PM** where the **Wenjak and Downie families** will be introducing the work they have been doing on "The Secret Path", a resource that explores the impact of residential schools:*

The Secret Path acknowledges a dark part of Canada's history – the long-suppressed mistreatment of Aboriginal children and families by the residential school system. Every Canadian should know Chanie Wenjack's name and his story. Mike Downie and Harriet Visitor (Chanie's sister) will share their stories about their involvement with the Secret Path.