

KTTA News - March 3, 2017

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KTTA Information can be found at www.ktt.ca

Volleyball Social (NorKam Sec / KCS) - April 8, 2017

Provincial Election - May 9, 2017

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A. Class Size / Composition Implementation and Vote

(KTTA Language at: http://www.ktt.ca/images/Class_Size_and_Comp_2002.pdf)

The BCTF is nearing an agreement with the provincial government and BCPSEA regarding the implementation of the 1998-2001 class size and composition language. This would include all superior local provisions and I have attached a link here to our SD73 class size / composition language.

We had received notice today that the parties are finalizing this process and once an Agreement in Committee is reached, members will be able to vote on that agreement.

Please note that the BCTF governance process requires that the BCTF Executive Committee vote on whether to recommend the agreement or not to the membership prior to an announcement being made. While government is not bound to the same processes that the BCTF and BCPSEA are, you may hear about an agreement through the media prior to an announcement from the BCTF.

We are also attaching the Q and A sent out a couple of days ago. Please continue to put pressure on school administration to fully implement this language. This assists in putting pressure on the district and the Ministry.

If you have any questions, please contact the KTTA office.

B. School Staff Committees and Class Size / Composition

Staff representatives requested that we provide information on School Staff Committees and Class Size / Composition implementation. We are providing this information to all members to assist with the construction of school staff committees and to assist with the ensuring that school organization is consistent with the class size and composition limits in the collective agreement.

Attached are information about:

- 1) Restoration of Class Size / Composition Process (incl. Local language)
- 2) School Staff Committees
- 3) Powerpoint on SD73 Class Size / Composition Language

If you have any questions regarding these issues, please let us know.

We strongly urge schools to start forming school staff committees to ensure that school organization and class construction meets the contractual class size and composition limits.

Further, we note the following direction from the BCTF regarding class construction:

That until a final agreement is reached under LOU #17, members only participate in staffing school organization decisions that are consistent with the class size limits, specialist teacher ratios, and other collective agreement guarantees restored by the Supreme Court of Canada, and that the Federation fully support all members in this action.

C. Reporting Issues

We are attaching information for members regarding questions related to the reporting of Applied Design, Skills, Technology and Career Education and specific to grade 6-7 teachers. The Q/A indicates what the process is if you have not collected any assessments for these subject areas. The district is aware and will be meeting with school administration on Thursday to note the expectation of reasonability.

We are also attaching the referral to arbitration of the grievance regarding the workload created by the introduction of My Education BC. We are hoping this creates sufficient pressure on the employer to look at other systems or reducing the number of terms that teachers have to use My Education BC for reporting purposes.

Attached are:

- 1) ADST / Career Education FAQ
- 2) My Education BC Matter Referral to Arbitration

If either of these issues affects you, please read the attached documents.

D. Two Week Spring Break

(District Seeking Feedback at feedback@sd73.bc.ca)

The district is seeking written feedback on the proposed calendars which can be found here: <http://www3.sd73.bc.ca/general/content/public-feedback-school-calendar>.

Please respond with feedback to the district by Emailing feedback@sd73.bc.ca keeping the following in mind:

- 1) Parent vs. Teacher: If you are a parent of students in the K-12 system, you may want to note that you are a parent. A trustee noted that the parent perspective is more likely to sway the opinions of trustees who are currently opposed to the 1 week option.

- 2) Issues to Raise: You may want to raise other reasons for why you are in support of the 2 week option but here are the four points raised at last night's Public School Board meetings.
- A) Meaningful Consultation - all employee groups reported that they would like to retain the extended spring break period due to the positives they were observing in the system. Supporting this perspective is Sharon Jeroski (UBC Researcher) from Burnaby who noted that there was no discernible loss of learning or achievement with the 2 week spring break. The district also reported less absenteeism. (*Thank you to Peter Findlay for providing this information*).
 - B) Field Trips - a longer Spring Break provides more options for field trips. With education becoming more complex and with new curriculum stressing project based learning, field trips are a way for teachers to engage students outside of their schools.
 - C) Consistency - 53 out of 60 districts will continue with the 2 week spring break period which will keep our district out of alignment with other districts. School sporting events will often take advantage of the breaks for tournaments or events and a shorter break will limit these opportunities.
 - D) Student Preparedness - Teachers report that students are more reseted and more prepared to learn for the last three months of the year after the 2 week break vs. The 1 week break. This is supported by the research done in the Burnaby district.

We have indicated that there are teachers who are willing to provide programs during the extended spring break (numeracy or reading) as they do in the summer. However, the district noted that there was a lack of interest in these programs when parents were surveyed.

Note: There are 53 out of 60 districts that do not have a two week spring break, but there are other variations to the calendar that some of those districts use (*Thank you to John Annicchiarico for providing this information*):

Campbell River District's Spring Break 2017 starts on Friday March 17 and the last day of the break is Monday March 27, so it's a 7 school day spring break not a 5 day (1-week) spring break <http://www.sd72.BC.ca/Documents/SD72%202016-2017%20School%20Calendar.PDF>.

Haida Gwaii District has eight (8) PD days, and they've attached 1 to Friday March 10, effectively making 2017 a 6 school-day spring break (not 1-week) <http://sd50.BC.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/SD-50-Calendar-2016-2017-.PDF>.

KTTA Volleyball Tournament and Dance

Saturday, April 8, 2017

4pm to 1am

**Norkam Gym/Cafeteria
Kamloops Christian School Gym**

**Make a
team**

Wear a costume

Prizes

\$80 per team

