

KTTA News - September 9, 2016

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

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A. PD and Curriculum Days

Last year, the BC government added two days to the calendar for the purpose of curriculum implementation. This year, one of the traditional in-service or administration days will be for the purpose of curriculum implementation.

While not all schools have Professional Development Committees, it is important for the PD Committees and Teacher Facilitators (who would like to continue in that role this year) be involved in the planning on the Curriculum Days including the one scheduled for September 23rd.

KTTA representatives met with the new Director of Instruction for Curriculum - Jamie Robinson regarding the planning for the Curriculum Day on January 20th.

The remaining non-instructional days will be for the purpose of professional development. This includes:

October 21, 2016: School Professional Development or Provincial Specialists Association Workshops.

December 5, 2016: School Professional Development

February 24, 2017: School Professional Development

April 24, 2017: KTTA Professional Development Day

May 15, 2017: School Professional Development Day

The KTTA Professional Development Chair and Committee will provide more information about these dates and training for school PD reps after they have their first meeting. Members interested in serving on the KTTA PD Committee, please contact the office (office@ktt.ca or 250-554-1223).

B. Class Size Overages

Section 76.1 of the School Act sets out class size limits for K to Grade 3 but also notes that teachers who have classes from Grades 4-12 that exceed 30 students are entitled to compensation according to the Class Size and Compensation Regulation (BC Reg. 52/12). This Regulation does not apply for the month of September.

BC Teachers' Federation policy is that members seek compensation in the form of preparation time, additional teaching staff, or professional development funds instead of monetary compensation.

Compensation for each month is based on the following formula: Dollar Value = (Average Salary / 9 Months) x Percentage of Full Time Instructional Month x Highest Number of Students Enrolled for the Month.

The Dollar Value can be converted into preparation days (release time) or additional staffing which is the preferred route.

Members are encouraged to discuss class size overages that occur after September 30th with their school administration to ensure that they are compensated as per provincial regulations.

C. Joint Labour Liaison Committee

The Joint Labour Liaison Committee (Tina Dalglish - chair, Amanda Jensen, and David Komljenovic) met with representatives of district administration, school administration, and trustees to discuss non-contractual concerns on September 8th.

The Association raised issues related to curriculum implementation and the need to reduce demands on teachers as they move into the new K-9 curriculum. District administration agreed with this perspective and will communicate this with school administration.

The Association also asked for a report on new staffing as a result of student enrolment increases. The district noted that they had just received a report on this matter and new divisions will be coming up in schools where the student population warrants it. The district and KTTA will be meeting on the third week of September to discuss allocation of left over monies in the Education Fund once new divisions are added as a result of regular staffing needs.

The Association raised the challenges associated with the changes to the reduction in secondary exams/testing and the reduction in a turn around time for teachers between when instruction ends and when final reports are due. The district noted that these concerns were also brought forward by secondary administrators and they are working on this to ensure a reasonable time period exists between when teachers conclude instruction and when final reports are due.

D. District Health and Safety Committee

The Association raised three issues at the June District Health and Safety Committee as noted below:

Violence Prevention / Incident Form: The Association noted issues throughout the year regarding student violence towards members and the need to investigate and resolve these matters in a timely fashion. The district noted that as of September (this month), the WorkSafe 6A form should be made available on the district site. Members who have experienced violence should contact the KTTA office for support and assistance.

Mercury / Lead Testing: The district noted that they would be conducting random testing on drinking water in school sites for heavy metals. The district will now be testing every school this year to ensure that drinking water in schools and worksites is safe and not contaminated with heavy metals.

Radon Testing: The Association asked the district if it was conducting radon testing. The district noted that extensive testing was done in the North Thompson for radon gas and the one school where there was an issue (Barriere Secondary) was fixed. The levels at Barriere Secondary were below the previous Federal standard of 800 bq/m³ but was over the newer standard that came in that year of 200 bq/m³ (to level was brought down to 156 bq/m³). Testing also confirmed the presence of radon at Westwold in the 2008-09 year and that was fixed by increasing ventilation. New tests in the North Thompson will be occurring soon.

If there are Health and Safety matters that arise, please contact the KTTA office at office@ktt.ca or 250-554-1223.

E. TRU Pride Parade (September 28th at 11AM)

The TRU Student Union is organizing the 5th Annual Pride Parade at Thompson Rivers University for September 28th. The event will start at 11AM and will end at 2PM. The KTTA will participate in the parade to demonstrate solidarity with the LGBTQ community and encourages members who are able to attend to join in.

The event will start with speeches at 11AM at the front of Old Main Building (Student Street Entrance).