



RTA Newsletter Fall 2017

A Message from the New Guy in the Office

Welcome back to all of our members – hopefully you all have enjoyed a relaxing and rejuvenating summer and are now settled back into the rhythm of the new school year. With new administrators in each school, new curriculum for all grades, new reporting orders from the ministry and a rookie RTA president, there have been a lot of changes and a great deal of information for teachers to digest and process. As your new president I am looking forward to working with you all and to being a frequent visitor in the schools (bearing goodies of course). I encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. At this point I likely will not have the answers immediately but I will make sure to find them for you as quickly and thoroughly as I can. I feel truly fortunate to be representing such a committed and hard working group of professionals, and I will work hard to support you in every way that I can.

RTA Executive and Staff Reps 2016-2017

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time and energy to sit on our executive this year. Almost all of our positions have been filled, but we are still looking for a Vice-President and have room for one more staff rep from RSS. Serving on the executive is a great way to become more familiar with what's going on in our district and union, as well as an opportunity to be part of valuable Pro-D sessions offered through SURTs and Zone Conferences. Please contact Bob if you have any questions or would like more information.

President – Bob Rogers
Vice-President – vacant
Treasurer – Barry Rourke
Secretary – Michelle Gadbois
Local Representative – Jason Stevens
Bargaining Chair – Teria Davies
Health & Safety Chair – Catherine Lavelle
Social Justice Chair – Sarah Newton

Ab. Ed Chair. – Jennifer Wolney
Pro-D Chair – Stacey Grimm
TTOC Chair – Sally Maitland
Local Election Contact – Rory Luxmoore
Social Convenor – Tracey Hill
Staff Rep AHE – Kristi Mortell-Leblanc
Staff Rep BVE – Lori Snider
Staff Rep CPE – Tracey Hill
Staff Rep RSS – Jeff Wilson

Summer Conference

A number of your RTA Executive members attended the BCTF summer conference in August, where they attended both discrete training to their positions (i.e. presidents, bargaining chairs, aboriginal education...) as well as sessions on a wide range of topics, from pensions, grievances and discipline to poverty in the classroom, as well as a myriad of other topics. Our members who attended learned a lot and also had a chance to connect with teachers from all over the province who serve in similar positions.

From Our Contract

As RTA members, we are all responsible for knowing what is in our contract, but that being said, it's not the most interesting read for most. I will try to present a relevant article or clause that I think might be worth becoming familiar with and information in each newsletter. We are still waiting to get our contract melding completed for our most recent Collective Agreement, but hopefully there are copies of older agreements in each of our staff rooms. If not you can follow this link; <http://www.bcpsea.bc.ca/documents/19-pca-0611.pdf>

Have you ever looked at your Personnel File? Article E.21 states that members shall have access to their personnel files and may request that material in the files be removed if the employee feels that the material is not related to their employment and/or performance. Also, an employee may request that any material critical of the employee or in the nature of a reprimand be removed two years after filing provided that no further material of that nature has been subsequently filed. Drop by the board office sometime and take a look at your file.

General Meeting Oct. 6

There will be a brief but important General Meeting on Thursday, October 6 at 4:00 in the BVE Library (thanks Eleanor!). We will be electing/appointing members to our executive and we need at least a quarter of our membership in attendance in order to form a quorum. I truly appreciate teachers giving up their valuable time in participate in the business of our local association, and I pledge only to call meetings when there are important issues which must be discussed and/or dealt with.

RTA Fall Social

Thanks to Tracey for putting together the Bike Crawl on Sept. 25th (that's this Sunday!) Sign-up sheets are in all of the staffrooms and it would be wonderful to see a big turnout. Ride your bike from house to house and enjoy some snacks provided by the RTA. This promises to be lots of fun, good exercise, and a great way to connect with colleagues! Tracey will provide more info soon regarding starting point and route.