

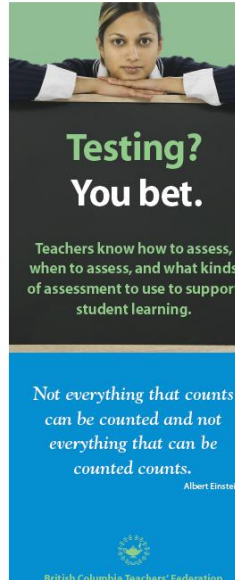
School Visits - Local Bargaining

By now, all but a few of our schools have received visits from at least one member of our bargaining team. For those of you who missed the visit, and as a reminder to everyone else, our goal in paying those visits to your schools was to raise awareness in all of our members of the pending expiration of our local and provincial collective agreements. The BCTF is in the process of negotiations with BCPSEA to bargain provincial provisions, while the STA, starting in March, if not before, will be sitting down with our employer to discuss those issues that you have identified as your highest local priorities. The local bargaining team will be taking its cues from information to be gleaned from the bargaining survey as well as input from our members who sit as staff committee chairs, staff reps, and pro-d reps.

At the time of this writing, we are still waiting for official word from the board with respect to our interest in local bargaining. With the deadline looming for the first opportunity to begin negotiating our contract, we are making formal invitation to the board to join the STA at the local bargaining table. The attached letter is our most recent, and most formal, request that the board meet us at the bargaining table. Also attached to this update is our most recently negotiated additions to our contract, signed this school year, which will provide a level of privacy protection for users of the district email client.



FSA Window



It's that time of year again, and the same questions and concerns have arisen. We are reviving our distribution process to get information out to parents, and to make them aware of the very limited merits, and overwhelmingly deleterious effects of the FSA. In addition, parents will have received a copy of the exemption letter that is also available on the Internet, and in some newspapers.

Three of the province's largest districts (Vancouver, Victoria and Coquitlam), have sent information home to parents which demonstrate a respect for a parent's decision, should they choose to exempt a child from the FSA. Our district is not among those sending similar messages home to parents.

Teacher opposition to the FSA continues to be primarily focused on the incomprehensible, harmful and highly divisive (and government-endorsed) rankings of schools across the province, using FSA results. Teachers across the province also have expressed their objection to the test data being used to compare schools within a district and to set goals and to create school plans based on the test data.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2011

- 2 Exec Meeting 4:00 p.m. STA Office
- 10 Staff Rep Training Day & Assembly (Exec attends) 8:30 a.m.
- HIGHLAND PACIFIC GOLF CLUB**
- 18 Tri-District Pro-D Day
- 21-22 BCTF Zone Meeting (designated members only)



March 2011

- 2 Exec Meeting 4:00 p.m. STA Office
- 3 Early Dismissal
- 4 Non-Instructional Day; Pro-D
- 16 General Meeting 4:00 p.m. Isabelle Reader Theatre (Spencer)
- 18 Schools close for Spring Break
- 19-22 BCTF Annual General Meeting
- 21-25 SPRING BREAK
- 28 Back to School

22nd Century Learning

It seems odd that a presumably progressive initiative would identify with our current century. It's 21st century learning that we would like to change, not bring in. At least the people at the vanguard of the Year 2000 initiative had the good sense to start the drama before that year rolled around. Unfortunately, while not only misnamed for its purpose, the glow of 21st Century Learning (21CL) as it is being proposed is, like its predecessor, generating more heat than light.

I'm very pleased to see teachers all across the district making the kinds of professional, progressive and practical changes to their classrooms, and to their practice, that respond to the changes we are seeing in the way we communicate with one another. The change in teaching style, in response to the world changing around us, is happening - organically, as it always has. Some of the more rabid pundits of the 21st Century Learning initiative would have us think that teachers are resistant to change, locked in aging models of learning and teaching. However, offerings for, and attendance at, professional development workshops would belie any claims of teacher complacency in the face of social and technological change. And make no mistake: most of what's being trumpeted as 21CL is largely about getting more technology in the classrooms, and incorporating the technological world into the learning process. That distinction is key when we look at the *"Speak Up"* survey being promoted in schools around the province.

While teachers are keen to see as much technology as they can manage in each of their classrooms, we all recognize that technology doesn't represent a universal solution to challenges facing educators today. However, a quick look at the sponsors of the *"Speak Up"* survey should demonstrate where the keenest interest is in the relationship between technology and education. That interest is corporate. All of the sponsors to the survey are manufacturers and/or purveyors of technology products for the classroom.

Given the obvious bias, and conflict of interest of those sponsors, we are asking teachers not to take part in the survey. I'm confident that our Federation's research department will soon undertake their own survey, with questions framed in a way that will illuminate classroom needs that will not only include, but go far beyond, the simple technological enhancements which we would all love to see in our classrooms.



STA Affiliations

The STA is occasionally invited to partner with other employee groups to explore shared concerns, and collective initiatives. We sometimes accept these invitations in order to have a forum for teachers to inform other groups about issues important to public education, and to lend support where we can to other causes which will be of benefit to our members, and to our school communities.



Michelle Kiefert, our membership chair, has taken a seat as our representative on the Victoria Labour Council.

Ed Berlando, one of our Local Representatives, has been locally elected as our delegate to represent the STA at the upcoming Canadian Labour Congress.

Our thanks go out to Michelle and Ed for serving the membership as our STA representatives to these groups.



TRI DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

TAPESTRY 2011

Friday February 18
Esquimalt
Secondary
847 Colville Road
Victoria, BC V9A 4N9

PRESENTED BY



Greater Victoria Teachers' Association



Gulf Islands Teachers' Association



Strawberry Teachers' Association

Registration Questions
Sue at STA
sue@shaw.ca

Conference Questions
Patricia at GVTA
patricia@gvta.net



CONFERENCE AGENDA

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 8:00 – 9:00 | Registration |
| 9:00 – 10:10 | Networking Breakfast & Educational Resources |
| 10:15 – 12:00 | Morning Session |
| 12:00 – 12:45 | Lunch |
| 12:45 – 2:30 | Afternoon Session |

REGISTRATION

| | |
|--|---------|
| GVTA, GITA, STA and CUPE | \$40.00 |
| TJOCs and Student Teachers | \$30.00 |
| Out of District Teachers, Parents & Administrators | \$50.00 |

REGISTRATION WEBSITE – ACTIVE DEC. 10, 2010
<https://www.onlineregistrations.ca/tapestry/>

CONFERENCE WEBSITE – INFO & BROCHURE
<http://tapestryconference.weebly.com>

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

A mind once stretched by a new idea never regains its original dimensions.

~ Anonymous

"Make a Future"

The ***Make a Future*** web portal is the business arm of BCPSEA (BC Public School Employers Association). The BCTF is currently engaged in an arbitration related to fees charged to teachers who make application to teaching positions through this web site.

If you, or any local teacher you know, have used the ***Make a Future*** web pages to apply for a teaching position in this, or any other district, and were charged a fee, please let us know as soon as possible, in order for us to forward the information to the BCTF in furtherance of the provincial grievance process.



201 - 716 Goldstream Ave.
Victoria, BC
V9B 2X3

Phone: (250) 474-3181

Fax: (250) 474-5555

email: sooketeachers@shaw.ca

January 24, 2011

Sooke Board of Education
School District No. 62 (Sooke)
3143 Jacklin Road
Victoria, BC V9B 5R1

Re: Commencement of Local Bargaining

Dear Trustees:

In the course of the previous calendar year, the STA has endeavoured to impress upon the board the high priority we place on having local issues solved locally; and we have done our best to impress upon the board how all will benefit through a process of local bargaining.

In recent years, we have negotiated contract language specific to *Seniority-Conversion to Continuing Status*, *Post and Fill-Collapsed Staffing Rounds*, *MOU-Acceptable Use Agreement for District Email*, and our regular Labour-Management meetings routinely illuminate other areas of the collective agreement that require attention/modification. There is no reason why we couldn't continue this process at a formal bargaining table.

Contrary to the fear mongering embedded in messaging on the part of BCPSEA, the BCTF will not be at our local bargaining table. We have three members of our local bargaining team, none of whom have completed a formal course of bargaining training. We will be relying on our personal experiences as long-serving teachers in the district, on our local priorities as they have been expressed by the membership, and on our sincere wish to see that local priorities are presented through local representation, not through representation by proxy in the form of BCPSEA, or BCTF staffers.

As per Article A.1.1, on or before Tuesday, March 1st, 2011, the STA would invite the board to: *"commence collective bargaining in good faith with the object of renewal or revision of this Collective Agreement and the concluding of a collective agreement for the subsequent period."*

We look forward to confirmation of your attendance at such a meeting, and to a constructive and productive round of local bargaining.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Henry', is written over a horizontal line.

Patrick Henry,
President

cc: STA Membership
Jim Cambridge – Superintendent of Schools

STA Office Information

201 - 716 Goldstream Ave.
Victoria, BC
V9B 2X3

Tel: 250-474-3181

Fax: 250-474-5555

Website: www.sooketeachers.com

Office Manager

Sue Bégin

sooketeachers@shaw.ca
Tuesday – Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 3:30p.m.

President

Patrick Henry

lp62@bctf.ca

Monday – Friday

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

***The president is often out of the office or in meetings as the need arises..*

Vice-President

Paul Waterlander

lx62vp@bctf.ca

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: DISTRICT EMAIL
ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT**

between

Board of School Trustees, School District No. 62 (Sooke)

and Sooke Teachers' Association

Having reached agreement on the matter of local issues the parties also agree to the following procedures for the implementation of the agreement:

1. Both parties understand that the Employer will not monitor the contents of email traffic on the district network.
2. The STA acknowledges that the district software, hardware and networks are the property of the Employer. As such, the messages transmitted and stored by the district email client are also the property of the Employer.
3. The Employer agrees that administrative level access will be limited to CUPE, STA and Management staff whose job duties includes a need for such access purely to maintain the software and hardware in ways that are exclusively necessary to support the functionality of the email service.
4. The STA acknowledges that in the event of notice having been given of an investigation, the Employer has the right to access an individual email folder as directed by the Superintendent of Schools.

AGREED TO ON _____ 2010

Board of School Trustees

Sooke Teachers' Association



TAPESTRY CONFERENCE PAYMENTS

If you chose to pay for your workshop by cheque, you **MUST** send your cheque to the STA office payable to: **GVTA PD Funds**. Deadline for cheques is February 15th. **ALL WORKSHOPS MUST BE PREPAID!**



Inter-School Courier

Just a reminder: The inter-school courier runs only on Tuesdays and Fridays now. When you send something via courier, please remember that it will take an extra courier day to reach its destination as the mail bags go to the Board Office first for sorting, then out to the schools.