

From the Oak Desk



CSR Role re: School Concerns:

The use of the drop box to raise school concerns has been a success and any teacher can give their CSR a concern and it will be discussed at the next meeting of CSRs if research is needed.

Long Term Disability Forms

If a teacher is away more than 20 calendar days they should contact the District and request L.T.D. forms in case the illness causes them to be away longer than the 90 calendar days of sick leave. It takes about 6 to 8 weeks for Great West to adjudicate the claim once they receive the information from the individual, their doctor, and the specialist. Those whom are denied should contact SARO for assistance in writing an appeal.

Calgary City Teachers Long Term Disability Support Group:

This group provides an opportunity to teachers who are on LTD to get together on a monthly basis and discuss various services that can be accessed during their period of disability. If you know of someone on LTD have them contact the Local for further information or if you or a colleague are on sick leave that may lead to an application for LTD, contact the Local for assistance.

Hours of Work Clause 11.1 Arbitration Decision

The Local and District received the arbitration board decision in late December 2009 and both parties have met to review it. The Local and the Association decided to exercise the right to request a judicial review which will occur June 10, 2010. There is no time line as to how long it will take.

The arbitration decision included the following as part of assigned time which has a maximum of 30 hours per week averaged over the school year.

- 1) Instructional Time
- 2) Supervision Assignments
- 3) Meet the Teacher Night
- 4) Parent Teacher Conferences
- 5) Staff Meetings
- 6) Being at school 15 minutes before and after school
- 7) Teachers Convention
- 8) Time between warning bell and start of classes
- 9) Class change times
- 10) High school teacher advisory.
- 11) Nutrition breaks in Junior High
- 12) Professional Development Days
- 13) Organization Days

Preparation periods were compared to a teacher's lunch period and a teacher can leave the build by signing out as it is his/her time. If the school administration directs a teacher to do a specific activity during their preparation time it is considered assigned time, the teacher follows the direction and records the time as assigned time.

Part-time Teachers

In relation to the hours of work your instructional hours (time in front of students) should not exceed 715 minutes per week averaged over the year and the assignable time should not exceed 900 minutes per week averaged over the year.

Clause 11.2.3 indicates that you should receive time free from instruction and supervision in your timetable and if you have any questions please contact the Local office.

Retired Teachers on Temporary Contract

Retired teachers that have been given a temporary contract have access to the District provided benefits and there is no waiting period. The District has been sending out information to retired teachers once they have accepted a temporary contract. If there are any concerns, please give the Local a call (403-265-2678) as soon as possible.

ATA INFO 55

April 2010

www.ataloc55.ab.ca

President's Message



Dear Colleagues:

We certainly do live in interesting times. This year started off with a considerable amount of uncertainty regarding wages and budget cuts. We have seen positives in the arbitration decision leading to teachers receiving the full Alberta Average Weekly Earnings Index increase, as negotiated with the Alberta government and now fully funded by the government. We have also seen a small increase in education funding in the recent Provincial budget. Not nearly the amount many of us feel is necessary to provide the best education possible, but certainly not as devastating as the \$300 million in cuts that were looming over us in the fall. Teachers and friends of publically-funded education need to take a bow - their efforts during the "Stop the Cuts" fall campaign had a significant effect on the final budget numbers. Independent polling conducted in January showed a marked increase in the number of Albertans who felt that education was underfunded. You can bet the Alberta government was doing its own polling to anticipate the reaction to any cuts in education so we can only surmise that the campaign had some positive effect on the resulting budget.

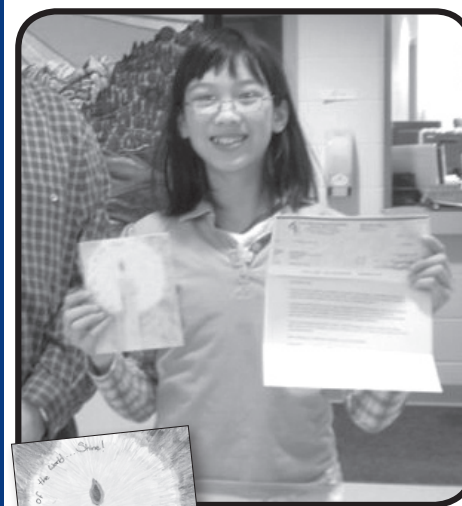
Going forward, the Alberta Average Weekly Wage Index (AAWEI) for 2009 will soon be announced. This number will determine the September 2010 salary increase for teachers and administrators. While there has been talk in the media about renegotiating the current agreement between the government and Teachers' Association, there is no substance to this idea. The Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) has been clear in stating that we have a signed agreement that runs through to 2012 and we will honor that agreement as should the government.

Finally, the Local has been working very hard to ensure that the voice of our members is forefront when decisions are being made that affect teaching/working conditions. Our work with the District on the ATA/CSSD Joint Professional Development (PD) Committee has produced agreement to work together on a number of initiatives. Currently we are consulting all District/ATA leaders and all staff regarding PD going into the future. In the next year we will be working with the District to provide Teachers' Association sessions at district-wide PD days and building a feedback mechanism for teachers to inform us of their needs for PD sessions/topics. We will continue to work on this exciting initiative.

Have a great year-end and a wonderful summer.

David Cracknell

2009 Christmas Card Contest Winner



Christina Tang, Msgr. J.S. Smith, received \$50.00 as her artwork was chosen for the Local #55 Christmas Card contest.

THE SUBSTITUTE (GUEST) TEACHERS' COMMITTEE By Helen Rennie, Chair

The purpose of the Substitute (Guest) Teachers' Committee is twofold: to organize and coordinate programs and activities for guest teachers and to make representation on behalf of guest teachers as a group.

The Substitute (Guest) Teacher Committee has been busy these past two years, implementing major initiatives in several areas.

1. **Opportunities to socialize and celebrate:** Two socials a year--one before Christmas and one at year-end in June.
2. **Professional Development:** a) Professional Growth Subsidy (PGS) funding for Substitute (Guest) Teachers has been **increased** from \$250 to \$500. b) **Smartboard Sessions** for Guest Teachers: A total of 4 sets of sessions have been completed so far—three in Level 1, and one in Level 2. Each set includes a series of 3 sessions.
3. **Improved Communication:** After sending out several information memos throughout 2008-2009, the committee introduced a **newsletter** in January, 2010. Under the new title of "Calling All Substitute (Guest) Teachers," it will continue to be sent out after each Committee meeting.
4. **"Re-imagining" Session:** In January, 2009, Substitute (Guest) Teachers met with Dr. Lucy Miller, providing input from us for the future direction of the District.

Upcoming Events

Education week	April 25 – May 1
French Teacher Workshop #1	April 14
Parents as Partners	April 21
PGS	April 22
Maternity Seminar	April 22
CSR meeting	April 27
PGS	May 19
Maternity Seminar	May 19
ARA	May 21 – 24
CSR	May 25
Retirement Reception	June 8
Dodgeball Tournament	June - date to be confirmed
Volleyball tournament	June - date to be confirmed
CSR appreciation	June 15

Prof. Growth Subsidy

Applications for **summer conferences** must be received **no later than June 1, 2010** and Tuitions must be received June 21, 2010.

Are you moving, getting married or changing schools?

Please contact Rita at the Local office with any changes that you may have by either calling, 403-265-2678 or email to: office@ataloc55.ab.ca

Are You Retiring?

If you plan on retiring this year, please contact Rita at the Local office 403-265-2678 so that you will receive an invitation to the Retirement reception which will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2010.

Please also contact the District and give permission to release your name to the Local.

For the Current ATA Local #55 Calendar

Please go to www.ataloc55.ab.ca and click on Events Calendar

COMMITTEES OF THE LOCAL

Charities

Disburses the proceeds from the \$7.00 per month charitable donation of teachers. The committee consists of 12 members, six of whom are elected each year, meeting five times a year. The members are Directors of the Calgary Separate School Teachers' Charities Society. This committee's mandate is to give financial assistance to those programs which directly aid young people physically, spiritually and/or educationally.

Term: Two years

Communications

Publishes the Info 55 newsletter approximately four times a year, providing Local information for teachers. This committee's mandate is to heighten teacher awareness with regards to Local 55 and its various functions. The committee consists of four members, plus the Vice-President of Communications, and meets according to publishing schedules.

Term: Two years

Economic Policy (EPC)

Negotiates the Collective Agreement and monitors the application of its clauses. This committee's mandate is to gather and study all data relevant to amendments to the Collective Agreement and to prepare and present these proposed amendments to the Executive Committee for recommendation to the Council of School Representatives for approval. The committee also monitors ongoing working conditions and gives direction to the Negotiating Sub-Committee (NSC) concerning all contractual negotiations. This committee consists of 14 members (three per school-based division, one non-school-based teacher and a principals' representative), with four members being elected each year.

Term: Three years

Finance

Develops the overall annual budget for all committees of the Local and is responsible for all investments. This committee prepares and presents an annual financial statement to Executive and to the Council of School Representatives. Finance also conducts an annual review of the guidelines for the Retirement Fund of Local #55. Besides the Vice-President of finance, the Past President and the treasurer, this committee consists of two elected members with one member being elected each year.

Policy and Resolutions

Formulates the professional policies and directions of the Local and Provincial Association. This committee prepares Local resolutions for, and attends the Annual Representatives' Assembly (ARA). The committee consists of the President and 12 members of Local 55 with six members being elected each year.

Political Action

Works to bring teachers to awareness and action on the Local and provincial political scene. This committee also seeks out and encourages prospective candidates for local school board elections and attempts to influence education decision-making when appropriate. The committee consists of up to 12 members, with six members being elected each year.

Term: Two years

Professional Development

Strives to provide new and experienced teachers with an increased repertoire of teaching techniques and methodologies. One member shall be named as a liaison to the Convention Association Committee, and shall attend Convention meetings and report back. This committee consists of up to 12 members, six of whom are elected each year.

Professional Growth Subsidy (PGS)

Oversees disbursement of professional growth conference/tuition funds for teachers. This committee meets once per month, and is also responsible for reviewing its guidelines once per year and presenting proposed changes to CSR

approval. The committee consists of six members (one from each school-based division and 2 non-school-based members (members at large). Three members are elected each year.

Professional Recognition

Promotes an internal and external PR program to enhance the ATA Local. This committee is responsible for the New Teacher Induction Breakfast, Long Service recognition and Teacher Retirement tribute. The committee consists of the Vice-President of Communications and six members, three of which are elected each year.

Social

Organizes and conducts all social and recreational activities sponsored by the Local. The committee consists of eight members.

Substitute Guest Teachers

This committee of six substitute guest teachers will provide a meeting place for issues and problems to be discussed. The Local will make available funds to help substitute guest teachers develop their professional capabilities.

Other Committees:

CAFEC (Calgary Area Field Experiences Committee)

Collaborates with the University of Calgary and other partners in teacher preparation to represent the teaching profession. 2 members.

Convention (Calgary City Teachers' Convention Association – CCTCA)

The Alberta Teachers' Association through its convention associations assumes full responsibility for planning, conducting and evaluating the annual teachers' conventions held across the province.

Ad Hoc Committees

Will be formed as the need arises. Committee frame of reference will be outlined in a motion presented to CSR for approval.

NOMINATION FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT:

www.ataloc55.ab.ca look under documents and forms, Committee Nomination forms.

NOMINATION FORM (COMMITTEE)

CALGARY SEPARATE SCHOOL LOCAL #55

Alberta Teachers' Association

<http://www.ataloc55.ab.ca>

e-mail: office@ataloc55.ab.ca

214, 3016 - 5 Avenue NE

CALGARY, Alberta T2A 6K4

Phone: 403-265-2678

FAX: 403-263-7830

NOMINATION FORM (COMMITTEE)

I _____ hereby submit my name for nomination to a position on the following
(Please Print)

LOCAL COMMITTEES of the Calgary Separate School Local #55 of The Alberta Teachers' Association.

- CAFEC (2 elected each year – term 10-11)**
- Monitor all aspects of practicum component of Teacher Education programs at U of C
- CHARITIES (6 elected each year – term 10-12)**
- Directors of the Calgary Separate School Teachers' Charities Society
- COMMUNICATIONS (2 elected – term 10-12)**
- Prepares INFO 55 and other publications.
- ECONOMIC POLICY (5 elected each year – term 10-13)**
- Responsible for collective bargaining and related areas. (Check one)
___ Div 1 (3yr), ___ Div II (3 yr), ___ Div III (3 yr), ___ Div IV (3yr), ___ Non-School (3yr)
- FINANCE (1 member at large elected each year – term 10-12)**
- Responsible for the Local's budget (fees).
- POLICY AND RESOLUTIONS (6 elected each year – term 10-12)**
- Prepares Local resolutions for the Annual Assembly.
- Annual Representative Assembly (Edmonton 2011)
- POLITICAL ACTION (6 elected each year term 09-11 (6 positions open for term 10-12)**
To promote interest and awareness among teachers in Local and Provincial political scene.
___ 09-11 ___ 10-12
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (6 elected each year – term 10-12)**
- To carry out the Local's Professional Development Program.
- PROFESSIONAL GROWTH SUBSIDY (3 elected - Div. I, Div III, member at large – term 10-12)**
- Responsible for the disbursement of the Local's Professional Growth Subsidy Fund.
___ Div 1 ___ Div III ___ Member at Large
- PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION (3 elected each year – term 10-12)**
Promotes recognition programs: New Teacher Induction, Long Service Awards and ATA Retirement Celebration
- SOCIAL (4 elected each year – term 10-12)**
- Organizes and conducts all social activities.
- SUBSTITUTE COMMITTEE (6 elected each year – term 10-11)**
- Provides effective programs to meet the needs of substitute teachers.

Signature: _____ Div. _____

Home Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Residence Phone: _____

School: _____ School Phone: _____

Home e-mail: _____ (We can't use school e-mail)

PLEASE RETURN THIS NOMINATION FORM BY May 18, 2010 (via "Pony or Fax") TO: A.T.A. OFFICE, NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE.

NOMINATIONS WILL OCCUR AT THE May 25th CSR MEETING.

Teachers Convention 2010



David Cracknell, President and Michael Anniuk, Trustee



Left to Right: Nancy Picone, VP Com., Stephen Jones, EA and Judi Blunt, PD Chair



Joanne Boissonneault, DR and Margaret Belcourt, Trustee Chair



Lily Lee, Treasurer and Franca DeGusti, Div 1 Rep



Serafino Scarpino, Trustee and Melinda Scarpino



Pat Sokolosky and Lois Burke-Gafney, Trustee