

From the Oak Desk



Guest Teachers

If you call the SEMS system for a guest teacher please make sure that you leave lesson plans, seating plans, supervision schedule, parking stall number and any other information that would assist the guest teacher. Guest teachers should be given the preparation period unless the school administration requires the guest teacher to assist another teacher.

In a case where the teacher contacted SEMS to request a guest teacher and one was assigned the job, it is up to the teacher to call the guest teacher to cancel, if the teacher does not, the cost will be charged to the teacher.

Rights of an Administrator and/or Teacher:

If an administrator and/or teacher feels that they may receive a letter of Warning, a letter of Reprimand or have been directed to attend a meeting with a Superintendent for a discipline reason, the administrator or teacher needs to contact Southern Alberta Regional Office (SARO) as soon as possible at 265-2672. The administrator and/or teacher have a right to have a Staff Officer present at the meeting.

Remember calls to the Local Office or SARO are confidential.

Hours of Work Clause 11.1

In the Collective Agreement for 2007 – 2012 Clause 11.1 the Hours of Work has been extended to June 30, 2013. Teachers need to check their current timetables to make sure they are not exceeding the maximum 1430 minutes of instruction (in front of students) per week, averaged over the school year, and 1800 minutes of assigned time per week averaged over the school year.

Assigned time is composed of instruction, staff meetings, meet the teacher night, parent teacher interviews, professional days, supervision, preparation “time free from instruction” and other duties directed by administration. For example when a teacher has been asked to cover a class because a guest teacher job was not filled, they are to include that time as instructional.

On the other hand, when a teacher receives an extra preparation period in lieu of covering a class, they should record the date, time and subject as well.

If there are any questions, please contact me at 403-265-2678 or e-mail ea@ataloc55.ab.ca .

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.

The arbitration dates are March 16 to 18, 2010 to hear the grievance initiated by the Local in 2006. The grievance is based on part-time teachers being required to attend staff meetings, parent teacher interviews and Professional Days when the part-time teacher is not scheduled to be at the school.

School Concerns:

During the Council of School Representatives (CSR) meeting there is an opportunity to raise questions or school concerns. The process is that teachers can write out the concern and have the CSR bring it to the next meeting and they will put it in the drop box. Before the meeting begins I will check the box and prepare a response. During my report I will read out the question or concern and give the response. If I am unable to answer the question during the CSR meeting, I will search out the information and provide the answer in my next EA report. Teachers are asked to provide their name and school and that information will be kept confidential.

Long Term Disability Support Group:

The Local appreciated the District’s assistance for sending out a memo to teachers on LTD announcing the LTD Support Group. Teachers on LTD tend to be isolated and may miss important information in the Collective Agreement .If you know of a teacher on LTD give them the Local’s phone/e-mail and have them contact us or they can go to web site www.ataloc55.ab.ca for more information.



President’s Message

Dear Colleagues:

This fall has been quite the mixture of challenges and blessings. The wild swings in weather, the global economic situation, and pandemic issues have been dominant news items. However, in our schools teachers and administrators are once again doing our best to provide the top quality education that our students are accustomed to, even as outside influences threaten the very system we strive to maintain.

We are all aware of the challenges that have come from Alberta Education regarding interpretation of the historic settlement that brought the government to the table for negotiations on the Unfunded Liability (UFL) in the Teachers’ Pension. This agreement also brought teachers assurances that the government would continue to support the class size initiative and would fully fund teacher salary settlements based on the Alberta Average Weekly Earning Index (AAWE). Due to a change in the formula calculated by Statistics Canada there has been differing interpretations from the government and ATA as to what teacher salary increases should be for this year. Grievances launched by all teacher bargaining units in Alberta and by the ATA as part of the arbitrations process included in the UFL agreement will continue to seek full payment for teachers. The Premier’s recent statements about wage freezes for public servants, including teachers, are also contrary to the AAWE formula contained in the UFL agreement and in all teacher collective agreements in Alberta. In addition, it is not clear at this time whether the government will follow through on its promises to continue the class size initiative in light of the budget cutbacks talked about by the Premier and the Education Minister. The ATA will continue to represent teachers at the Local and Provincial levels and will continue to keep teachers informed.

At the Local level, many positive developments have transpired over the past year, especially in the area of Professional Development (PD). Our Local is providing many PD opportunities for our members through programs offered by our PD and Economic Policy (EPC) committees. With assistance from the District we have been able to advertise these programs through email and have seen a significant increase in the number of members accessing the in-services. In addition, the PD committee has just launched a mentorship program in partnership with the District that provides opportunities for novice teachers and their mentors to work together with support and release time. Many of these activities support the goals of our landmark PD document completed last year and titled “Creating Our Future”. A PDF of this document is available on our web-site for anyone who has not had an opportunity to read the findings.

The activities you just read about are undertaken by volunteers who work on our many committees and on the Executive of the Local. The strength of the local is the tireless energy these people bring to the services they provide for all of our members. I am very proud to work with these people who have taken on the responsibility to further our profession and our professional association. I encourage you to join us in whatever way you can whether it is by attending the sessions provided, becoming a CSR to represent your school, or joining one of our committees. If you need more information on what opportunities are available please do not hesitate to contact the local or me personally, by looking us up on the local website at www.ataloc55.ab.ca.

Looking forward to the Christmas season, and semester break in January, I wish you all a productive fall and a joyous Christmas holiday. Let us all say an extra prayer for a happy New Year in 2010.

Professionally Yours,
David Cracknell

**For the Current ATA Local #55 Calendar
Please go to www.ataloc55.ab.ca and click on Events Calendar**

ATA LOCAL #55 WEBSITE SURVEY:

Please circle one choice and write your comments where indicated to the following:

1. Did the menu of items on the homepage make sense to you?
 - a. Yes
 - b. no

1a. If no what would you like to see changed?

2. Did you experience any problems downloading files?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Did not try

3. Approximately how many pages did you browse during this visit?
 - a. 1-3
 - b. 3 to 5
 - c. 5 to 8
 - d. More than 10

4. How satisfied are you with your experience with the Local #55 website?
 - a. Very satisfied,
 - b. Satisfied,
 - c. Dissatisfied,
 - d. Very dissatisfied.

4a. If you are not totally satisfied, please describe the reasons for your dissatisfaction.

5. How often do you visit our website?
 - a. Everyday
 - b. Several times a week
 - c. About once a week
 - d. Several times a month
 - e. About once a month
 - f. Less than once a month
 - g. I have never visited the website

6. How likely are you to return to this Website:
 - a. Very Likely
 - b. Somewhat likely
 - c. Somewhat unlikely
 - d. Not at all likely

7. How likely are you to recommend this website?
 - a. Very Likely
 - b. Somewhat likely
 - c. Somewhat unlikely
 - d. Not at all likely

8. How did you first hear about this site?
 - a. Search engine
 - b. Another web site
 - c. Info 55
 - d. Colleague
 - e. Other _____

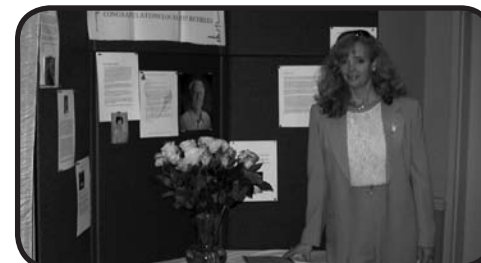
9. Why do you visit the Local #55 website?
 - a. Looking for general information
 - b. Searching for specific content information
 - c. To find a link to something
 - d. Other _____

10. What additional information or features would you like included on the Local #55 website?

11. Which Division do you teach?
 - a. Div I
 - b. Div II
 - c. Div III
 - d. Div IV
 - e. Non School Based

Please send your survey questions VIA the Pony to ATA Local #55, Attn: Communications Committee by December 1, 2009

Teacher Retirement Reception



Mentorship:



2009 Scholarship Awards:



Carina Crescenzi, Syndi Kind, Julie Lang -(in Pictures).
 Other recipients - Siobhan Carlson, Beth MacDonald,
 Max Palumbo and James Penny.

New Teacher Induction:



Carol Henderson, ATA President



New inductees, saying oath.

Upcoming Events

Professional Growth Subsidy	Nov. 19
Maternity Seminar	Nov. 19
Retirement Seminar	Nov. 19/20
CSR Meeting (St. Vladimir Cultural Centre)	Nov. 25
Theatre Calgary – A Christmas Carol	Nov. 27
Professional Growth Subsidy	Dec. 17

2010

Professional Growth Subsidy	Jan 21
Maternity Seminar	Jan. 21
CSR Meeting (St. Vladimir Ukrainian Cultural Centre)	Jan. 27
CSR Meeting (St. Vladimir Ukrainian Cultural Centre)	Feb. 23
Ski Trip to Fernie (Price TBA)	Feb. 26-28
Dodgeball, (Location, price TBA)	March
Slo-Pitch Tournament, (Location TBA)	May 29