

# NOTEBOOK

Issue #1 September 7, 2016



## NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING:

### *Deep Roots and New Beginnings*

We are very excited about this year's first General Meeting on Wednesday, September 28, 4:00 p.m. at St Martin's Anglican Church. All members are encouraged to attend.

This year we will celebrate the past, present, and future of our union with our theme of *Deep Roots and New Beginning*. All the presidents who have held the office since this year's president, Martin Stuible, started teaching in 1990 have been invited. So far, seven out of eight have indicated that they will join us on September 28. Guests include Linda Watson (90-93 and 05-09); Chuck Dixon (95-97); Weldon Cowan (97-2000); Diane Nelson (2000-03); Shirley Stearn (03-05); Daniel Storms (09-14); and Carolyn Pena (14-16).

#### Motions for consideration at the General Meeting

1. That the NVTA fee for the 2016/2017 school year be set at 0.80% of a teacher salary.
2. That the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President be released at 0.6 FTE for the 2016/2017 school year.
3. That the Professional Development Chair be released at 0.4 FTE for the 2016/2017 school year.
4. That each Executive Committee member and Standing Committee Chairperson who attends the Summer Planning Session be compensated the equivalent of one day at the current TIOC rate (excluding the President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President).
5. That the proposed budget 2016/2017 be recommended to the General Meeting in September.
6. That the proposed NVTA Goals & Priorities for 2016-2017 be recommended to the General Meeting in September.
7. That the NVTA Executive recommends to the NVTA General Meeting that the NVTA Executive Committee Compensation Policy 2016-2017 be adopted.
8. That the Representative Assembly recommend to the General Meeting that the CSR Compensation Policy be adopted, as determined by the Rep Assembly.

## Welcome Back!

Dear North Vancouver Teachers:

On behalf of the North Vancouver Teachers' Association, my best wishes for the new school year. I hope all had the chance to re-energize and recharge over the summer with family, friends, and loved ones.

This year I am encouraging everyone to focus on wellness. As a start, I would propose that we set aside Wednesdays as *Wellness Wednesdays*. Traditionally, these are NVTA meeting days and it would be great to see many of you at our General Meetings throughout the year. As well, Staff Reps are encouraged to attend all our Rep Assemblies, which happen on the third Wednesday of every month. If you find yourself on a Wednesday after school, with no NVTA meeting to attend to, take this opportunity to do something for yourself. Go for a walk, have a coffee with a friend, go to that yoga class that you never have time for. Or simply do nothing at all. Just enjoy an hour or two without the stress of work.

As a kick off to the new year, I would like to invite everyone to our first **General Meeting on Wednesday, September 28 at 4:00 pm at St. Martin's Hall**. While it is your chance to meet your new table officers and pass a budget, our theme of *Deep Roots and New Beginnings* will help us honour all the NVTA presidents who have served since I began teaching in 1990. This will be a wonderful chance for all NVTA members, whether new to the profession or longer serving, to celebrate our rich heritage and all that we have achieved together.

As the year gets busy, I want you all to remember that the NVTA is here to support you. Robin, Carolyn and myself are just a phone call or email away. You can reach me at [martin@nvta.ca](mailto:martin@nvta.ca) and Robin at [robin@nvta.ca](mailto:robin@nvta.ca) or call the office at [604 988-3224](tel:6049883224).

*Martin Stuible, NVTA President*

### *In Memory of Brian Fouchalk*

It is with immense sadness that we announce the sudden passing of one of our beloved NVTA members, Brian Fouchalk, who taught at Rideway Elementary and, previously, Capilano. He was a well-respected teacher and caring father and husband who will be missed deeply by all who were privileged to know him. A funeral service attended by hundreds took place on Saturday, August 20 at the North Shore Alliance Church. Our thoughts are with Brian's family as well as his NVTA family who are all grieving deeply at this loss.

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## PROPOSED NVTA GOALS & PRIORITIES 2016 – 2017

All NVTA members are committed to our students and Public Education. All NVTA members:

- *continue to build relationships with parents to advocate for students and public education,*
  - *understand and exercise their professional rights and responsibilities,*
  - *are informed and engaged in their union, and advocate for local and provincial working and learning conditions,*
  - *are informed and engaged in the May 2017 provincial election,*
  - *are aware of their rights as outlined in the Collective Agreement, and of the Collective Agreement's vital importance in the work place,*
  - *are committed to and engaged in professional learning, recognizing that teachers are best able to identify their professional learning needs,*
  - *are supported in the process of implementing the new curriculum at their own pace,*
- and**
- *every North Vancouver school has a staff committee that meets regularly and is inclusive, valued, proactive and committed to collaborative decision-making.*

### **COMMITTEE CALL-OUTS**

**JEPIC** – This committee meets every four to six weeks to make recommendations on a variety of issues related to the implementation of education programs.

**Grievance Committee** – Two NVTA members are required to sit on this important committee.

**Pro D Conference 2017 Committee** – NVTA members needed to help plan the February 2017 District-wide Pro D Conference.

### **ATTENTION: CSRs**

Please send in the 2016-17 School Contacts Form to Beth at the NVTA as soon as possible. If you need a form, please email [btriggs.nvta@telus.net](mailto:btriggs.nvta@telus.net).

### **PRO D SUMMER HOLDS**

If you registered for a 2016 Summer Hold in June, and attended your Pro D over the summer, please send in your receipts as soon as possible for reimbursement. The deadline to submit receipts for Summer Holds is September 30, 2016.

## **KEEP CALM AND TEACH ON**

This fall teachers across British Columbia will embark on an unprecedented process of beginning to implement new curriculum across all subject areas from Kindergarten to Grade 9. In many ways, with its focus on deeper understanding and critical thinking, this new curriculum is simply catching up to what teachers have already been doing in the classroom. Many teachers are feeling stress and anxiety about trying to implement such a wide ranging change at the same time as meeting many and varied needs of students in the classroom and other demands in a school.

The BCTF, Ministry of Education, BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association, and the BC School Superintendents Association address this important issue in a joint document stating:

*It is therefore critical and cannot be overemphasized that the implementation of the curricula be viewed as an ongoing, long-term process, rather than an event. With this in mind, we understand it will take time for teachers as they begin implementing the redesigned K-9 curriculum in September 2016. Rather, curriculum implementation is an ongoing process built around cumulative, reflective practice supported by all learning partners.*

With this statement in mind, teachers should view the process of implementing the new curriculum as beginning now and continuing throughout the year and beyond. Additionally, teachers do not need to recreate every activity, worksheet, assignment and test for the new curriculum. As teachers work with the new curriculum, they should review current materials and assess what materials will still work, which materials can be adapted to fit and which materials no longer work. There is no need to create all new materials and lessons for the new curriculum.

Another important issue to keep in mind is that this new curriculum is just that – curriculum! Curriculum informs teachers about what subjects and topics to cover at each grade. Teachers still have professional autonomy over how to teach that curriculum – pedagogy! Although the new curriculum is designed to better support inquiry based instruction or project based learning, it does not require any specific type of instruction. Teachers will continue to make decisions about the best way to teach the new curriculum to students.

The pace of implementation of the new curriculum will vary from teacher to teacher, just as the pace of learning varies from student to student. If a particular school has a group of teachers who are at a certain point in implementation, it does not mean that other teachers must also be at that point or change how they are planning their instruction. Just as with the previous curriculum, teachers who teach the same grade or subject area may be at different points or approaching the curriculum in different ways.

The new curriculum provides an exciting opportunity for teachers to continue to expand on many of the recent changes we have seen in teaching and helping students to a more meaningful understanding of the world around them. It was designed by teams that included teachers from across the province, including North Vancouver, appointed by the BCTF. The NVTA wants to ensure that each teacher has the support necessary to successfully implement the new curriculum at their own pace!

If you are feeling any pressure from colleagues or administrators about the implementation of the new curriculum or have any questions, contact Carolyn Pena, NVTA Pro D Chair, at the NVTA office or by email [carolyn@nvta.ca](mailto:carolyn@nvta.ca).

The first NVTA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY of the school year is **Wednesday, September 21, 2016**,  
at Sutherland Library (4:00 pm – 6:00 pm).