

NOTEBOOK

Issue #1 September 8, 2017



NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING –

*St. Martin's Anglican Church
Wednesday, October 4, 2017, 4 p.m.*

Motions for consideration at the General Meeting

1. That the NVTA fee for the 2017-2018 school year be set at 0.80% of a teacher salary.
2. That the 2nd Vice President be released at 0.8 FTE for the 2017/2018 school year.
3. That the Professional Development Chair be released at 0.2 FTE for the 2017-2018 school year.
4. That the automobile allowance for the 2nd Vice President be increased to \$2,000 for the 2017/2018 school year to account for the increased point time.
5. That the NVTA Executive Committee Days policy for the 2017/2018 school year be recommended to the NVTA General Meeting.
6. That compensation in the form of one day at the current in lieu rate be provided to each executive member (excluding the President, 1st Vice President, and 2nd Vice President) and Standing Committee Chairpersons who attend the Summer Planning Session.
7. That the Representative Assembly recommend to the General Meeting that the CSR Compensation Policy be adopted, as determined by the Rep Assembly.
8. That the NVTA reimburse the Treasurer for summer workdays.
9. That the proposed budget 2017/2018 be adopted.
10. That the proposed NVTA Goals & Priorities for 2017-2018 be adopted.

Happy New School Year!

With the hazy days of summer hopefully leading to the rain our BC forests need, the sound of students and teachers heading back to class is the clearest signal that summer is coming to an end. With restored language and 60+ additional teachers in North Vancouver, the first steps toward improving our much-neglected public education system have been taken. But this is only the beginning. The new government will present a throne speech, followed by an updated provincial budget, that should provide more stable funding for our schools. We can take nothing for granted, however, and must continue to advocate for new curriculum resources, an end to the FSAs, further enhancements to the learning conditions of our students, and salary improvements during the next round of bargaining in 2019 that will be vital for recruitment and retention.

At the local level, space will continue to be an issue with decisions made over the last 15 years resulting in the overcrowded schools we now see. In terms of TTOC hiring, the District has assured us that they have worked tirelessly to hire new teachers so we look forward to seeing an adequate supply of TTOCs for the many needs that arise during the year. This is also the year that the District will take the findings of the Employee Engagement survey and develop a plan for a new positive direction. The NVTA Executive will be reaching out to members on this to ensure that your voice continues to be heard and listened to.

With many new teachers coming to our schools, please take the time to welcome and mentor these newest members. Share resources, pass on your wisdom, engage them in NVTA issues, highlight the importance of attending staff committee meetings, invite them to RAs and General Meetings. Above all, check in on them regularly so that their year can be as good as possible.

Finally, may all of you have a year of health and wellness. Teaching is an admirable profession but it is also one of the most challenging. You are no good to anyone if you don't look after yourself. Always find time for family and friends. Always find time for yourself. May 2017-18 truly be a great school year.

Martin Stuible, NVTA President

The first NVTA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY of the school year is scheduled on
Wednesday, September 20, 2017, at Sutherland Library (4:00 pm – 6:00 pm).

North Vancouver Teachers' Association
240 – 233 West 1st Street, North Vancouver, BC V7M 1B3
Phone: 604-988-3224 Fax: 604-980-8092 Website: nvta.ca

PROPOSED NVTA GOALS & PRIORITIES 2017 – 2018

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

All NVTA members:

- Continue to build relationships with parents to advocate for student and public education and increase awareness of our restored language,
- Understand and exercise our professional rights and responsibilities,
- Are engaged in our union and informed about our restored language,
- Advocate for and enforce local and provincial working and learning conditions,
- Are informed and engaged in provincial changes in education,
- Are aware of our 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 our own professional learning needs,
- Are supported in the process of implementing the new curriculum at our 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.

Adopted by the NVTA Executive August 30, 2017.

UPCOMING STAFF REP TRAINING (SURT) SESSIONS

September 20, 2017 – SBRT SURT

Location: St. Martin's Anglican Church – Meeting Room
Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

October 17, 2017 – ELEMENTARY SURT

Location: North Vancouver City Library – 3rd Floor Mtg Rm
Time: 9:15 am – 3:30 pm

October 24, 2017 – New Teachers' SURT

Location: John Braithwaite Community Ctr. – Mtg Rm #2
Time: 9:00 – 3:00 pm

October 31, 2017 – SECONDARY SURT

Location: John Braithwaite Community Ctr. – Mtg Rm #2
Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

CSRs, please watch for information that will be emailed to you in the coming days.

ATTENTION: CSRs

Please send in the 2017-18 School Contacts Form to NVTA Office Manager, Beth Triggs, as soon as possible. If you need a form, please email btriggs.nvta@telus.net.

NVTA MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR 2017-2018

SEPTEMBER 2017

20 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)

OCTOBER 2017

4 NVTA General Meeting (St. Martin's Anglican Church)
- adopt NVTA Goals/Priorities, Budget & Fee 2017/18
5 World Teachers' Day
9 Thanksgiving
18 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)
20 District-wide Professional Development Day

NOVEMBER 2017

3-4 BCTF Representative Assembly
6 NVSD Curriculum Implementation Day
11 Remembrance Day
13 Remembrance Day (STAT)
15 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)

DECEMBER 2017

8 NVTA Christmas Party (Location TBA)
13 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)

December 23 – January 7 CHRISTMAS BREAK

JANUARY 2018

8 Schools reopen
17 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)
19 Curriculum Training
26 BCTF Representative Assembly
31 NVTA General Meeting (St. Martin's Anglican Church)
- elect delegates to the BCTF Annual General Meeting

FEBRUARY 2018

12 Family Day Stat Holiday
21 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)
23 District-wide Professional Development Day

MARCH 2018

14 NVTA Representative Assembly dinner meeting (Sutherland Library)
17-20 102nd BCTF AGM
30 Good Friday

March 17 – April 2 SPRING BREAK

APRIL 2018

2 Easter Monday
3 Schools reopen
18 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)
- followed by NVTA All-Candidates Meeting

MAY 2018

7 District-wide Professional Development Day
9 NVTA Annual General Meeting & Social (elect NVTA Executive & Chairs for 2018-2019) – St. Martin's Anglican Church
16 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)
21 Victoria Day
25-26 BCTF Representative Assembly

JUNE 2018

11 Retirement Tea (Seymour Golf & Country Club)
20 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)
28 Last day of school
29 Administration Day

Know your Restored Language

Article D.4.B.4: Identification of Students with Special Needs

- a. The School-based Resource Team may refer a student to the District Screening Committee for designation as a Student with Special Needs.
- b. The District Screening Committee shall consist of four (4) representatives from the Association and four (4) representatives from the Board. The specific representatives may vary throughout the year.
- c. Criteria for the screening of Students with Special Needs shall be developed by the District Screening Committee and these criteria shall be used for the identification of Students with Special Needs.
- d. A student may be removed from Students with Special Needs designation by the District Screening Committee.
- e. Referrals from the School-based Resource Team shall be processed and a decision made within thirty (30) calendar days.
- f. The District Screening Committee shall complete the process of screening students by June 1st of each year.

Article D.4.C: School-based Resource Team

For the purposes of this Article, the term “School-based Resource Team” shall mean a committee established in each school consisting of the school’s principal and/or vice-principal, counsellor, learning assistance teacher, learning resource teacher, and a classroom teacher.

What this Means:

SBRT: Starting immediately, our restored language will change how SBRTs work. There are two main areas of change: membership and process.

Membership

The CA language defines the members of the SBRT as outlined above. The most significant change is that a classroom teacher will now sit on SBRT again. This is not the teacher bringing forward a student but a permanent member of the team who represents classroom teachers on the team. This member should be elected by staff committee and should be a “classroom teacher.”

SLPs, School Psychologists and others can attend meetings to present information about specific students, but do not sit on the team as a member and are not involved in the decision-making process.

Process

The SBRT (with the members outlined above) now makes the decisions about referring students for identification directly to the District Screening Committee. There is no longer the additional step of going through ESBRT. Once SBRT has decided to refer a student, the identification package is completed and sent directly to the District Screening Committee through Kathleen MacIver in Learning Services.

District Screening Committee: This newly reformed committee consists of equal representation from the District and the NVT. The committee will review identification packages and determine identifications and EA hour allocations. The committee will also review requests for changes (increases or decreases) to EA hour allocation for previously identified students. SBRTs can send requests for changes in EA hour allocations directly to the District Screening Committee.

What does this mean for ESBRT?

ESBRT no longer has a role to play in referring students for identification. This responsibility now returns to SBRT as defined in the CA language. ESBRT may have other roles at a school or it may no longer be needed.