

NOTEBOOK

Issue #13 May 17, 2017



NVTA RETIREMENT TEA Monday, June 12, 2017

*Seymour Golf & Country Club
Congratulations, Retirees!*

Sonya Alcock (Seymour Heights)
Diane Arbez (Lynnmoor)
Val Batyi (Cleveland)
Christine Bieg (Carisbrooke)
Caroline Brook (Upper Lynn)
Judy Dunbar (Canyon Heights)
Jane Fairbairn (Ridgeway)
Cheryl Fary (Highlands)
Kathy Garford (Queensbury)
Tim Hurley (Sutherland)
Sue Jecks (Handsworth)
Susan Jones (Seymour Heights)
Catherine Kierans (Sutherland)
Mike Kiss (Boundary)
Susan Kiss (Braemar)
Rosemary Mah (Sutherland)
Carol McClelland (Queen Mary)
Norm Nichols (Sutherland)
Chris Nielsen (Sutherland)
Josef Osif (Seycove)
Monika Ostrowski (Leave)
Anna Pakalnis (Carson Graham)
Kathleen Patterson (Dorothy Lynas)
Felicity Payment (Brooksbank)
Jay Prepchuk (Handsworth)
Dianne Silverwood (Blueridge)
Laurie Smith (Cove Cliff)
Nicholas Stock (Handsworth)
Jeannette Tresidder (Eastview)
Debbie Walsh (Learning Services)
Bob Walter (Seycove)
Glen Walters (Handsworth)
Marilyn Wan (Argyle/TTOC)
Jane Weller (Distributed Learning)

Superintendent's Response to Representative Assembly Motions

At the April RA, Staff Reps unanimously passed three motions dealing with the District's preparation for the implementation of our restored language for the 2017-18 school year.

Superintendent of Schools, Mark Pearmain, has responded to each of the motions. Below is his response in full. The motions from the RA are highlighted in bold.

Dear Martin,

This is an acknowledgement of receipt of your letter dated April 21, 2017.

On behalf of the NVSD Executive Committee, I would like to share with the NVTA Executive our concern with the nature of the demands articulated in the Representative Assembly (RA) motions of April 19, 2017.

We feel there may be a misunderstanding of our respective roles and responsibilities. Within our Collective Agreement there are two articles that demonstrate the roles of each party: Article A.25 and Article A.2.2.

Both of these articles delineate the respective roles of the Employer (management) and the Local Association (NVTA). It is important to note that input from stakeholder groups is always valued and reflected upon in the decision-making process; however, these articles clarify that the operation and management of the district is the responsibility of the management team. The Senior Executive would also like to confirm and reinforce the value of the role of the NVTA RA, and specifically the NVTA Executive, in fulfilling its separate and distinct responsibilities in support of its members.

It is within the above context that I offer the following response:

It is regrettable that some members of my staff felt stress or concern after being provided information regarding possible reclamation of space and change in space usage in our schools for the 2017/2018 school year.

This is a present-day reality of restoring the 2002 contract language. With these changes in practice coming into effect next school year, I believe it is important to provide the opportunity for staff to have input at the local school level on decisions that will directly affect them.

North Vancouver Teachers' Association

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The school district is well aware of the expectation that we be in compliance with our restored Collective Agreement. As illustrated by our meetings with the NVTA Executive, we have taken the extra ordinary step of involving the NVTA Executive in preliminary discussions about what we are seeing and to provide opportunity for input from the NVTA. We have chosen to involve the NVTA in the discussion as a sign of our willingness and desire to be transparent with the management work we are doing. We look forward to our continued discussion moving forward.

Responses to specific NVTA RA motions:

1) "That the NVTA RA request a formal apology from the NVSD Executive regarding the falsely created pressure re: space allocations in schools which resulted in members' Easter Long weekend being filled with undue stress. This letter to be cc'd to the trustees."

As stated to the NVTA in our meeting on April 3, 2017, there was a Ministry of Education requirement to provide information regarding staffing and space use to the Ministry with an April 28th deadline. Contrary to the statement in the NVTA letter that the NVSD Executive "falsely created pressure", the requirement was fact and reporting to the Ministry was required. The Ministry of Education timeline was provided to Principals and Vice Principals to share with their staff in order for them to be able to receive the valued input from their teaching staff. In light of these facts, it is not felt that an apology is warranted. As stated earlier, it is regrettable that some staff felt angst. It also should be noted that the District received numerous creative suggestions from schools regarding space allocation/reclamation that involved staff input.

2) "That the NVTA RA requests from the NVSD that before any further plans are considered for 2017/18 school year:

- **The contracts for all rental spaces including the conditions for breaking of leases be shared with the NVTA**
- **An initial class organization plan be provided that meets the contractual obligations for class size and composition**
- **An explanation be provided of how the NVSD proposed plan meets the 'best efforts' in supporting student learning**
- **Outline how the NVSD will provide appropriate educational space both inside and outside the classroom."**

As referenced in the Collective Agreement regarding roles, the Executive Committee will continue to prepare for the upcoming school year. Responses to your specific requests are listed below:

- Leases are contracts between the NVSD and third parties (both for profit and non-profit) and will not be shared with the NVTA.

- The NVTA will receive, as per normal protocols, the preliminary and final staffing allocations of schools after they have been provided to Principals/Vice Principals.

- "Best efforts" will not be completed until the 2017/2018 school year commences; however, to date the School District has:

- organized classes with the new class size limits;
- organized classes abiding; where possible, to the SPED limits;
- restricted student movement (choice) if there is no space at schools;
- reclaimed space in schools to create enrolling classrooms;
- aggressively recruited teaching staff;
- prepared for continual recruitment during summer months;
- ordered portables;
- plans for ordering materials/furniture for the new classrooms;
- plans for ordering teacher computers for new classrooms;
- plans for ordering teacher computers for staffrooms.

The MOA clearly describes "best efforts" and options for districts to consider to be in compliance of the restored Collective Agreement. We will continue to work within this MOA moving forward. The School District is working under the assumption that the NVTA would expect the District to continue to work towards meeting the restored language up to and including the commencement of the 2017/2018 school year.

Any reclaimed or re-organized space will be appropriate for teaching and learning. The School District will be conducting both renovation work and purchasing of materials over the summer months to ensure that all classroom space is prepared for school start up. This will include minor renovations, furniture for teachers and students, and other requirements as needed.

3) "That the NVTA table offices be invited to all administrator meetings that concern contract enforcement especially classroom locations and class composition."

While the Executive Committee appreciates the desire of the NVTA RA and NVTA Executive, it is neither the function nor the responsibility of the NVTA Executive table officers to participate in management meetings.

Likewise, it would not be appropriate for the Assistant Superintendents nor Director of Human Resources to attend NVTA RA meetings.

Regards,

Mark Pearmain

Superintendent/CEO

North Vancouver School District

UPCOMING POSTING ROUNDS

Round Two: June 7 – 14, 2017
Round Three: June 21 – 28, 2017

DISTRICT & PROVINCIAL PRO D DATES 2017-18

Friday, October 20, 2017; Friday, February 23, 2018; Monday, May 7, 2018