



Northern Gateway ATA Local #43

Executive Meeting Agenda

5:30 P.M. Thursday, September 25, 2014

Hilltop High School, Whitecourt

1. Supper
2. Call to Order 5:50
3. Additions or Deletions to Agenda -
4. Minutes from April 2 - Gloria Byer moved to accept the minutes, Zane second, carried.
5. Introductions - Round Table -
6. Reports –
 1. District Representative – Paul McCann - see attached
 2. President – Eric Frederick - see attached
 3. Vice President – Katrina Zack - see attached
 4. Treasurer/PD Chair – Laurel Bartelds - see attached - important to send in a new PD policy that reflects what you do with your pd money.
 5. Communications – Brent Northcott -.AB - High School Redesign conference
 6. PEO – Jennifer Keay - see attached
 7. EPC – Roy Burghardt - see attached
 8. Convention Reps - program is almost complete. School reps will be giving information from Sharon Frederick, they are to inform staff. Wrist bands (slap bands) will be used this year.
6. New Business
 - a. Summer Conference Update - goal is to have someone in the initiatives to leaderships each year. Anyone interested should let Eric know. It is really enjoyable and beneficial.
 - b. Beginning Teachers' Conference
 - c. Admin Policy 460 - Staff Dress Code - DRAFT - local input will be sent to Kevin - the idea is note worthy, may be too prescriptive. any ideas can be forwarded to Eric
 - d. Scholarships - Please advertise the availability of these scholarships
 - e. communication - Annual report -Retirement updates:
- Jodi Macklin June 15 2014
 - f. Dates and locations for next year -
Sept 16 - exec meeting mountain steak and pizza 5:00
Sept 25 - local council meeting Hilltop 5:00
Oct 28 - hangout exec meeting 7:00
Nov 6 - video conference local meeting 4:30
Jan 19 - hangout exec meeting 7:00
Jan 22 - Video conference local meeting 4:30
April 20 - Hangout Exec meeting 7:00
April 30 - Local meeting - Hilltop 5:30
May 25 - exec meeting - Mountain Steak - 5:30
May 27 AGM - Hilltop
 - g. Next year goals / open discussion - any ideas please send to Eric



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7. Next meeting dates
 - a. Executive Hang out Oct 28 7:00
 - b. local council November 6 Video Conference 4:30
8. Adjournment - 7:38 Roy moves to adjourn

Central North District Representative's Report for
Northern Gateway Local 43
Thursday, September 25, 2014
- Submitted by Paul McCann

New Minister of Education – Mr. Gordon Dirks

The Provincial Executive Council had the opportunity for a 'meet and greet' with Mr. Dirks, as he asked if he could stop by Barnet House during our PEC meeting, on Thursday, September 18th. The request came in the form of a text message to President Ramsankar, just after lunch. Chief of staff, Ms. Pamela Sutherland (no handlers, as seemed to be the norm with the other guy) accompanied him. My first impression was that this gentleman is both comfortable and knowledgeable on education issues. No promises were made. No politicking occurred. He was there to acknowledge that there is a lot of work to be done and some fences to mend. Mr. Dirks brings with him extensive time, both in the classroom and as an administrator in Saskatchewan. He also did a stint on the Calgary Board of Education. Mr. Gene Williams has been appointed as the acting deputy minister of Education. The ATA has an established working relationship with Mr. Williams. Recent ATA Publications Available in Print or .pdf

One of the many qualities that define the ATA as a world leader in education is the emphasis on research that we conduct in Alberta schools and with partners abroad. If you or any colleagues are interested in the current research reports that are now available in print or electronic format, I would be pleased to arrange to have the following publications made available to you.

- The Alberta Teachers' Association Strategic Plan (10 pgs.)
- Changing Landscapes: Alberta 2015 – 2035 (fold-out brochure highlighting 7 trends affecting education)
- The Future of the Principalship in Canada – A National Research Study (147 pgs.)
- Exploring the Development of Teacher Efficacy Through Professional Learning Experiences (15 pgs.)
- A Week in the Life of Alberta School Leaders (18 pgs. –an ATA research update)
- Report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Inclusive Education in Alberta Schools (120 pgs.)

WANTED: HPEC Regional Representative. Part of my duties as your District Representative is to serve as a liaison for the Health and Physical Education Council. Our region is currently without a rep on the HPEC Executive Council. If you know of a talented person who



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you think might want to take on an important leadership role, please let me know. We can chat about what duties the individual would be expected to perform.

Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) – Feels Like Spam ATA Locals, Convention Boards, and especially, Specialist Councils were shocked to find out how this new federal legislation has handcuffed our members from being able to promote professional learning opportunities within the teaching profession. It seems that electronic 2 communication has been sent back to the dark ages, in terms of the ease of being able to reach membership. Each ATA sub-group has identified one key person, who is presently working with Sharon Vogrinetz at Barnett

House, in an attempt to cut through a swath of red tape. Stay tuned. Learning Our Way: Public Lecture Series – David Berliner. The ATA is continuing to provide convenient and

inexpensive opportunities to personally attend lectures from some of the most respected world leaders in education. David Berliner will be touring four Alberta cities in October. His closest stop to Central North will be in Edmonton, on Monday, October 20th. Check with your

Local or Barnett House, if you wish to attend. 2014 Substitute Teachers' Conference: The Joy of Teaching @ Barnett House Friday, October 17th – Saturday, October 18th Student Learning Assessments (SLAs) - The Provincial Executive Council recently passed a

recommendation, directing that a letter be sent to the new Minister of Education with the request that he communicate ATA concerns to school boards that some jurisdictions are not properly prepared to administer the grade three SLAs beginning in October.

The letter pointed out two serious concerns;

1. Alberta Education has estimated that it will take up to 45 minutes to assess the results from each student. Only a few school jurisdictions have made the proper provisions to give teachers time to assess.

2. The online tools for supporting the assessment of the SLAs are still not available. The timelines for providing support materials to teachers was not adequate. While the ATA fully supports the discontinuation of PATs and the implementation of SLAs, we judge that there

needs to be more transition time in order to ensure the success of this new tool for student assessment. Having almost all grade three students in the province participate in the 'piloting' of a new assessment may be counterproductive.

British Columbia Teachers' Strike Support. During September's PEC meeting, the Provincial

Executive Council passed two financial recommendations to assist our colleagues, the British

Columbia Teachers' Federation, bordering on the west of our province.

1. \$25 000 has been donated to support the BC Francophone Teachers (a sub-group of the BCTF)

2. Up to \$2 million in the form of a no-interest loan has been offered to the BCTF.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PAUL McCANN

CELL: (780)293.2445



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EMAIL: paul.mccann@teachers.ab.ca



President's Report September 16 Executive/ September 25 Local Council

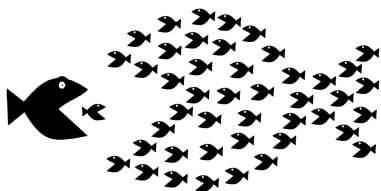
Summer Conference

There were five people from Northern Gateway attending summer conference; three were directly sent from the local. Sessions I enjoyed immensely were the leadership debate (?) - only Thomas Lukaszuk showed up although three education critics managed to make it.



Further, I enjoyed the Tzeporah Berman author of *This Crazy Time*. She had several messages I found significant:

- there are good people everywhere that are in bad systems and you need to listen; nothing replaces relationships and listening is important
- can't just tell people the facts Sometimes it can feel isolating; alone we are isolated about there is a tremendous strength in numbers...cool image of multiple fish collectively being larger than a larger fish



- Presidents' Meeting with Mark Ramsankar and PEC

Meeting Beginning Teachers of Northern Gateway August 27/14

- Invited to address 22 new teachers at the initial day of Northern Gateway



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- Was originally told 11 so 15 bags were purchased with a mug and some other material; list is to be coming to mail off other bags.

Beginning Teachers' Conference

- Messages sent to both principals and school reps regarding upcoming Beginning Teachers Conference in Edmonton Sept 25-27 and changes regarding financials. Pleased to say received some positive feedback from several principals regarding attendance.
- Sometimes it can feel isolating; alone we are isolated about there is a tremendous strength in numbers...cool image of multiple fish collectively being larger than a larger fish

Northern Gateway Local 43 EPC Chair Report

Submitted by Roy Burghardt

September 25, 2014

Mr. Prentice is bound by the Framework Agreement until August 31, 2016. If anyone needs help in calculating their 907 hours of instruction the EPC can assist in the process but will not take sides between a teacher and a principal since both are members of the ATA. If a teacher has concerns about teaching over their 907 hours of instruction they should have a discussion with their principal first. Teachers (and principals are teachers) are legally bound by this framework and cannot make side deals to go over the 907 hours of instruction. If a teacher is not satisfied with how their instructional hours were calculated they should contact TW.

Do members feel that they Are being well served by this framework agreement? Has workload decreased?

Our local has an ongoing Sick Leave Grievance and I will share some points with local council.

Our current collective agreement is not yet posted. Sandra Johnston Coordinator of TW explained that the review process is a lengthy one involving multiple exchanges of the documents. TW are reviewing the entire agreement not just the changes. This



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school year our Arbitrated settlement gives us only one change. Effective this September the Board now pays 100% of health plan premiums. This is up from 96%.

We are looking to have our first EPC meeting in October and are working on finding a date that doesn't conflict with busy schedules.



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Jennifer Keay
Political Engagement Officer Report
September 25, 2014

Premier Jim Prentice, Who is He?

- Former Member of Parliament (2004-2010)
 - Minister of Indian Affairs & Northern Development
 - Minister of Industry
 - Minister of the Environment
 - Strong supporter of the Federal Accountability Act
- Unelected official, who is now our Premier
(This hasn't occurred in Alberta since 1930)

Prentice's Cabinet

- 20 people, much smaller than Redford's cabinet
- Includes 2 **unelected** officials in charge of over ½ the province's budget
 - Stephen Mandel: Minister of Health
 - **Gordon Dirks: Minister of Education**
 - Jeff Johnson is now the Minister of Seniors
 - George Vanderburg is now the Party Whip

Challenges of Prentice's Cabinet & Official Start to His Reign as Premier

- Legislature has been prorogued until November 17. This is good and bad - currently no one is "working", however, it will provide the time needed for Dirks & Mandel to be elected, and learn their jobs.
- Mandel & Dirks have been nominated, and are currently uncontested in their ridings. This means they could win the seats by acclamation. Is this democracy at work? Albertans need to refrain from apathy in order to ensure our system actually works.
- Prentice has hinted at creating non-political or cross political superboards for the Health Ministry, possibly the Education ministry.

Gordon Dirks - Education Minister, What Are His Priorities?

- Learning his new role as Education Minister
- Top Priorities:
 - relationship building
 - completion of construction of new schools
- He is still "evaluating" key reports

Please see the attached letter from the Premier to Gordon Dirks.

<http://alberta.ca/AlbertaCode/images/Mandate-Education.pdf>



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Vice President Report - Katrina Zack - vicepresident@local43.com Exec Meeting Sept 16 2014

Hope you have all had a nice and relaxing summer and have come back to school refreshed and ready to take on what is hoped to be an excellent year!

1. Scholarships- Last years winner:
2. Please get information regarding scholarships to your school councilors- I have emailed out the information to the school reps gmail account. Should there be any questions regarding the eligibility of the scholarhip please email me.
3. If there were any teachers that retired after my deadline to get me names of June 6th- please forward their name and former school location to me and I will make sure they receive their retirement gift from the local as soon as possible

Food for thought:

Found this interesting picture this summer that shows some of the `rules` that teachers had to follow- my thought was WOW how times have changed- especially for women!

