



Evergreen Catholic Local #44

September Minutes

September 10, 2014

St. Thomas Aquinas (PLC Room) – 4:30 p.m.

website: <http://evergreencatholiclocal44.weebly.com>

As copied from below:

8) Action Plan: Rhonda Reid

- 1) All staff reps sign up for push notification to try out, to then 'sell' to staff by offering less time during a staff meeting because info will be passed directly to members. (Thanks Angelo!)
 - 2) Staff rep for PD to Pina please
 - 3) Workload rep to Real please
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1) Prayer (Tara Pylko)

2) Additions /Deletions to the Agenda : Approve- Rita All in favour

3) Minutes: June (Accepted at the June Meeting)

4) Business:

Welcome to the EPC Committee who are joining us for the first two business items. They will then retreat to a different room for their meeting. They will rejoin us after their meeting for supper.

a) Lisa Everitt (Executive Staff Officer, Teacher Welfare)

Discussed newly created positions and the change in names and how it affected the clauses in the agreement. Discussed that salary is affected if the division office requests you to work over your holiday. The distinction is that the request comes from the district. Those who are being affected by these clauses seemed to have the desire to choose between the payment or the day-in-lieu. Explained the reasons and the process of mid-term bargaining. Present time there will be no mid-term bargaining. Discussion about how many teachers were in favour of the changes but a few were concerned.

Collective agreement increase is coming to Evergreen. Provided with a memo with new salary grid effective as of Sept 1, 2014. 0.29% is our increase. Can distribute with PDF e-mails. Salary changes and benefit changes only, teachers need to also understand the other changes.

In June, Cindi Vaselenak expressed interest in opening the collective agreement to make changes to the following two articles in our collective agreement (2.1, 10.2.2). Lisa will explain the two articles and possible reasons for approving changes to them. Note: Changes to the collective agreement must be approved at a BUGM.

Present Language:

2.1 This agreement applies to all employees of the Board who as a condition of their employment must possess a valid teaching certificate issued under the authority of Alberta Learning, Province of Alberta, herein collectively called the teachers, or where the context requires teacher, except those designated as superintendent and deputy/assistant superintendent that will positively impact a few of our teachers.

10.2 A teacher who is not in receipt of an administration or supervisory allowance may agree to render service during the summer vacation period at the request of the superintendent.

10.2.1 A teacher who is in receipt of an administration or supervisory allowance may agree to render service during the summer vacation period at the request of the superintendent, if such service is over and above the service required in return for the administrative or supervisory allowance such teacher is receiving.

10.2.2 Payment for such service shall be determined at the rate of 1/200 of the teacher's basic salary for each day of the mutually agreed work period. A teacher who works beyond the period specified above is not entitled to additional remuneration unless the mutual agreement is revised.

b) 2014 /15 Strategic Plan: Improved communication

Locals were provided time during Summer Conference to begin to develop a strategic plan. Our members who attended the conference all felt improving communication with our members and the district was an important goal for our local. During the year we will develop several strategies to improve our communication.

First Strategy: **Set Up Push Notification** (Angelo Delli Santi)

Discussion that communication has been a difficulty. Describe what a Push Notification is. Would be controlled by Angelo and Laurette. Directions on a 1 page note to provide to Staff Reps. Purpose to improve communication, members are provided with quick updates, members cannot send a text back. Charges are free if you have free texts in Canada. Can be provided with a link for free texting if need be. Well managed, your phone number won't be shared.

To improve communication with our members, we will use REMINDER (formally known as REMINDER 101). A text message will be sent to all members when they sign up. Members will then be given quick updates through out the year, via text, which will include short summaries of our monthly meetings, important updates and reminders to go to the website.

This is a push notification; members cannot send a text message back to the number that sends the text. However, through this system, they will receive information on where they can find more details on the messages sent.

Please encourage your teachers to sign up for this service. Teachers interested in accessing this service need to send a text message to the following number: (226)778-2076 with a message indicating @44local. Once that is completed a text message will be sent asking for your full name. Keep in mind your phone number is not kept in a database for privacy reasons like FOIP. The only database available is the name on file who signed up. Once you have signed up you just need to sit back and let the texting from your local ATA keep you informed.

c) BC Teachers' Federation www.bctf.ca/BargainingAndContracts.aspx?id=33210

Paul discussed what the Canadian Teachers Association is doing for the BC teachers. Question is what are Alberta teachers doing for BC teachers?

Motion:

I, Real VanBrabant, move that Evergreen Catholic Local #44 direct our District Representative to request that the ATA make a donation from the Special Emergency Fund to the BC Teachers Federation in support of their job action. Seconder- Carmen Markowski. All in favour, unanimous.

Laurette would appreciate more information from Paul McCann about the BC teachers situations.

Motion:

I, Vanessa Bjorge, move that Evergreen Catholic Local #44 donate \$1000.00 to the BC teachers federation in support of their job action. Seconder- Renee Lapointe. All in favour, unanimous.

Steve Dempsey e-mailed Laurette to request that our local considers supporting the BC teachers either through

a letter of support or donation. The BCTF has received support from many organizations. The Ontario Teaching Federation has helped to build up the BC teachers strike fund. Check out the website for more information.

I have contacted the ATA through Paul McCann to see if the ATA is lending support in any way. We may be able to join the ATA in their effort or show support independently.

Discuss possible ways we can show our support to the BC teachers during this difficult time.

5) Information Items:

a. Administrator Rep : Ray Cote has volunteered to be our new Admin. Rep.

b. Evergreen Catholic Local #44 addresses:

Please update and verify your information. New members add name and address to the list.

c. 2014/15 meeting dates: Second teaching Wednesday of the month. The meetings will be at St. Peter the Apostle High School.

September 10
October 8
November 19 (Video Conference)
January 14 (Video Conference)
February 5 (AGM & Induction and Retirement – No Local meeting)
March 11 (Video Conference)
April 8
May 13
June 10 (Restaurant)

d. Beginning Teachers Conference – Register On-line (www.teachers.ab.ca)

Date: September 25 (Eve) – September 27, 2014
Where: Fantasyland Hotel, West Edmonton Mall

Substitute may be required for Friday (paid by schools); The Local will cover the cost of accommodation if required. [We will pay their accommodations but not mileage.](#)

e. Leadership Essentials for Administrators

Date: November 17-18
Place: Fantasy Land Hotel, Edmonton
Register on-line before October 31, 2014

Who Should Attend

The Leadership Essentials for Administrators conference is open to all administrators within the first two years of their appointment and administrators new to the province of Alberta.

If your administrator is in the first two years of being an administrator, please make them aware of this conference. On-line registration at www.teachers.ab.ca. Local will cover the cost of accommodation if required.

Key Note Speakers:

- 1) Sam Seller— Understanding PISA and International Comparisons of Schools and Systems
- 2) Shirley Stiles—Lessons from the Field—How to Best Support Your Teachers

Network with colleagues and learn about:
Fostering Effective Relations • Embodying Visionary Leadership • Leading a Learning Community •
Providing Instructional Leadership • Developing and Facilitating Leadership • Managing School
Operations and Resources • Understanding and Responding to Larger Societal Context

f. The ATA Educational Trust:

The Trust gives out:

- i. \$400.00 specialist council conference grants (Deadline to apply September 30, 2014)
- ii. \$600.00 continuing education bursaries (Application must be received before the May 1, 2015 draw). [There was a winner from our school division last year.](#)

Encourage teachers to go on line (www.teachers.ab.ca) for more information.

g. Team Building Contribution (\$100.00 plus \$10.00 per teacher)

Each school must use this fund by June 10, 2015

h. Teacher Board Advisory Committee (TBAC):

2014/15 Meeting Dates: December 8th and May 11th

Teacher Representatives: Laurette Nelson, James Hanson, Tim Fafard, Cory Berndt,
Martin Mazurek

i. Third Party Billing on Sharepoint:

Executive Officers and Committee Chairs need to e-mail Evelyn Yaceyco with specific details of meeting/conferences (name and date) and names of teachers attending. Please also cc Laurette the information. (Last year I was asked to give a summary to Cindi Vaselenak of the school days our teachers took to attend local business. I believe it is important to gather this information each year.)

6) Reports:

a. Local President: Laurette Nelson

Summer Conference:

Jennifer McMorrow, Pina Martinovich, Roz Andreiuk, Angelo Delli Santi, James Hansen, Grant Barron, and Laurette Nelson all attended Summer Conference. It was wonderful to have so many people from our local attend. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about the ATA while having fun exploring and enjoying Banff together.

The main focus of the conference this year was **local strategic planning**. As mentioned, our local goal for this year is to increase communication with our members.

Website:

We have a beautiful local website created by Brian Chorney. Unfortunately, it is difficult for our members to find it. Greg Romaniuk, ATA's Browser Technology Team Leader, will assist Susan Kirk to merge our present website onto the ATA website. The major benefit of this will be easy access for our members.

ATA Response Provides Way Forward for Teacher Excellence:

Despite having serious concerns about Education Minister Jeff Johnson's *Task Force for Teaching Excellence*, the Alberta Teachers' Association has submitted and simultaneously released a response to the report's recommendations.

The submission and its directions are directed to teachers, parents and other supporters of public education. The submission is intended to develop constructive alternatives to the recommendations of the task force that will enhance teacher professionalism and build public confidence in Alberta's education system.

Alberta's teachers are committed to excellence and are essential to Alberta's world class standing in education. Despite our concerns about the task force, we want to let teachers, parents and other supporters of public education know about the profession's view of teaching excellence. Great Teachers, Great Schools provides a clear way forward for supporting teachers in providing quality learning for students.

—ATA President, Mark Ramsankar

The Association's response challenges incomplete and incorrect information that has been advanced by Johnson and his task force following its release.

Encourage teachers to go on line (www.teachers.ab.ca) for more information. [Discussion for the push notification, and other ways to improve communication.](#) [Discussed changing our website to the ATA webpage; it will be much easier for our teachers to access.](#) |

b. District Representative: Paul McCann

Great representation at the Summer Conference. Paul is a participant in the workload study, thanks to everybody participating. This survey will most likely be the base line to help guide the significant changes that will happen within our profession. Expectation for professional growth plans. Discussion that a great mindset for a growth plan is imperative to keep us focused. Include your ATA time and PD in part of your professional growth plan. On-line pilot study for professional growth plan, it is closed but if you would like to participate contact Paul. Described his role and asked for feedback in regards to any significant changes.

**Alberta Teacher Workload Study
(Malatest Long-Range Survey)**

During the 2014/15 school year, a teacher workload study is being carried out by R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd. on behalf of the Alberta Ministry of Education, the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA), and the Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA). It could be the most significant study ever done. The study is being conducted under section C3 of the Framework Agreement, legislated by the *Assurances for Students Act*. The purpose of the study is to assess the current workloads of teachers, school administrators, and central office staff.

Teachers participating in the study will help Alberta Education, the ATA, and the ASBA make informed decisions about policies and practices related to school staff workloads and tasks, based on accurate, reliable data. The availability of high quality data on the workloads of teachers, school administrators, and central office staff will inform other actions that should be taken to support the education system, now and into the future. If you have been selected (randomly) to participate in this study, I wish to thank you for volunteering your time.

Banff Summer Conference 2014

It was wonderful to see so many Evergreen Catholic teachers enrolled in a variety of programs. Thanks to each of you for giving up a portion of your summer. Your commitment to building leadership capacity within our profession is much appreciated.

Professional Growth Plans

Completing your professional growth plan (PGP) for this school year is not something that you should be dreading or putting off. Your PGP should be the structural framework for everything you are planning to

accomplish. If you have to make something up, then you are probably not going about the process properly. There are lots of resources available to assist you in the process. Your Learning Coach and your colleagues are an excellent starting point. The ATA has some really great online resources for creating growth plans. Check out www.teachers.ab.ca and follow the [Alberta Teachers' Association > For Members > Professional Development > Professional Growth Plans > Teacher Professional Growth Plans] drop-down menus.

We Are Alberta Teachers

You and your colleagues are the pillars of one of the best public education systems in the world. While we continually face many challenges in our classrooms, there is much for which we can be proud. Have a great year!

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PAUL McCANN

CELL: (780)293.2445

EMAIL: paul.mccann@teachers.ab.ca

c. Treasurer: Carmen Markowski In the next month we are getting our books reviewed and our annual report completed for submission to the ATA. We have approached Chantelle Rufiange once again to do this review for us. She did a great job last year. Our financial year ended on July 1st. We have approx. \$50,000 in surplus to carry over to the next year. [We are in good shape.](#)

d. Professional Development Chair: Pina Martinovich
[Please let your people know the application is on our website. Doesn't cover sub cost or hotel, this is for registration and a bit of a travel allowance. Staff reps tell Pina who is your school rep for PD Committee](#)

e. Local Communication Officer: Susan Kirk
[New website connected to ATA is coming.](#)

f. NCTCA Convention: Renee Lapointe / Janet Close
[Posters for convention to direct all questions to the NCTCA reps. New theme - Diversity 3.0](#)
[Next meeting is November 1st. Will be requiring number of teachers at each school that are eligible /will be attending Convention 2015. An email will go out shortly.](#)

g EPC Chair: James Hansen

- EPC meeting held September 10, 2014 SPA school library
- Improving communication with our local members discussed
- Negotiating Subcommittee to be elected

h. Joint C2 Committee Chair: Réal VanBrabant

[Rep from each school to increase communication.](#)

- Larry Hlushak's role as Alberta Education representative will now be held by Christine Bouchard from Alberta Ed., Dave Dempsey will now represent the Superintendent's office, and Mark McCrudden will represent administrators from ECSRD.
- A reminder that all schools have been asked to find someone who will act as a communication liaison between their school and the JC2 committee; improved communication is an area of focus for the committee going forward
- The next committee meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday, October 7th.

i. ARA Committee: Laurette Nelson/ Roz Andreiuk/ James Hansen (No Report)

j. Political Engagement Officer: Kim Gibbon

7) School Reports:

- a. **Administrators:** Ray Cote [Welcome, good to be back.](#)
- b. **St. Peter the Apostle:** Vanessa Bjorge /Theresa Lotz
- c. **St. Thomas Aquinas:** Lori Green
- d. **St. Mary:** Darryl Feser
- e. **St. John Paul II:** Rita Villeneuve

We have some changes in our school. New staff: Junior High – Cindy Nichelson-Parker.

September 11 – Meet the Teacher Night – Should be a fun night!

September 11 – Pizza lunch for all new students to John Paul II

September 16 – School Council Meeting 6:30pm.

September 18 – QSP Magazine kick off

September 24 – Opening School Mass at Holy Trinity Church at 9:30am

September 25,26 – Grade 8 Jasper Trip

September TBA – Terry Fox Run

Coming up – K-8 are trying different times for Parent Teacher Interviews. They will be happening October 21, 23 instead of just after report cards in November.

- f. **St. Joseph:** Jennifer McMorrow / Tammy Nielson

Sept. 2 - First Day back and Welcome Assembly

Sept. 3 - Gr. 4 AMA Safety

Sept. 10 - First full day for kindergarten

Sept. 11 - Bus Safety Presentations

Sept. 11 - Meet the Staff/Welcome Back BBQ (5:30-7:00)

Sept. 12 - Bus Safety Presentations

Sept. 12 - Opening School Celebration

Sept. 15 - School Council Meeting

Sept. 17 - Parent Volunteer Workshop

Sept. 19 - Gr. 4 City Slickers Program

Sept. 26 - Terry Fox Run

Sept. 29 - School Pictures

Sept. 29 - Oct. 3 - Swimming

- g. **St. Marguerite:** Amanda Carroubourg

- September 2nd: First day back

- September 4th: Welcome Back BBQ

- September 10th: Volunteer orientation

- September 12th: Opening liturgy

- September 15th: School council meeting

- September 17th: Grade 4 Jubilee Park Walk

- September 18th: Grade 2 Parkland Food Bank presentation

- September 19th: Grade 4 City Slickers

- September 23rd: 2MS Grain elevator field trip

- September 24th: 2PG & 2MP Grain elevator field trip

- September 24th: Staff meeting

- September 26th: Terry Fox Run

- h. **Holy Spirit:** Renee Lapointe

-September 4 - Open House and 10th Anniversary BBQ.

-September 5 Opening School Mass

- September 19 - School pictures
- September 23 - Color Day - Each grade dresses up as their assigned color
- September 23 - School Council meeting
- September 26 - Terry Fox Run
- Volleyball and Running Club has begun
- We welcome Brian Allan to Grade 5 this year
- We welcome Nicole Lockyer as our new part time Secretary
- We welcome Kristi Sikorski as our new part time Librarian

i. Gerard Redmond: Rozalia Andreiuk

- Sept 2 -we welcome Bert Johnson (music)and Dan Burkinshaw (math maternity leave)to our staff
- Sept 4 -opening Liturgy
- Sept 9 -Meet the teacher BBQ (inside on a rainy day)
 - Volleyball teams up and hitting, and running club up and running
- Sept 12 -school photos
- Sept 19 - PD with ATA Unseen Hurts
- Sept 20 -Grad convocation exercises for 27 grads (largest class ever)
- Sept 22 -Raiders sports awards
- Sept 24 -Terry Fox walk

j. St. Gregory: Janet Close

- Not much happening this month.
- Sept 4 was our opening liturgy.
- Sept 11 was meet the teacher night.
- Sept 26 is our Terry Fox walk

k. Out Reach: Chantelle Rufiange

- Outreach recieved \$135 000 to implement the Health Care Aide program this year. We have 17 participants.
- We have a new teacher from Devon this year named Meg Wiens
- We have counselling/chaplaincy time this year for our students.
- Outreach continues to grow each day!

8) Action Plan: Rhonda Reid

- 1) All staff reps sign up for push notification to try out, to then 'sell' to staff by offering less time during a staff meeting because info will be passed directly to members. (Thanks Angelo!)
- 2) Staff rep for PD to Pina please
- 3) Workload rep to Real please

9) Adjournment: Door Prize and Loonie Draw

******Please submit all reports by 4pm on the Tuesday prior to the meeting.**

