



# Evergreen Catholic Local #44

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## October Minutes

October 8, 2014

SPA (PLC Room) – 4:30 p.m.

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

### 1) Prayer (Tara Pylko)

### 2) Additions /Deletions to the Agenda: **Motion to approve: James moved, Pina seconded, all in favor**

### 3) Minutes: September (**Minutes approved**)

### 4) Information Items:

#### a) Grade 3 Student Learning Assessment (SLA) – 2 year pilot (For more information go to [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca) )

**i) Teacher Concerns:** Major concerns expressed by teachers across the province have focused on workload implications related to administration, marking and reporting. (Four hours of instructional time, and the biggest challenge will be time for teachers to grade and input student scores – estimated to be 45 minutes per student).

**ii) PEC's Reaction:** Provincial Executive Council *“MOVED that the Association urge the minister to direct school boards that cannot provide adequate time for their grade three teachers to collaborate and to evaluate the grade three SLAs to withdraw from the pilot.”*

This action by council is intended to put the focus of lack of support for the SLA program squarely where it belongs. Since participation in the pilot was at the discretion of school authorities, adequate time and support for successfully implementing the initiative should be provided.

President Ramsankar raised the issue with the Honorable Gordon Dirks, Education Minister, and provided a letter outlining teacher concerns.

The minister requested a briefing on this issue on an urgent basis. Senior Association staff met with senior government officials on September 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss teachers' concerns.

**Discussed a letter to extend the deadline by 2 weeks. Principals are encouraged to provide release time for marking to reduce the workload. Discussed the open discussion area online.**

#### **iii) Minister Responds to SLA concerns:**

The minister sent a letter to school boards dated September 24<sup>th</sup> announcing a two-week extension, adjusting the deadline for administration of the SLAs to October 24<sup>th</sup>. The letter also clearly stated his request “that school boards and administrators take steps to provide teachers with whatever reasonable supports they may need to ensure their workloads are not significantly impacted.”

#### **iv) District Response to work load issue:**

Administrators were asked to provide relief time for grade three teachers to mark the SLA's.

**v) Open discussion:** Grade 3 teachers taking part in the two year pilot are invited to leave comments on the ATA webpage describing their experiences. Teachers can also go to the ATA webpage to see comments made by other teachers. ([www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca))

**b) BC Teachers' Federation:**

i) Jim Iker, President of BC Teachers' Federation e-mailed Laurette a thank you letter. (see attached)

ii) The two motions our local made in support of the BC teachers had a positive impact. In response to our motion and the encouragement from other locals, the Executive Council passed two financial recommendations to assist our colleagues, the British Columbia Teachers' Federation.

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.

Sent thank you letter through push notification system. DR's were impressed that we had Paul bring it up to PEC. At this time we are not sure if the BC teachers have considered the loan.

**c) Criteria for Team Building Contribution:**

A base sum of \$100.00 plus an additional \$10.00 per teacher, to use for team building activities in each school.

Criteria:

Receipts are mandatory and must be handed in by the last day of the school year.

Money will be distributed as the treasurer receives receipts.

Funds must be used for activity-based activities that develop team or community building in each school.

i.e.

sport activities, personal trainer, fund raising, etc.

Funds cannot be used for food or beverages.

Staff reps should be on the committee that decides how to use the fund.

Staff reps report to the local on how the fund is used. The Team Building activities will be shared on Evergreen Catholic Local #44's webpage.

Reminder that we have until the last day of June to spend the Team Building money. The entire staff needs to be welcome but does not have to attend.

**5) Business:**

**a) Push Notification (226) 778-2076**

Number of Teachers currently enrolled: 42

During your next staff meeting, staff reps ask teachers to take out their phones and dial the number. They will all be signed up immediately. (If anyone on local council has not yet signed up, please phone the number now)

Encourage your staff to take out their phone and text the number to set up for the push notifications during a staff meeting. We sent out the new pay grid through the system. Discussed no more than 1 message a month, will only send out additional message if urgent.

**b) Volleyball- Amanda Carrobourg**

Voted and discussed about November or May. Amanda will book a Friday in November and get us details once the gym is booked.

**6) Reports:**

**a. Local President: Laurette Nelson**

Local President's Meeting (October 24<sup>th</sup> (Eve) and 25<sup>th</sup>)

A meeting of C2 Teacher Leads has been scheduled, in conjunction with the Local President's Meeting.

**b. District Representative: Paul McCann** (see attached)

Paul sends his regrets. He and his wife are travelling to South Africa, along with a couple of local priests in their delegation, to present at the International Community Meeting of Retrouvaille International.

**c. Treasurer: Carmen Markowski**

**d. Professional Development Chair: Pina Martinovich**

Seventeen teachers have applied for funding to attend conferences as of October 1, 2014

ATA Reps: Please submit names of teachers who want to join the PD committee. There are only two meetings in the school year. The first meeting will be a supper meeting at a local restaurant. The tentative date is Monday October 27th at 4:00 p.m.

More money is available if you would like to encourage your staff. We are also looking for more PD reps. Staff Reps please forward a name to Pina.

**e. Local Communication Officer: Susan Kirk**

**Laurette to fix glitch on e-mailing. Local Communications Officer Meeting coming up, more to share at a later time.**

**f. NCTCA Convention: Renee Lapointe / Janet Close**

- Next meeting is Saturday, November 1st
- Tickets for the "Partners in Education Luncheon" on Friday, February 6th will be available on the website in December.
- Alternate PD is open from now until January 16th. Check it out at <http://www.mynctca.com/> to see what is available. Username and password to the site should be the same as last year's. To find information or to apply for Alternate PD during convention, follow the link to Alternate PD under the "Teachers" tab on the website. Please forward this information to your staff.
- I am requiring the number of teachers from each school that will be attending convention. These numbers are communicated with the NCTCA for 2 main reason. The first reason is for wristband delivery to each school. The second reason is for the NCTCA to have a projected number of attendees. I already have the numbers for Outreach, Holy Spirit, St. Gregory, St. Mary's, SPA and District Office. Please email me the numbers as soon as possible.

Laurette will send the numbers of teachers for your school to Renee and Janet. Renee's username and password is still set up from last year so teachers should have no difficulty signing on to NCTCA website this year..

**g EPC Chair: James Hansen**

- Elected our NSC last EPC meeting. NSC will be made up of Angelo Delli Santi, Janet Close, James Hansen and Jackie Malcolm as our alternate.
- Received signed off copy of our CBA from Teacher Welfare on Friday October 3, 2014
- EPC meeting to be held October 20, 2014 at Barnett House with ATA Staff Officer Lisa Everitt, who is assigned to our bargaining unit.

**h. Joint C2 Committee Chair: Réal VanBrabant**

- We requested to have a C2 communication rep from each school. I have heard from Laura Coté at Holy Spirit, Vanessa Bjorge will act as rep for SPA, and Monica Kieftenbeld will do so for STA. I have not heard from the rest of the schools in the division. Please have each rep contact me by email so I can make a mailing list for C2.
- We are sending a short survey out to each school to be completed during the October or November staff meetings - we hope to have 100% participation.

All Staff Reps please ask your staff for a rep and submit it to Real. The Rep is for easier communication and for an upcoming survey.

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

j. Political Engagement Officer: Kim Gibbon  
A letter from Dr. Calvin Fraser

Subject: Bill C-377 (An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act)

**FOR INFORMATION**

As you may have heard, debate on Bill C-377 has resumed in the Senate. This came as a surprise, not only to us, but to the opposition parties as well. As late as last week, the Liberal Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator James Cowan informed the Canadian Labour Congress of mixed messages he was getting concerning the passage of C-377 and C-525. On the one hand, he was told by his Senate colleagues that the Bills would remain stalled on the order paper; while on the other hand he was hearing that the Conservative House Leader was moving the time allocation bill so that private member bills could be addressed.

Articles by The Canadian Press

([http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/09/21/tories-revive-bill-c377-limit-debate\\_n\\_5857518.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/09/21/tories-revive-bill-c377-limit-debate_n_5857518.html))  
and Le Devoir

(<http://www.ledevoir.com/politique/canada/419112/projet-de-loi-sur-les-syndicats-les-conservateurs-accuses-de-vouloir-museler-le-senat>) provide an explanation of the current situation.

At this point, CTF will continue to gather information regarding positions of opposition parties and opposition senators. A meeting will be held in the near future with all of the labour partners to recommend next steps. We will in this way be able to continue effective monitoring while recognizing that this matter is destined for the courts and even in a worst case scenario will not be applied before the next election. It remains possible to defeat this both legally and politically while not letting it dominate the agenda.

Dr. Calvin Fraser

Secretary General / Secrétaire général

Canadian Teachers' Federation

**TALKING POINTS ON BILL C-377**

- By imposing on provincial jurisdictions and violating charter freedoms of association, the bill is likely unconstitutional. Senators elected to represent Alberta's interests federally should not support federal intrusions on provincial jurisdiction.
- For unions, the duty to report finances is owed to the membership, not the public at large. The public disclosures proposed by Bill C-377 violate the privacy and strategic interests of unions and their members. Private corporations that receive tax deductions are not required to disclose their salaries and expenses.
- Bill C-377 is poorly written and would be very difficult to implement. The privacy commissioner has identified substantial issues and the parliamentary budget officer has outlined significant costs related to implementing the bill. It will also be an unmanageable and costly imposition on unions - costs that members will bear. The ATA estimates that two full-time bookkeepers would have to be hired just to manage the record keeping required to comply with this bill.
- The bill creates double standards for disclosure. The Conservatives in the house approved higher reporting standards for union employees than it proposed for their own political appointees and senior bureaucrats. The proposed requirements for unions are also much greater than what is in place for registered charities. The Segal amendments of 2013 at least balanced this unfairness and should be passed again.

You are encouraged to write to an Alberta Senator:

**\*\*Betty E. Unger** - Conservative Party of Canada  
Telephone: 613-996-7420 or 1-800-267-7362  
Fax: 613-996-7407

Email: [betty.unger@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:betty.unger@sen.parl.gc.ca)  
**\*\*Douglas Black** - Conservative Party of Canada  
Telephone: 613-996-8757 or 1-800-267-7362  
Fax: 613-996-8862

Email: [doug.black@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:doug.black@sen.parl.gc.ca)  
**Scott Tannas** - Conservative Party of Canada  
Telephone: 613-943-2240 or 1-800-267-7362

Fax: 613-943-2280  
Email: scott.tannas@sen.parl.gc.ca

## 7) School Reports: **Top 3 highlights for each school**

- a. **Administrators:** Ray Cote
- b. **St. Peter the Apostle:** Vanessa Bjorge /Theresa Lotz

Oct. 1 Grad Rings for sale  
Oct. 1 NAIT department fair at SPA  
Oct. 1 Student Council Popcorn sales for GREEN EGGS  
Oct. 2 Award and Meet the Teacher night  
Oct. 2- 27 Stony Plain Library is featuring artwork done by Mrs. Coull's Art students  
Oct. 9 Steve Angrisano presentation to the school  
Oct. 17 Picture Retakes  
Oct. 31 Halloween costume parade and games in the gym  
This is a link to a video our students made and we showed at Awards night.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLZkMhH8qts&list=UUAMPXjOP5tFjz-Jlwir3muQ>  
Cross country running, golf and volleyball are well underway and our teams have won many

games.

Discussed what a Flex block is and why it is helping meet the students needs.

- c. **St. Thomas Aquinas:** Lori Green
- d. **St. Mary:** Darryl Feser

### **Primary:**

-The 'Stepping Stones' Pre-K / Kindergarten program at St. Mary is off to a flying start, with 41 students and 5 staff, focusing on child-centred education in our bright, spacious learning -centre oriented new classroom space.

### **Elementary**

-Grades 1 - 6 are underway with the first fund-raising project of the year: magazine sales.  
-Bible presentations for Grade 4 will take place Wed. Oct. 7

### **Junior High**

-6's and 7's are participating in the D.A.R.E program, under the guidance of Const. Buisseret  
-Grade 9 retreat with Chaplain Mike Landry is scheduled for Oct 29.  
-Grade 7 and 8 retreats will take place in November.

### **Sr. High**

Grade 12 retreat at Camp Encounter Oct 7,8

### **Athletics**

-Sr. Boys and Girls competing in Tournaments 24-25.  
-Grade 5 / 6 Developmental Volleyball Tues. and Thursday mornings, instructed by Sr. High volleyball players  
-Running Club and Cross-Country - runners have competed in meets at Westlock Golf Course, and St. Joe's Spruce Grove  
-Upcoming is the year-end Competition *Autumn Classic* at Hawrelak Park, Edmonton

### **Arts & Info**

In preparation for the performance tour to Madrid, Spain in March 2016, the St. Mary Wind Ensemble and Stage Band are hosting a number of fund-raising events. Scheduled so far for this year are *Flamenco En Vivo*, Nov. 1, and *St. Mary Got Talent*, Dec. 4.

-Interested students are also invited to get involved in ART CLUB, GLEE CLUB and YOUTH GROUP scheduled weekly.  
-Parent-Teacher interviews are set for Oct. 15/16, 4-7 p.m.

- e. **St. John Paul II:** Rita Villeneuve/Angel Haugen

## John Paul II- October Events

\*Sept. 30/Oct. 1 School pictures

\*Oct 2 - This is what the grade 4s are doing and will be doing...

-The Grade 4's had their annual Bible Mass on October 2. Each student received their own Bible from the division.

\*Oct 3 – Terry Fox run

\* Oct 6-8 – Rocks and Rings Program – Understanding the game of curling and how to use the broom and throw the rocks. This was a K-6 program that ran during a block of Phys. Ed. time.

\*Oct 9 – K-3 Thanksgiving Celebration at 10:20pm

\*Oct 9 – Steve Agrisano will be talking to 5-8 students from 2pm-3pm.

\*Oct 14-16 – K-3 Bus Safety Presentations

\*Oct 17 – Fall Dance 7pm to 9pm.

\*Oct 21 and Oct 23 – Parent Teacher Interviews.

\*Oct 22 – Earth Rangers presentation to K-6 students from 2pm – 3pm

\* Oct 23-24 – many teachers going to a PD on the Little Green Thumb gardens.

\*Oct 30 - Canadiana Musical Theatre - "Emily Carr" for K-6 from 9:00-9:45 in the school gymnasium.

\* Oct 30 – Rapid Fire Improv Production for Grades 5-8

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

Sept 29 - Oct 9 Swimming

Oct. 8 - Terry Fox Fundraiser Wind up [Raised over \\$13,000](#)

Oct. 9 - Thanksgiving Celebration

Oct. 10 - Faith Development Day No School

Oct. 13 - Thanksgiving No School

Oct. 15 - Crazy Hair Day - Terry Fox fundraiser goal met - celebration

Oct. 17 - Western Day - "Ten for a Hen" school spirit/ social justice fundraiser for "Green Eggs"

Oct. 20 - Interim Reports go home

Oct. 22&23 - Interviews

Oct. 30 - Musical Theatre

Oct. 31 - Halloween Spooktacular Carnival - social justice fundraiser for "Green Eggs"

**g. St. Marguerite:** Amanda Carrobourg

**h. Holy Spirit:** Renee Lapointe [Keynote speaker was at the school today! Great speaker!](#)

- We have started up a staff lunch club on Thursdays

- Oct. 2 - QSP magazine fundraising kickoff

- Oct. 7 - School Bus Safety presentations

- Oct. 8 - Steve Angrisano school wide presentation

- Oct. 15 - Assembly and "Pie a Teacher in the Face" fundraiser event

- Oct. 17 - Terry Anderson Hoop Dancer school wide as well as individual classes presentation

- Oct. 22 - Retakes and Parent-Teacher Interviews

- Oct. 23 - Parent-Teacher Interviews

- Oct. 24 - Thanksgiving Mass

- Oct. 31 - Halloween Dance Grades 6-8 and class parties

**i. Gerard Redmond:** Rozalia Andreiuk

Oct 1- Grade 11 retreat at Our Lady of the Foothills Church

Oct 3/4- High School JV VBall tournament ,Gerard Girls took silver, Boys came in sixth

Oct 6/7- Fire prevention week and fire drills, test on Oct 7. no one disappeared in the fire.

Oct 7- PAC AGM at GRCCS

Oct 8- Steve Agrisano presentation for the entire school

Oct 9- Thanksgiving Liturgy at GRCCS and X-country meet

Oct 17/18- High school VBall at Harry Collinge in Hinton  
Oct 21- Photo retakes and Grade 6 Monthly Mass  
Oct 22/23- Pre report card parent/teacher interviews  
Oct 24/25- Sr High VBall tournament at Jasper  
Oct 28- Science fair for Junior High  
Oct 30- Staff Mass at GRCCS  
Oct 31- Sr High VBall Howler tournament st GRCCS

**j. St. Gregory:** Janet Close

**k. Out Reach:** Chantelle Rufiange

\*Discovery Days where students spend a day researching careers in Health at the UofA takes place on the 9th

\*We are piloting an ELL program

\*Diabetes presentation October 17th 1:30-2:15 all welcome to come.

\*We've applied for a Social Justice Grant for \$1500 which would allow us to run a program with the Assisted Living facilities in our local area.

\*Green Eggs count the Jellybeans fundraiser going on.

**8) Action Plan:** Rhonda Reid

- 1) Staff Rep for C2 to Real
- 2) Staff Rep for PD to Pina
- 3) Push notification sign up with your staff at your next staff meeting please
- 4) Staff survey (1 question) at next staff meeting for C2

**9) Adjournment:** Door Prize

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

## Central North District Representative's Report

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

(Submitted by Paul McCaan)

### **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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 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 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 20<sup>th</sup>. Check with your Local or Barnett House, if you wish to attend.

### **2014 Substitute Teachers' Conference: The Joy of Teaching @ Barnett House Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**

### **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.

3. \$25 000 has been donated to support the BC Francophone Teachers (a sub-group of the BCTF)
4. 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

EMAIL: paul.mccann@teachers.ab.ca

### **Response to our Local's \$1000.00 donation to the BC Teachers' Federation hardship fund:**

Dear Laurette,

Subject: We are grateful for your support

Thank you very much for your donation to the BC Teachers' Federation hardship fund.

As you will be aware, teachers voted by 86% to accept the collective agreement negotiated by the BCTF and the government and classes are in session.

Teachers made a tremendous commitment in being on strike for more than five weeks and without any pay, including strike pay, during that time. This was a hardship on many and we are very pleased to be able to support those most in need through the hardship fund.

The gains made in the strike were less than what is deserved and needed, but the most that it was possible to achieve in this round of bargaining. We were able, as well, to reject all the concessions demanded by the government.

The picket lines, the media work and the extensive use of social media by our members helped to develop a deeper understanding of the degree to which twelve years of austerity has undermined the conditions in our schools. The complexity of the teaching situation—characterized by “class composition”—is much better understood by all those prepared to listen to the stories of what actually happens in our classrooms.

Again, we very much appreciate your support in the form of a donation to the strike hardship fund.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Iker

President  
British Columbia Teachers' Federation