

Report *from the Chair*

BRITISH COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

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By E-mail: 2 Pages

On behalf of the BCPSEA Board and staff, we hope you are having an enjoyable summer and looking forward with anticipation to the 2010-2011 school year.

Bargaining

Talk of change is in the air and we all know that support staff bargaining will be in full swing once the back to school period is behind us. As I mentioned in my last report to you, BCPSEA's role is one of support and expert resources, and the other of process management to ensure that agreements are concluded within the compensation mandate with terms that allow boards to carry out their mandates as boards.

Over the summer, further clarity will be brought to the public education policy direction, which will lead us to review the employment implications of the direction and how that will impact support staff bargaining. Last week, Vice Chair Alan Chell, Hugh Finlayson, and I had an opportunity to meet with Minister of Education Margaret MacDiarmid to discuss the bargaining reality. Prior to getting to the bargaining table, it will be necessary for us to review each of the 69 support staff bargaining plans, liaise with districts, and ensure that our sector is ready to bargain in the fall. While there is the potential for new structures and processes for bargaining, nothing will replace preparation and ongoing connection between districts and the employers' association throughout the 2010 rounds.

It is important to note that public sector bargaining to date has resulted in the following agreements consistent with the compensation mandate:

- SFU and SFU Faculty
- Health Employers' of BC and Community Health
- Health Employers' of BC and Facilities
- Public Service of BCGEU Master
- BC Hydro/IBEW
- Public Service and Professional Employees Association.

We also spoke with the minister about other key association initiatives. When there is talk about shared services, we need to remember that there are already many successful examples of services and innovations that school districts and the employers' association have put in place to assist other boards and the sector at large.

BCPSEA Board Byelection

As you know, Director Mickey Kinakin, Trustee in School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia), resigned from the Board in the spring. Mickey's thoughtful commentary and passion for public education were much appreciated by his colleagues on the Board and he will be missed.

Our bylaws require that the vacancy on the Board be filled, so we are proceeding with a byelection. It's great to see that we have four strong trustee candidates. You will have received a [notice](#) advising of the process and the [statements](#) of the four candidates vying for the position:

- Eve Flynn, School District No. 69 (Qualicum)
- Gord Klassen, School District No. 60 (Peace River North)
- Susan Skinner, School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)
- Shirley Wilson, School District No. 34 (Abbotsford).

You will be voting between September 1-17. We look forward to welcoming the new Director to the Board in the fall.

HR Learning Series

Demand for our HR Learning Series programs remains high and the feedback continues to be overwhelmingly positive. An e-mail notice advising of upcoming programs was distributed in July; please also check our website for up to date [program and logistics](#) information.

And don't forget about our online [Awareness and Prevention of Harassment](#) program. As well as being an efficient and cost-effective program for new staff, the online training is also an excellent refresher course for veteran staff who may have taken the mandatory training many years ago. Participant evaluations to date have been excellent!

Municipal Pension Plan AGM

The pension corporation has asked that we advise all Municipal Pension Plan members, whether working or retired, that they are invited to attend the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the BC Municipal Pension Plan. The meeting will be held Saturday, October 16, 2010, at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney-by-the-Sea, on Vancouver Island, starting at 9:30 a.m. For more information, see the website at www.mpp.pensionsbc.ca.

Please stay in touch and don't hesitate to contact any member of the BCPSEA [Board](#) or [staff](#).



Ron Christensen
Chair