



SPECIAL ELECTION Bulletin

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Maple Ridge Teachers' Association

11771 Fraser Street Maple Ridge BC V2X 6C6

Suzanne Hall, President

Penny Morgan, 1st Vice-President

May 3, 2019

MRTA General Meeting Wednesday, May 15, 2019 4:00 pm, in the Suddaby room at THSS

Election Information

This Special Election Bulletin has been prepared to provide information to all members about who is running for President, 1st Vice-President and Local Reps, including their position statement and career highlights.

- All Executive Council and Committee positions are elected at our May General Meeting.
- Any MRTA member is eligible to stand for election for Executive Council positions.
- All MRTA members are eligible to vote.

These are the people who are currently running for the roles of President, 1st Vice-President, and Local Representative:

President:

Suzanne Hall

1st Vice-President:

Penny Morgan

Local Representative (3 to be elected):

Martin Dmitrieff

Dale Hardy

Penny Morgan

Trevor Takasaki

Please be aware that teachers can still submit their names to the MRTA office to run for any committee and most Executive council positions; nominations

from the floor are also allowed for any position, as are drop downs.

However, the window for nominations for President, Vice-President or Local Representative is now closed until the General Meeting on May 15. At that time, a teacher may run from the floor but must provide the signatures of 25 MRTA members in support of their nomination (as per Policy E.1.5).

- If you're interested in running for one of these positions, or any other Executive council position, call the MRTA office at 604-467-2111 or email Elaine at elaine@mrtaoffice.ca. Nominations ,may also be made from the floor at the General Meeting.

Position Descriptions

The President and 1st Vice-President are the most visible and active roles in the MRTA. They work full-time in the MRTA office, serving as the voice of members at many levels and in many situations. Theirs is an A to Z job, quite literally running the gamut from advising and advocating to participating in Zone meetings.

The Local Representatives serve on the MRTA Executive Council but also represent MRTA teachers at the BCTF Representative Assemblies and Annual General Meeting. This Special Election Bulletin will include statements and biographical information for those people nominated to each of the two release time positions, as well as nominees for Local Representative positions.

Mark Your Calendars

MRTA elections take place on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, in Suddaby room, at Thomas Haney Secondary

Candidates for MRTA Executive Council Positions 2019/20



For President Suzanne Hall

EXPERIENCE:

MRTA

Acting President - 2018 - Current role

1st Vice-President - 2 years

2nd Vice-President - 3 years

Local Rep - 5 years

Executive Council - 8 yrs: Past Chair of Pro-D and Union Engagement Committees

Staff Rep - 13 yrs

Curriculum Implementation Planning Committee - 2015 to present

Strike Coordinator 2014

BCTF

Women in Negotiations presenter (current role)

Provincial Curriculum Framework Cmt. 2015

Professional Issue Advisory Cmt. - 6 yrs

Parent Presenter - 2 years

PSA Execs (1992 - 2013; served at various times on the execs of BCAMT, PITA & BCTLA)

Provincial Math Curriculum Revision Cmt.-1994/95

Teaching

Alexander Robinson - 12 years

Alexander Robinson Teacher-Librarian - 6 years

Adult Educator, SpEd Teacher Aide Prog. - 15 yrs

District Librarian - 4 years

Elementary Social Responsibility Facilitator - 1 yr

Mentoring Facilitator - 2 years

Elementary Aboriginal Resource Teacher - 5 yrs

Workshops, Conferences, Presentations - 24 yrs

Other

ERAC resource evaluator (2015 to present)

Assoc. of Book Publishers of BC (Reviewer) - 6 yrs

Teacher Librarian (Journal) - October 2007

School life is usually at least a bit hectic; the MRTA office is no exception! My first year as President has been challenging, rewarding, and certainly never dull. Fortunately, we have awesome staff and incredible volunteer teachers; a local union really is a team effort!

The MRTA continues to be busy supporting individual teachers, working with union and District committees, problem-solving and planning with SD42 staff, and getting ready for bargaining. As well, some long overdue (and budget-friendly) office décor updates were undertaken to create a fresh, welcoming, inspiring space reflecting our collective core values.

As predicted, the implementation of the reinstated contract language continued as a high priority. Remedy in particular is an ongoing issue - and a serious frustration - requiring a lot of time and attention. Working through its second year has been both a lesson in patience and an opportunity to hone my negotiation skills!

Teacher health and wellness was another priority issue. Through the office, we provide and promote many self-care opportunities for teachers as individuals. However, we also continually raise with the District the systemic issues impacting teachers. One of our ongoing goals is to counteract the facile "fix the teacher" paradigm that is currently a widespread favorite panacea for complex issues in public education.

Being your President is an absolute privilege that I hold close to my heart every day as I work on your behalf. I would love to continue in the role and ask for your support in our upcoming election.

Candidates for MRTA Executive Council Positions 2019/20

EXPERIENCE:

MRTA

1st Vice-President - almost 1 year
(present)

Chair of Working and Learning
Conditions/Bargaining - almost 1 year
(present)

Staff Rep for many years

Rep for Health & Safety, Pro-D, Social
Justice

Staff Committee member for many years
Executive Council (positions: Secretary,
LR, 1st VP)

Committees: Early Career Teacher, Pro-D, Convention,
Finance, Local Election

Picket Captain & member of Picket Support Team in 2014
District Elementary Reporting Sustainability Committee -
Co-chair/member

District Curriculum Implementation Committee
BCTF AGM Delegate – 4 years

BCTF

Local Representative 2018/2019

Member of PIAC (Professional Issues Advisory Committee)

Facilitator for Pro-D Chairs at Zone Meetings 2017-2018

Spoke at BC Labour Federation rally for public education
“Because We Care”

Member of the New Teacher Mentoring Project

Co-chair/co-facilitator of Metro Mentoring Network
(2017/2018)

Teaching

District Helping Teacher for Mentoring, 2015-2018

Blue Mountain Elementary Grade 1,2,3 - 2000-2015

Blue Mountain Elementary K job share; gym prep K-7;
teacher librarian - 2005/06

Davie Jones Elementary Grades 1,2,3 - 1989-2000

Education

Master of Ed Practice 2012 SFU (Efficacy in Math Students)

Graduate Diploma 2010 SFU (Numeracy)

BEd 1989 UVIC (Math/Science)

Other

Extensive experience in team work & collaborative problem
solving

Extensive experience planning & presenting workshops &
sessions

Extremely comfortable & confident public speaking

Mentor & sessional instructor for Graduate Diploma
programs with SFU 2012-2015



For 1st Vice-President and Local Representative Penny Morgan

The most important job of a local union leader is to support teachers through the protection and advancement of our working conditions. As the ‘front lines’, teachers hold invaluable expertise and knowledge. I believe that when the voice of

teachers is respected and considered, our system is stronger. SD 42’s vision is for “every individual to feel valued”. I hold the district accountable to that vision by constantly relaying the challenges, needs, and concerns of our members to senior management. I push to have your voice considered as well as directly inserted and present at the district level in as many ways as possible, through such things as consultation, feedback, and participation in district committees.

In order to be able to do this job effectively, I believe that it is essential that the released table officers communicate with the membership as often as possible; to hear from you as well as provide you with information. Knowledge is power. When armed with a wider and deeper understanding of the issues, we are all better positioned to advocate for our needs.

Our work will never be done. We will always need to fight for fair working conditions and for the needs of our students. It is easy to get discouraged, but we must continue to push forward.

If I am fortunate enough to continue in the role of First Vice-President, effective and timely communication both with the members and with management will be my number one focus.



Candidates for MRTA Executive Council Positions 2019/20

For Local Representative Martin Dmitrieff



EXPERIENCE:

MRTA

Local Rep - 2 years

Staff Rep - 10 years

Local Election Contact - 6 years

Social Justice Comm. - 6 years

Communications Comm. - 6 years

Membership Officer Position - 5 years

TTOC/New Teacher Comm. - 5 years (and Chair in later years)

BCTF

BCTF AGM Delagate (LR) 2013 - present

BCTF Metro Fraser Valley Zone Meetings - 9 years

BCTF local rep - BC Fed of Labour Conv - 6 years

BCTF local rep - BCTF Summer Conf - 3 years

BCTF local rep - BCTF NWDLC - 1 year

Teaching

Thomas Haney Sec: Ma & Sc 8-12, Foods 9 - 2009-2010, 2012-2013, 2014 - Present

Westview Sec: En 8 & 11, SS 8, Support 8 - 12 - 1 year

Maple Ridge Sec: Ma & Sc 9-11, Health & Career 8 - 2 years

Education

BEd 2007 (UBC) Biological Sc/En Language Arts

BSc 2006 (UBC) Bi-Animal Physiology/En Language

Other

CEED Centre, Board of Directors 2017- present

Teacher Sponsor, THSS Boardgame Club - 2015 Present

Teacher Sponsor, THSS Fruit Salad Organization 2017- Present

Teacher Sponsor, THSS Eco-Action Group - 2013 - 2014

I am currently seeking a 3rd term as Local Representative for the MRTA. I've now been teaching for 11 years and have progressively learned and developed numerous skills over the 10 years I've been involved in representation at the MRTA, starting with support for TTOCs and new teachers. I've especially learned that sharing of experiences and being a voice for others shape decisions and outcomes often times more so than voting on a position.

Furthermore, I have and continue to:

Represent the voice of teachers and other members of our Education community:

- By working as an LR collaboratively with other locals to represent our concerns and perspectives both at the BCTF level and now this year, internationally amongst our Mexican and US peers
- By working as a liaison within the MRTA Executive and meeting with SD42 representatives on a range of issues that have been identified, ranging from Social Justice issues, to those associated with new teachers
- Representing concerns of members and more broadly school communities and issues our students faced on District Committees
- Presenting at SD42 School Board meetings to promote development and creation of positive policy and policy changes
- By representing issues of the MRTA at BC Federation of Labour conferences

Coordinated and communicated with members to facilitate initiatives and events:

- By helping collect feedback in surveys to find out how members like to get information
- By communicating information to members on a wide range of topics including especially at times those associated with Local, Provincial and Federal elections
- By coordinating distribution and procedures for internal votes for MRTA members

Thanks for your consideration of my nomination.

Candidates for MRTA Executive Council Positions 2019/20



For Local Representative
Dale Hardy

EXPERIENCE:

MRTA

Social Justice Committee - 2017-Present
Pro-D Rep for Adult Education - 9 Years
Coordinating a volunteer program with Katzie
First Nations - 9 Years

BCTF

BCTF Adult Ed. Advisory Committee - 2018

Teaching

Riverside Centre Con. Ed. Gr 11-12 - 12 years to
current
Canadian Technical Trades Institute - 2005/06
Vancouver Career College - 2003/05
Overseas work in West Africa, India, Japan, and
Taiwan - 7 years

After years of teaching overseas and in private colleges, in 2006 I started working in the public school system. As an Adult Education Teacher, my focus is the elimination of the two-tiered system in our CAs and parity of funding for adult students including those incarcerated. Based on recent union activism – Riverside Centre Pro D rep, MRTA Social Justice Committee, MRTA Communications Committee, MRTA Executive, BCTF Adult Education Advisory Committee - my range of concerns has widened:

Funding for special education needs to be both protected and expanded.

Major decisions that impact our classrooms are not being made by the Educators in the district but by individuals with no pedagogical background.

According to Glen Hansman, fewer men are joining the profession, and he predicts that 90 per cent of all teachers will be women in the next few years. The latest statistics regarding teaching graduates in B.C. supports his view, as 90 per cent of new teaching graduates are women. We need to address this imbalance through recruitment strategies and a cultural shift within the union.

The BCTF ill serves its members by over emphasising white privilege, white fragility, and male toxicity. This focus lends itself to division. Instead, we need to expand the circle and keep all members united.

Education

M.A (SFU); 2007
Pre-requisites for Masters in Counselling (UBC);
1991
PDP (SFU); 1979
B.A. (University of Manitoba)

Other

Board Member Alouette
Addictions Services



Candidates for MRTA Executive Council Positions 2019/20



For Local Representative Trevor Takasaki

EXPERIENCE:

MRTA

Staff Rep - 9 years

Communications Committee Member - 4 years

Pro-D Committee - 1 year

BCTF

AGM Delegate - 2015/16 and 2016/17

Local Rep - 2016/17

Teaching

Burnaby Youth Open Custody Gr 9-12 - 8 years

Westview Secondary Gr 9-12 - 6 years

Thomas Haney Secondary Gr 9-12 - 6 years

Education

PDP (SFU), BA (SFU)

I have decided to put my name forward for Local Representative this election, as a way of offering my time and efforts to support our local teachers. Even before becoming a teacher, I have been a strong advocate for union rights and participation and I enjoy continuing in this role as advocate. One aspect of being a Local Rep that I enjoy greatly is learning about current issues teachers are facing, listening to their opinions and concerns, and advocating for those people and positions at both the local and provincial level.

In the past, before becoming a teacher, I have worked in several other unions and experienced various other aspects of trade union activities and leadership. As part of the M.R.T.A. I have had the privilege of being a Staff Rep for many years, been on various committees, attended the A.G.M. several times and been a Local Rep. During the strike, I was enthusiastic in advocating for the rights of teachers in the media, through our local news organizations, C.K.N.W., Global News, C.T.V News, and the C.B.C. and despite the strike being over, I see the persistent need for effective advocates for teachers' rights, wherever that may be.

I appreciate everyone's consideration in choosing our team of Local Representatives and feel confident that we will continue to have an outstanding team, whomever is elected this round.

