Maple Ridge Teachers' Association

News from the Office | | June 2022

A Word from the President...

The end is in sight for many of us (other than Kanaka Creek Elementary), yet the demands of the last month, and establishing what next year will look like often creates additional pressures. I hope that everyone remembers to unapologetically look after their physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. While we seem to have many of the Covid restrictions lifted, there is still an enduring sense of fatigue, and increasing concerns about whether the district is doing all it can to support teachers, as we lurch to the end of a second very demanding year. There are many decisions we have no control over, such as lack of TTOCs, support teachers being perpetually pulled to cover shortages, teachers being pulled from prep time, and the list goes on. While we recognize the impact these circumstances place on teachers, we want to remind teachers again that you have the professional autonomy to decide how you deliver the curriculum. Please be understanding of your colleagues, many of whom are struggling in invisible ways due to the pressures of the last couple of years. Please be understanding of yourself. Burnout from setting unrealistic, unattainable expectations on yourself does no one any benefit. Sustainability is where our attention needs to be focused as we edge our way to the end of year two in a pandemic. Hopefully, we will have the rest that we require this summer. And, yes, Kanaka Creek, this includes you, too!!

Trevor Takasaki

A Word from the First Vice-President...

Thank you MRTA colleagues for putting your confidence and support behind me. Another school year with the finish line in sight, another MRTA AGM, and with it, confirmation that I'll be returning in the 2022/23 school year to serve your needs.

As Spring more boldly takes steps to actually look like Spring, and we make our way toward Summer, I know teachers have concerns about what next year looks like. Teaching requests have gone in, and always a number land in places that do not correlate with what was desired.

The first and foremost question teachers should be asking about their next teaching year, especially with the stress and strain of the last few years, is – *"does the arrangement next year look sustainable enough that my health will not be impacted?"* I have heard the stories of teachers with challenging classrooms, where the last steps to the finish line are difficult, laboured ones. Please, if there are any of you out there that need guidance, because you are thinking *"I cannot do that again"* – reach out, my experiences now tell me that it is far better for us in education to take proactive steps to protect health, rather than waiting until significant injury has already occurred.

Take care, all, and best wishes for a restorative summer,

Martin Dmitrieff

The Team:

President: **Trevor** trevor@mrtaoffice.ca

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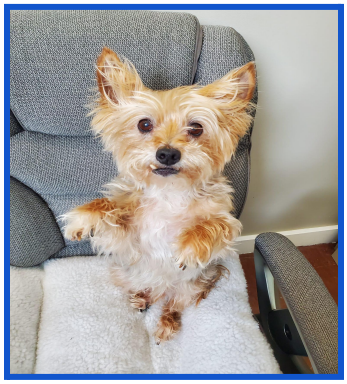
The MRTA Office Will Be Closed as per Summer Break.

Reine: Office Greeter

Oliver: Security Detail



Congratulations to our newly elected Executive Council and Committee Members for 2022/23!

President: Trevor Takasaki

1st Vice-President: Martin Dmitrieff

2nd Vice-President: Erin Smeed

Treasurer: Ryan Neufeld

Secretary: Lindsay Zepeski

Membership: Nicole Rowley

Local Election Contact: Mark Girard

Local Association Representatives:

- **Martin Dmitrieff**
- **Leanne Dunbar**
- **Richard McGraw**

Alternate: Erin Smeed

Members-at-Large:

- **Sonja Krzus**
- **Cheryl Baydo**

Health & Safety Representative: Leanne Dunbar

Continuing Education Representative: Kim Henneberry Glover

Aboriginal Education Contact: Dale Hardy (interim contact)

French Education Contact: Richard McGraw

Plus Chairs, MRTA Committees

MRTA Committees & Members

Working & Learning Conditions/Bargaining (1 vacancy):

Chair **Martin Dmitrieff**

- **Cheryl Baydo**
- **Kristie Colpitts**
- **Sonja Krzus**
- **Belinda Saed**
- **Katherine Waddell**

Professional Development (3 vacancies):

Chair **Jennifer MacDonald**

- **Anita Neufeld**
- **Darcey Reid**
- **Alison Wall**

Social Justice (3 vacancies):

Chair ***TBD***

- **Devika Chudy**
- **Valerie Miguel**
- **Sharmila Miller**
- **Heather Palmer**

MRTA Committees & Members (cont'd)

Early Career Teacher (4 vacancies):

Chair **Kara-Lynn Lund**

- **Richard McGraw**
- **Jennifer MacDonald**

Finance: (0 vacancies):

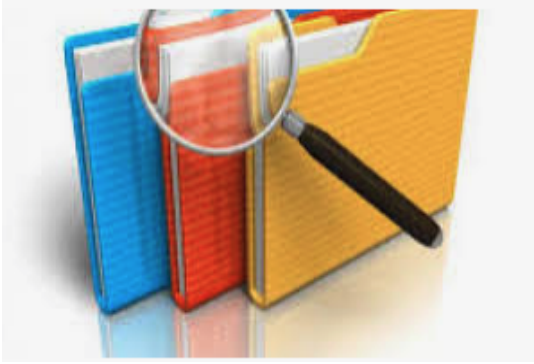
Chair **Ryan Neufeld**

- **Leanne Dunbar**
- **Bernice Goodwin**
- **Nicole Rowley**
- **Sasha Passaglia**

Joint Educational Change Implementation (1 vacancy)**:**

- **Devika Chudy**
- **Nicole Rowley**

Why the Heck Can't I Find a Copy of the 2019-2022 Collective Agreement?



AKA:

The current Contract Melding & Its Final Result

After a round of bargaining has been signed off by both parties - employees and employer representatives - it takes a significantly *looong* time to get a working copy to teachers in schools. The process to ensure the new contract is accurate and error free is called *"melding"*.

In mid-spring, the MRTA signed off on the third round of melding of the 2019-2022 Collective Agreement. Why did it take so long? There are a few reasons, but the most significant delay was the objective to integrate *Section D: Working and Learning Conditions* (the Class Size and Composition articles) into the main agreement, after only being accessible as a local addendum article for like…..7 years.

BCTF and BCPSEA counterparts have been examining local agreements, one at a time (as this language varies greatly district to district), to ensure language is updated to match how we currently operate. Keep in mind that this is language that was stale-dated and not touched since 2001, and could *NOT* be touched until a Supreme Court of Canada win! It also needed to be compliant with the Provincial LOU which identified the manner in which we would utilize the stripped language.

Furthermore, there is always a need to ensure that the signed-off changes at the bargaining table do not have grammatical errors, missing punctuation, and missed or erroneously deleted old elements of language that were not intended to be touched etc. All of these "minor errors" could potentially have very significant, unintended consequences. Not to mention that we are melding twice now: local language from bargaining between MRTA/SD42 on non-cost items, AND cost items at the Provincial table between BCTF/BCPSEA.

So yes…..we got it done! Soon we will be scheduling the "sign-off" to release the 2019-2022 agreement, and hopefully, have it out sometime next year. Meanwhile, it has expired and we are bargaining for the next iteration! Want to know more? Maybe take me out for a beer some time and I'll get lost in the weeds with you!

Martin Dmitrieff
MRTA 1st VP

Please Join Us in Honouring Our 2022 Retirees:

Congratulations!!!

Timothy Ardenne Tim Bemister

Kay Blanchard-Willoughby Greg Brock

Marcie Culbert Steve Demos Jeff Drabik

Lynn Findlay Irene Gibeault Gail Johnson

Joseph Kravjanski Delee Labelle

Lona Leonard Isabel Lummis

Cynthia MacKinnon Dale MacQuarrie

Jodi MacQuarrie Sylvia Mathay James McCloskey

Geoff McElgunn Debbie Mitchell Jane Moran

Anna Mrotzek Kerry Murray

Kathryn Nash-Flemming Pamela Obadia

Todd Patrick Laura Richardson

Amanda Roberts John Rondpre

Rochelle Sevigny Eileen Stover Diane Touhey

Tania Waddell Tanya Walton

Congratulations!!!

As you begin this new chapter of your life,
we, at the MRTA,
celebrate and share in your joy as you retire
from your teaching career.

Thank you for your years of
selfless contribution, passion, and dedication.

~ Trevor & Martin ~

Reminder: Pro-D & Remedy Reimbursements

The MRTA Office will be closed for the summer months, therefore, we are accepting receipts for reimbursements and related paperwork until the deadline of **June 28, 2022. Reimbursement requests at this point will be mailed to your home address; please ensure to provide your current address in order to receive your cheque.**

After June 28th, Pro-D and Remedy paperwork will be considered received when the MRTA office re-opens in early September 2022.

HAVE A RELAXING AND FUN-FILLED SUMMER BREAK!

See you in September!

TT/MD/cf leu42:usw-2009 Newsletters/News from the Office 2021/22