



Coquitlam Teachers' Association News

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The CTA office is a scent free workplace.

Visit our Website at www.coquitlamteachers.com

Ken Christensen, President
Amanda Long, First Vice-President
Kara Obojski, Second Vice-President

October 13, 2017
No. 7

EA Shortages

The CTA has been made aware of a large number of EA shortages and the impact this is having on remaining staff at schools. This wasn't unexpected but, it has hit way harder and way sooner than anticipated this year. Management is aware of the problem and is in triage mode right now. Their goal is to balance the EA shortages so there is not more than one short per site, if possible. There are sites with 2 or 3 down right now and EAs are being actively redeployed from other sites in aid of that balancing. This is a predictor of what might occur later with our TTOC list as well, as many teachers get taken off that to go into available temporary work. None of this explanation makes the work in the site any easier but, please keep telling us what is happening on this front in your site, so we have a sense of the scope of the problem and can advocate for specific circumstances.

Reporting Issues with K-8 Template

The CTA has been made aware of many concerns still remaining unclear or unresolved with regard to the new Reporting Template K-8. In speaking with District management today on several points, the overarching message from them is that teacher judgment is sacrosanct here. The employer states they have trust in the teachers of SD43 and will back them with administrative support in schools and district supports, if needed, in defense of a teacher's evaluative decisions on a child. They also offered that if there is any uncertainty with regard to the template, teachers can reach out to the Coordinators, mentor teachers, or even Andrea McComb at Learning Services, (AMcComb@sd43.bc.ca). Please continue to refer questions on the template to us here at the CTA so we can stay on top of emerging issues.

FSA Exemplars

The Employer has been asking for some FSA exemplars to be collected by teachers in some sites. This is not actually abnormal but, because there is a choice component to the redesigned FSA, more exemplars than usual are being collected. The school data and the student names are redacted before these are submitted to the Ministry. The intent in gathering these exemplars is to help the markers gauge the relative quality of the response they are evaluating. You can submit these, if asked by your Principal to do so and there are no negative consequences for doing so.



Welcome New Teachers to the CTA

New Teachers to the CTA should stay tuned for upcoming opportunities in November including the BCTF induction ceremony and New Teacher training presented by the CTA and the BCTF in late November. Details coming soon.

In the meantime you can check out the BC Early Career Teachers PSA for access to resources, support networks and professional development opportunities specifically for new teachers and TTOC. For more information on how to join visit the website: www.bcecta.ca

PD Rep Training

PD Rep Training dates are indicated below. The three dates will be afternoons ONLY and will be held at the CTA Office. We will be emailing out the PD Rep Training packages next week.

- Tuesday, October 24, 2017 (p.m.)
- Wednesday, November 1, 2017 (p.m.)
- Thursday, November 2, 2017 (p.m.)

PLEASE NOTE: When accessing the Online Leave Management Web System through CADS please choose CTA Pro D Rep Training.



PD Power

"I'm learning to fly, but I ain't got wings. Coming down is the hardest thing." ~ Tom Petty

Professional learning is supported by CTA both formally in policy and informally through networks and ideas from members. In CTA Policy 9, the guidelines for PD Assistance (a.k.a. the yellow forms), LSAs and the CTA Day are outlined clearly, and were highlighted in last week's PD Power. This week, we zoom in on some of the professional learning opportunities that have arisen organically through suggestions from members: PD Connections, #Ignite43 and PD Power.

We are excited to continue with our joint afterschool workshop series, "PD Connections", co-hosted with Staff Development, Learning Services and Aboriginal Education. The purpose of our afterschool series is to introduce teachers to topics of interest, but more importantly, begin a conversation. Our workshop series starts up again in November. [Watch for details!](#)

We recently held our second **#Ignite43** "Eureka! (and other a-ha moments)" at Milestones in Coquitlam. An "ignite" is a fast-paced event where presenters are given 5 minutes and a maximum of 20 slides to share a story. This evening event featured 10 amazing presenters: Liz Bell (Pinetree Secondary), Bryn Williams (Westwood Elem), Amanda Long (CTA), Dario Demetlike (James Park), Colleen Castonguay (Walton), John Sarte (I-Hub), Michele Reid (Maryhill), Jody Colbourne (Riverview Park), Kelsey Keller (Baker Drive), James Gill (Meadowbrook) with emcee Craig Mah (Walton). [Don't miss our next #Ignite43 coming in the Spring!](#)

The weekly CTA newsletter article, **PD Power**, is a way for the membership to keep up-to-date with upcoming events, learn about policy and provide support for PD reps as well as open-up conversations about professional learning topics and perspectives. You're in the right place if you're reading this today. Remember to check our **CTA website**.

Our CTA website is kept up-to-date with information regarding policy and resources including PD Assistance, LSAs, and our CTA Day but also upcoming PD events and opportunities. Check out www.coquitlamteachers.com for all your PD questions. This is a secure member portal, so you do need to log-in. If you do not have your password, or need assistance with logging in, please contact Kelly Roberts kroberts@cta43.org

Take care, Holly

WANTED: District Design Committee for New Elementary Schools (6 CTA Members)

The District Design Committee will work with the Architect and Facilities Personnel to provide feedback on designing new elementary schools in School District #43. The time commitment will be approximately

2-3 meetings per month from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. over a period of 3-4 months during the fall of 2017 and early 2018. There will be documents and drawings to review between meeting. *Please go to our website for a curriculum vitae [click here](#) and submit it to the CTA Office.*

Learning Specialist Associations

If you are looking to share and collaborate with teachers in your specialty area, consider joining or starting a Local Specialist Association (LSA). An LSA is a group of teachers who are interested in the promotion and advocacy of professional development in their specialist area. Last year Coquitlam was home to a dozen LSAs who worked to bring meaningful Pro D opportunities to teachers in a variety of ways. Most LSAs are connected to a PSA (Provincial Specialist Association). To receive funding from the CTA, LSAs must complete the required grant application by **October 15th**.

For more information, contact **Meggan Crawford** (mcrawford@sd43.bc.ca).

770 Corner

TTOC Committee

Date: Thursday, October 19, 2017
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Place: CTA Office

Committee Vacancies

Teachers interested in the following [CTA committees](#) should go onto our website for a curriculum vitae and submit it to the CTA Office by **Monday, October 23, 2017**. *If you have questions, call the CTA Office at 604-936-9971.*

CTA Negotiations Committee

➤ 3 members-at-large

CTA Multiculturalism & Anti-Racism Committee

➤ 1 elem. rep, 1 middle rep, 1 sec. rep, 1 MAL

New Westminster & District Labour Council

➤ 5 CTA reps

CTA Teachers Teaching on Call Committee

➤ 5 members-at-large

CTA Policies & Procedures Committee

➤ 1 member-at-large

CTA Social Justice Committee

➤ 2 middle reps, 1 member at large rep

District Reporting Design Team (K-5) & (6-9)

➤ 1 CTA member (K-5), 2 CTA members (6-9)

District Student Services Advisory Committee

➤ 2 CTA reps

District French Advisory Committee

➤ 4 CTA reps

District Student Achievement Advisory Committee

➤ 3 CTA reps

District Review Panel Committee

➤ 1 CTA rep

District Technology Advisory Committee

➤ 3 CTA reps

District aSafe Schools Advisory Committee

➤ 3 CTA reps

District Advisory Committee on Aboriginal Education

➤ 1 CTA rep

Employee Assistance Program Review

➤ 2 CTA reps

Join us!