



EXECUTIVE NOTES

June 13-14, 2014

Your NLTA Provincial Executive met in St. John's on June 13 and 14. *Executive Notes* is a summary of discussions and decisions that occurred at this meeting. For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff member as indicated via the email link.

President's Report

Since the last meeting of Provincial Executive the President attended the retirement banquets at Baccalieu, Waterford Valley, Carbonear and Appalachia branches. He attended meetings/awards events to present the NLTA Special Recognition Award and Bancroft Award and represented the Association at the Council of Atlantic Provinces Teacher Organizations (CAPTO) AGM and the Education International (EI) Global Education Conference. He continued school visits in St. John's, Torbay, Roddickton, Englee, Main Brook, Conche, Flower's Cove, Plum Point, St. George's, Stephenville, Deer Lake, Woody Point, Trout River, Cape St. George, Le Grand Terre, Lourdes, Piccadilly and Stephenville Crossing. Media interviews took place with CBC Radio Morning Show, CBC Radio On the Go, NTV and VOCM Open Line regarding redundancies and the status of negotiations.

For further information contact James Dinn, President.

Association Priorities

Provincial Executive reviewed the updates on the priorities for 2013-15 and were provided with the opportunity to ask questions or seek clarification. The priorities for 2013-15 are: negotiating a collective agreement; beginning teacher initiatives; strategic plan for membership engagement; implementation of NLTA IT Strategic Plan; school board amalgamation; and non collective agreement issues that impact on teacher work life.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or Don Ash, Executive Director.

Safe and Caring Schools Policy

A presentation was made to Provincial Executive by Department of Education Staff – Ed Walsh, Assistant Deputy Minister, Primary, Elementary and Secondary Education, and Bernie Ottenheimer, Director of Student Support Services – on the new Safe and Caring Schools Policy. The presentation included information on the impetus for revisions, stakeholder consultations, goals of the policy, what it means to be a safe and caring school, best practices, current initiatives, the school development process, school-wide positive behaviour supports, code of conduct, definition of bullying, bullying intervention protocol, non-violent crisis intervention, digital citizenship, policy implementation, and the planning process. Concern was expressed regarding the time and human resources necessary to make this policy work effectively. An NLTA staff person will be designated as a contact person with the Department to provide input and receive implementation updates for the NLTA.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or Don Ash, Executive Director.

Business from Standing Committees

Table Officers

- Marcella Cormier will be re-nominated for a second one-year term on the CTF Committee on French as a First Language.
- Sherri Rose will be nominated for a two-year term on the CTF Committee on the Status of Women.
- The NLTA will provide \$2,000 to sponsor Media Literacy Week 2014.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or Don Ash, Executive Director.

Curriculum Committee

- The NLTA will lobby officials at the Department and NLESD vis-à-vis the need to supply substitute teachers for the purpose of permitting classroom teachers to

(over)

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administer required tasks such as running records, French interviews and career interviews.

- The NLTA will raise the issue of a “Vocational Stream for Skilled Trades” at a future meeting with Department officials.

For further information contact Sandra Quigley, Chair, Curriculum Committee or George Tucker, Staff Consultant.

Finance and Property Committee

- The gain on the sale of the house used for a residence for the President will be transferred to a presidential housing fund for potential use in years when a President is elected and resides outside reasonable commuting distance from St. John’s. A policy will be developed in this regard.
- Unused funds from the 2013-14 IT Strategic Plan Budget will be transferred to the IT Strategic Fund.

For further information contact Craig Hicks, Chair, Finance and Property Committee or Wade Rogers, Staff Consultant.

Membership Benefits and Services Committee

Proposed changes to the Retirement Scrolls and Pre-Retirement Seminars policies were accepted.

For further information contact Jean Murphy, Chair, Membership Benefits and Services Committee or Miriam Sheppard, Staff Consultant.

Professional Issues Committee

- Bruce King will be awarded the Barnes Award for 2013-15.
- The Centennial Fund Project Award will be discontinued as one of the Centennial Fund programs.

For further information contact Gabe Ryan, Chair, Professional Issues Committee or Beverley Park, Staff Consultant.

Allocation for Counsellors and Psychologists

Peggy Hann, President of the NL Counsellors and Psychologists Association, made a presentation to Provincial Executive on the allocation for counsellors and psychologists. Her presentation included statistics on mental illness, prevention programs, and the need for more counsellors and psychologists in the schools.

For further information contact James Dinn, President.

Branch/Council Contact Report

A report was circulated to members of Provincial Executive on contact made between branch presidents, special interest councils and members of Provincial Executive. Issues and topics that were discussed include status of negotiations, guidance allocations, pension discussions, family/personal leave, hiring of substitutes, workload issues and IT issues.

For further information contact James Dinn, President.

Discussion Topics

Provincial Executive reviewed the following for comment, actioning or further discussion and follow-up: teacher appraisal forms; a committee for substitute teachers; malpractice insurance for guidance counsellors; marking board; student mental health issues; teacher hiring process for 2014-15; School Board-Teacher Liaison committee; IRT allocation; phys ed teachers; staff liaison committees; and student interventions. Based on the discussions, the following motions were passed:

- The NLTA will establish a standing committee for substitute teachers.
- The NLTA will contact the District regarding insurance for guidance counsellors
- That the NLTA explore, through discussion with the NL English School District, the frequency of non-physical education teachers being assigned to physical education duties while sufficient numbers of physical education teachers are not teaching in their specialty area.

For further information contact James Dinn, President.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for September 26 and 27 in St. John’s.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or Don Ash, Executive Director.