

Monday Memo

Upcoming Dates

JANUARY

30 SPTA Self-Regulation Pro-D

FEBRUARY

6 Executive Committee Meeting

7 Job Share Meeting

8 [Intro to Bargaining](#)
Wellness Event

12 Family Day (Closed)

13 Bargaining Committee Meeting

15 [Working Together for a
Bright Future](#)
[AGM Delegates - Rookie Training](#)

16 [SD36/STA Focus Day](#)

20 Executive Committee Meeting

21 STA New Teachers' Conference
and Welcome
STARA Meeting

22 [AGM Delegates Meeting](#)

27 STA Committee Chairs Meeting

Highlights from the Special General Meeting!

Here's what you missed:

- On behalf of the STA, Julia MacRae presented bread & roses to Karen Kilbride along with her Honorary Lifetime Membership to the Surrey Teachers Association. More info to come in the next Advocate!
- Glen Hansman was on-site to answer questions and provide updates about the teacher shortage and implementation challenges from across the Province. Surrey and Vancouver are chronically short, with not enough teachers on supply lists, resulting in large numbers of non-enrolling teachers being pulled to fill. He emphasized the importance of working with the Employer on recruitment and retention of teachers to help this ongoing challenge.
- Members successfully elected a full roster of 50 delegates (plus alternates!) to the BCTF Annual General Meeting
- **Rookie's training is scheduled for February 15;** check your email for details!
- Anne McNamee provided an update to the ongoing arbitration on Reporting & Assessment: Technological Change and Professional Autonomy. Questions regarding this topic can be directed to her or Joanna Cerazy.
- Kevin Amboe + Violette Baillergeon (Bargaining Committee co-chairs) invited all interested teachers to attend a **"Intro to Bargaining" Open House** after school on **February 8 at Eaglequest**.

STA Website Improvements

Your website is officially UNDER-CONSTRUCTION! We are excited to share that we are working on redesigning our website, as per last year's Three-Year Capital Assets Plan. Not only will the update improve the look and feel of the STA website, but it will also address many of the functionality issues. Table Officers and Staff have been working to get a prototype off its feet. Understandably, this is a work in progress and the changes won't happen overnight. Our goal is to get a final product out to members in early April. We hope you are as excited as we are!

We are now at the stage where we need to get feedback from members before moving forward. At this week's Executive Committee meeting, we passed the following motion:

THAT the EC strike an adhoc website steering committee to provide feedback to staff and table officers in the creation of our new website with up to 6 members, at least three of whom are members of the EC.

If you think you would enjoy previewing our beta site and giving us feedback on the progress we've made and the current questions we have, then this may be the committee for you! You need not have any experience in website design, in fact, the technically challenged are welcome! Just your enthusiasm and interest in using our new website is all that's required.

Those interested should return their completed [STA COMMITTEE CV](#) to the office by **Monday, February 5**. You can drop it off in-person or send it via [EMAIL](#) or by fax (604-594-5176).

Job Sharing: Know Your Rights!

Join your colleagues on Wednesday, February 7 at Eaglequest to connect with potential job-share partners and learn about your rights when it comes to job shares. The STA will facilitate this information session and answer any questions you may have. In addition to taking you through the application process, you will learn about possible denials and what options you have available to you. Bring your questions! Snacks and beverages will be provided. Babies welcome!

Qualification Deadline: January 31!

We are expecting that there will be a large number of postings for positions that require special training or specific experience, especially LST and IST teachers, for next school year. In order to be shortlisted in Rounds 1 and 2, teachers need to be listed in the District Qualification Book.

Teachers who are interested in changing their assignments to such positions need to apply to the Human Resources Department by January 31st to have their qualifications evaluated. The evaluation will be completed by March 31. (CA, Article E.28.1)

Job descriptions and evaluation forms for specific jobs can be found on the [DISTRICT WEBSITE](#).

Term Assignments & Split-Shifts

Call for information! **JOANNA CERAZY** is compiling data from teachers and wants to hear from you!

Send her a quick **EMAIL** if:

- You were placed into a "term assignment" for 2 consecutive years.
- You teach a split-shift schedule.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

February 15, 2018 • 6 pm - 9 pm
Grand Taj Banquet Hall
8388 128 Street,
Surrey

Colleagues, we need some volunteers to help run our event. Are you a bartender who could help us out? Would you help take tickets at the door or sell raffle tickets? Please contact Julia at 604-592-8395 or 2-vp@surreyteachers.org if you could volunteer with us the evening of Feb 15th. Thanks in advance!



February 16 Focus Day: REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

The STA and District are pleased to announce the theme of this year's Focus Day which is: "The Heart of the Learner." We are hoping you will consider joining us on Feb. 16th at North Surrey Secondary where we are pleased to welcome our keynote speaker Ivan Coyote. Ivan is a natural storyteller and brings humour, passion, and deep personal connection to stories of sexual orientation and gender identity in a manner that will resonate for us all. The keynote will not only be an entertaining and thought provoking start to the day, but it is also symbolic of our commitment to the importance of this topic in our daily work with students. The district is deeply committed to our vision of all schools being safe and caring places for all students, staff and community members. You will see our policy, which was co-written with all stakeholders, in action as we embrace the SOGI 123 curriculum and resources that support inclusive schools. We are certain you will enjoy the session and will indeed find it engaging.

In addition to what is a packed day, we are also pleased to welcome numerous other speakers who will focus on a range of topics from ecological consciousness and playfulness to mathematics inquiry.

Once again, we are pleased to welcome all speakers and participants to our joint STA/SD36 Focus day and we hope you enjoy the sessions and opportunity to network with colleagues.

See the [WEBSITE](#) for more information and to complete your registration.

In addition to a keynote presentation you won't want to miss, the day's 2 sessions offer a smorgasbord of workshops, featuring sessions from the Surrey English Teachers' Association and the Surrey Teacher-Librarians' Association, you'll be sure to find something that tickles your fancy! Don't delay: register now!

Professional Development

Surrey Primary Teachers' Association Pro-D

The SPTA is hosting a brief after-school workshop on Tuesday, January 30 from 3:45 PM-5:00 PM at Hazelgrove Elementary. Learn about the importance and benefits of self-regulation! This workshop will feature "The Zones of Regulation" with Gurjeet Dhama speaking about how the curriculum can be implemented in the classroom.

For more information and to register, visit the [WEBSITE](#).

Cross Border Conference: Reclaiming Common Ground

The BCTF's International Solidarity Committee & STA are co-hosting this special event on Saturday, April 7 at Sullivan Heights Secondary. More information can be found [ONLINE](#).

We invite contributions from teachers and activists to examine and re-imagine the public school as common ground for the nurturing of the progressive democratic ideals of equity, inclusion and justice. We encourage participants to reflect on their students' development as citizens capable of understanding the issues of poverty, racism, homophobia, disabilities and culture. Teachers are in a position to respond to these themes in the classroom in a way that upholds basic democratic ideals and principles.

We are seeking [WORKSHOP PRESENTERS](#) on social justice themes. Possible topics could include immigration/border issues, privatization of schools, First Nations education and rights, Reconciliation, global climate crisis, organizing skills, rights of disabled people, women's rights, LGBTQ/ SOGI, Social Justice in our curricula, land struggles, anti-colonialism, race/ anti-racism, etc.

Wellness Event

The Status of Women Committee is organizing another Wellness Event on February 8th. They will host Dr. Andrew Miki, who will present information on Starling Minds, our employee-funded mental health, stress management, and mental fitness service. Marilyn Harper will take the group through beginner yoga (mats will be provided). This *free* event includes dinner! Space is limited, [REGISTER NOW](#) to secure your spot!

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

STA CONVENTION 2018

[CLICK HERE](#)

BCTF's New Teacher Conference

The BCTF is once again hosting an amazing conference full of learning opportunities, networking, and fun designed specifically for new teachers, TTOCs, and student teachers. The conference will take place at the Radisson hotel in Richmond on March 2 and 3, 2018. Please find all the details (workshops program, agenda, resource fair...) at the [CONFERENCE WEBSITE](#).

Last week the Executive Committee carried the following motion to help support some Surrey attendees:

THAT we invite new Surrey teachers to request STA funding to attend the BCTF New Teachers, New TTOCs and Student Teachers Conference on March 2-3, 2018 up to a maximum combined expenditure of \$5000, with funds to come from the BCTF New Teachers Conference budget line. Costs covered for teachers include TTOC costs, conference registration fee, and mileage; TTOCs are eligible to attend under article G.7 TTOCs conducting union business, with cost of substitute, registration fee and mileage covered. Attendees will be selected on a first come first served basis until the \$5000 maximum is reached.

Therefore, if you are interested in attending BCTF's New Teacher Conference, please email Donna (donna@surreyteachers.org) to be eligible to access funding from the STA. Funding is limited and available on a first come, first served basis.

Joke of the Week



**Do you wanna hear a joke about a pizza?
Never mind, it's too cheesy.**

**Thanks to Ian W. for
this week's joke!**

If you have a short, clean, (but not necessarily education-related) joke, please email it to [KELLY](#).

If your joke is drawn for publication, you will be entered into the monthly prize draw for a **\$25 Indigo gift certificate**.

CONTACT US!

Reach us by phone at **604-594-5353** or via [EMAIL](#).

Please do not hesitate to call the STA office whenever you have a question or concern. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of getting advice from your Union on any employment related issue, even if it's only to confirm information you've received from another source.