

# Monday Memo

## Recognition of Aboriginal Territory

The STA acknowledges that we work on the traditional and unceded territories of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Semiahmoo, and Qayqayt First Nations. We thank them for allowing us to work on this territory.

## Upcoming Dates

OCTOBER

- 9-11 Staff Rep Training
- 10 Surrey early voting date for  
Municipal Elections
- 11 Surrey early voting date for  
Municipal Elections
- 12-13 BCTF Fall Zone Meetings
- 13 Surrey early voting date for  
Municipal Elections
- 15 Deadline to submit Resolutions
- 17 STA Special General Meeting + STARA
- 18 [The Moose Hide Campaign](#)
- 19 [PSA Professional Development Day](#)
- 20 Municipal Elections
- 26-27 BCTF Bargaining Conference
- 30 STA New Teachers' Conference



## Suminder Singh

Suminder Singh, beloved Math teacher at Tamanawis Secondary, was killed in a tragic traffic accident last Friday afternoon. Our thoughts are with his family and many colleagues in our district at this difficult time. It is a terrible shock for students as well. District and school counsellors are helping students, and Homewood solutions (our EFAP provider) is offering support to affected staff members.

## Municipal Elections #electingourbosses

Be sure to visit the new section of our website [www.surreyteachers.org/electingourbosses](http://www.surreyteachers.org/electingourbosses) for all of your municipal election information! This portion of the website will include details about each of our endorsed candidates, what the process was for who was chosen to be endorsed, what teachers can do, and more.

### Endorsements for School Trustees



The STA is endorsing six candidates running for School Trustee in our upcoming Municipal Election. The six are: **Charlene Dobie, Cindy Dalglisch, Sonia Andhi, Mary-Em Waddington, Niovi Patscakis, and Laurae McNally.**

The road to endorsing these six candidates was accomplished through a democratic decision by many members, and a lot of time and careful consideration was taken into account at all levels. The PAPR committee invited school board candidates to an interview, and conducted 18 interviews with those willing to be interviewed. They then prepared transcripts and summaries of the 18 interviews, publishing the summaries as an attachment to our Monday Memo sent out September 25. Our PAPR committee recommended a short list to the executive committee, who then discussed, debated, and voted to endorse these six women. Then at our Special General Meeting, over 100 Surrey teachers voted without dissent to endorse these candidates.

### These were our criteria for recommending endorsement of certain candidates:

1. Aware of, and prepared to advocate for, issues in our district.
2. Demonstrated an understanding of the role/expectation of School Trustee.
3. Impressed with their approach to Truth & Reconciliation, safe and inclusive schools, and diversity.
4. These candidates have a plan to improve relationship with teachers.
5. These candidates are ready for change.

## 2018 School Trustee Elections

[www.surreyteachers.org/electingourbosses](http://www.surreyteachers.org/electingourbosses)

Early voting dates in Surrey:  
October 6, 10, 11, 13

Election Day is October 20

**I TEACH.  
I VOTE.**



surrey teachers' association

## SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

STARA Meeting to follow

October 17 • 4:00 pm

Bombay Banquet Hall  
(7475 135 St, Surrey)

DELICIOUS  
DINNER  
PROVIDED

### Opportunity: BC Federation of Labour Convention, Nov. 26-30

The BC Fed Convention will take place in Vancouver from November 26-30. More than a thousand union members from all across B.C., private and public sector, will gather to debate issues, formulate plans of action, collaborate, learn, and socialize.

To attend as an STA delegate, you should have an interest in the labour movement and issues in other employment sectors, and a desire to connect with members of other unions to learn about what issues are important to them, and share teachers' issues with them. You would receive a union release, and expenses would be covered.

The STA will be electing its delegates to the BC Fed Convention at the Special General Meeting on October 17, 2018, at the Bombay Banquet Hall. If you are interested in standing for election, please submit a statement of no more than 100 words (a strict limit will be enforced) to [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) no later than Monday, October 15, 2018. You can also be nominated from the floor of the meeting.

### Student Vote - You could WIN!

Have you registered your class for [Student Vote](#) yet? Not only does Student Vote makes it EASY to teach about government with their detailed lesson plans, but they also make it FUN, and the students get really into it! For those who don't know, Student Vote coincides with government elections, students learn about government and the electoral process, research the parties and platforms, discuss relevant issues and cast ballots for the official election candidates. With the upcoming municipal elections coming October 20, now is the time to register. Oh, and it's FREE!

Upload a photo or video of you using Student Vote in action either to our Facebook group or via email [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org) and you will be entered into our draw for a \$100 gift card to a bookstore!



### SPTA EVENTS



Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events with the SPTA:

Wednesday, October 3rd - **Fall Social/Membership Drive** at Big Ridge Brewery from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Come out and connect with colleagues, join the SPTA, and win a door prize. Appies/a drink are included. Membership fees are \$20 for the year.

Tuesday, October 16th - **"MATH - Counting Collections" workshop** @ Hazelgrove Elementary from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Counting collections are a highly engaging activity that promote a variety of mathematical skills. Learn how to implement them in your classroom in a variety of ways that will meet the needs of all your K-3 learners.

Wednesday, November 14th - **Dinner workshop with Adrienne Gear - "Powerful Understanding"** - location TBA 3:30 - 7:00 p.m. Check the website for registration information mid-October.

Register at [www.spta36.weebly.com](http://www.spta36.weebly.com)

## Foundation Skills Assessment Tests (FSAs)

The [FSA withdrawal letters and information for parents](#) should be distributed to all Grade 4 and 7 families. It is most effective to have conversations with parents face-to-face about our concerns and why we are taking a stand against the FSA. We encourage you to have a school-wide parent information leafletting session before and/or after school. We are legally allowed to distribute this material on school property and to speak with parents about it. If you need more, or need any alternate language pamphlets, please email us at [reception@surreyteachers.org](mailto:reception@surreyteachers.org).

The BCTF recommends that parents request their child be exempted from writing the FSA. The reason is that the results of these tests are used unscientifically to make judgments that go beyond their mandate. The FSA is meant as a broad, system-wide check, not a test of individual student abilities. All education stakeholders on the Advisory Group on Provincial Assessment agree that neither individual student data nor school data should be released. Even the principals, superintendents, trustees, parent groups, child advocates, and deans of SFU and UBC all agree on that point. Unfortunately, our government has not agreed to abide by the recommendations to protect individual student and school data. This data is misused to produce school rankings. So that is why we do not support the FSA. They are not an accurate assessment of the individual student performance and it takes up our valuable time and resources, and contradicts our student-centered, flexible, process oriented, and personalized approach to learning, especially when they are measuring things the students have not yet learned - how is that fair? The FSAs do not help students learn or teachers teach.

## Remedy

Since it is October, teachers whose classes exceed the size and/or composition limits become entitled to remedy. Last year the District started calculating remedy in early November. Although there was a very long delay (6 months) before any remedy was delivered, we expect that it will start much sooner this year.

To know whether you are entitled to remedy, please consult the attached [guide to class size and composition](#). If you have questions about your remedy, please contact Matt at [pres@surreyteachers.org](mailto:pres@surreyteachers.org).

As with last year, the three forms of remedy are 1) prep time; 2) non-enrolling time; and 3) co-teaching time. If you have not tried co-teaching, we encourage you to do so, because it provides extra direct support for students. It would mean having another teacher who could work with a particular group of students, so that you could focus on other things.

## Joint Health & Safety Committees

Each school site should have elected their Joint Health & Safety Committee (JH&S) by now. This committee is vital to the safe environment in your school and does need to meet on a regular basis. Issues that cannot be dealt with at the Joint Health & Safety Committee, should be forwarded to Sue Heuman, the Health and Safety Officer at the STA, via [hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org). The minutes of each meeting should be recorded and a copy posted in the staff room. A copy of the minutes should be sent to the Manager, Health & Safety at DEC, and to the STA.

## New members of the Joint Health & Safety Committees

There is a requirement from WorkSafeBC that all new members (2 years or less on the committee) of Joint Health & Safety Committees attend an 8-hour Introduction to Occupational Health and Safety. The district is scheduling these workshops on December 11, and January 8 & 10, 2019. Please see the attached notice from the district.

## Returning members of the Joint Health & Safety Committees

Members who have been on the Joint Health & Safety Committee at their school should receive 8 hours of training per year. This is an advanced workshop and is a requirement from WorkSafeBC. There have been changes to WorkSafeBC legislation in the past year and it is important for the committee members to be informed so that the Joint Health and Safety Committee is in compliance with WorkSafeBC regulations.

New members who have attended the Introduction to Occupational Health and Safety workshop should also receive 8 additional hours of training per year. Advanced Health and Safety Workshops are being held January 22, 24 and 31, 2019. Please see the attached notice from the district.



Mark your calendars, we will have our first New teachers' conference of the year on Oct 30th. You are invited to attend, to learn more about your union, to be inducted as a BCTF member (and meet the provincial vice president!) and to have a day to consider such issues as health and safety for teachers, professional boundaries, our Code of Ethics, and some strategies to make life as a new teacher easier. More information next week. Lunch will be included, and your TTOC will be paid for.

## Opportunity for Members: SPARK withIN Conference



This event will take place at the Surrey Arts Centre on October 28. It is a conference aimed at youth, and will provide opportunities to speak to students about the teaching profession, and network with various community groups. There is a great lineup of speakers and performers. If you would be interested in attending and staffing an STA booth, please contact Matt at [pres@surreyteachers.org](mailto:pres@surreyteachers.org). For more information, please see the website at <https://www.sparkwithin.org/>



## Time to Apply for Variances

Article D.22.1 of the collective agreement limits the length of a school's instructional day. Some courses involve multi-grade classes that do not fit neatly within a timetable designed to comply with the collective agreement. For years, the Association has approved a limited number of "variances" to the instructional day to accommodate such courses.

The process of looking at possible variances to the school day for 2019 – 2020 secondary classes has begun. Secondary staff reps should have received information and application forms that we ask be forwarded to the Fine Arts Department Head and any other interested teachers. The forms need to be completed and returned to the STA office by November 15, 2018.

**Most of the approved variances are for fine arts classes. The following criteria apply:**

- The course(s) could not be offered during the instructional day,
- The course(s) is a provincially or locally developed course where students are enrolled. i.e. cannot be a "drop in" or tutorial session,
- The course(s) is multi-grade AND it is educationally sound/appropriate to run it as a multi-grade course, and
- If not multi-grade, the course(s) may be a fine arts foundational course (such as Jazz 8)

Please contact Mark Keelan [grieve2@surreyteachers.org](mailto:grieve2@surreyteachers.org) if you need further information.

## Last Call For Resolutions!

This is your opportunity to submit ideas for local resolutions to the BCTF AGM! Many items in the BCTF Members' Guide, from professional issues to health and safety standards, started off as someone's idea to improve something. If you have spent time ruminating about an issue (e.g. professional development, social justice, privatization and commercialization, pensions, teachers teaching on call, or the health, welfare, and safety of teachers), please submit your idea ASAP to the STA Resolutions Committee via courier #000, fax at 604-594-5176, or email at [2vp@surreyteachers.org](mailto:2vp@surreyteachers.org). **Deadline: October 15.**

When submitting, please include:

- your name
- school
- motion (e.g. THAT the BCTF lobby the provincial government to...)
- the intent or goal (what do you hope to accomplish with this motion?)
- rational (reasons people would support your motion, including some background, statistics, as well as arguments).

The wording of resolution and rationales is very important. Sometimes great ideas fail because of faulty resolution wording or weak supporting statements. The STA Resolutions Committee will assist you with this. For examples of wording, browse through the BCTF Members' Guide or our Collective Agreement. If you have any questions, please give any one of us a call at (604) 594-5353. Your resolution could end up being debated at the BCTF Annual General Meeting!

## Shout Out!

We are so proud to be Surrey Teachers and we know there are amazing things happening around the district that we would love to hear about. In the spirit of acts of kindness, we would love for our members to send us a "shout out" about a colleague who inspires you and who you think deserves recognition, whether it is for their kindness, a great resource they shared recently, or an awesome lesson they teach.

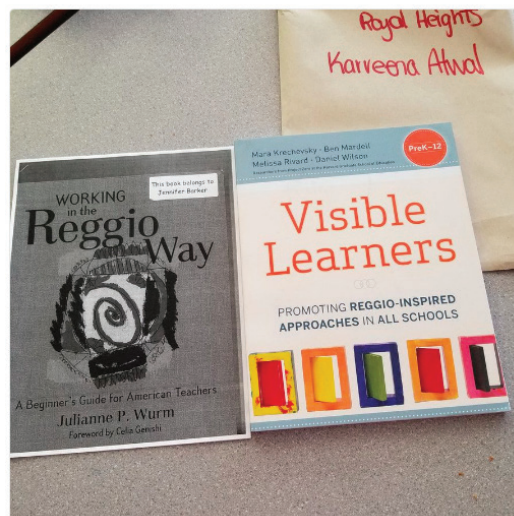
This week's shout out comes from Karveena Atwal:

Thank you Karveena, you and Jennifer are now entered into our monthly draw for a \$25 Indigo! gift certificate. Please submit your "shout outs" to Angela via [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org) to spread the kindness around our local and

**This week's shout out comes from Karveena Atwal:**



**Karveena Atwal** @karveena23 · 6h  
Thank you @Barkerjbarker I received my package @RoyalHeightsBC today! I am so excited to dive into this on the weekend #feelingthankful #sd36learn #numeracy #iteachmath



## Every Teacher needs a PSA #PSAday

Provincial Specialist Associations (PSAs) are a way for members to exchange ideas on research, teaching strategies, curriculum development, and other shared interests. This year's upcoming **PSA day** is on **Friday, October 19**. Make sure you sign up now to make sure you can attend your preferred conference! You can use either your Individual Professional Development Funds or Consolidated Professional Development Funds to pay for these conferences.



**MOOSE HIDE  
CAMPAIGN**  
**CAMPAGNE  
MOOSE HIDE**

The [Moose Hide Campaign](#) is a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys who are standing up against violence towards women and children. Wearing the moose hide signifies your commitment to honour, respect, and protect the women and children in your life and to work together to end violence against women and children. If you would like to support and show solidarity for the Moose Hide Campaign, please send your name and school to [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) and we will send out a pin via the courier.

## REACH OUT!

Reach us by phone at 604-594-5353 or via email at [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org).

Please do not hesitate to contact 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.