



STA Connection May 11-15, 2020

Health and Safety Update

Thank you to the hundreds of members who reached out to us with your questions and concerns surrounding the potential return to school sites. We presented the district Health and Safety committee with a 25 page document that was created based on our collection of all your comments and concerns from 100s of emails, phone calls to the STA, and Facebook posts in our “Surrey Teachers” group. We also shared the document with the Superintendent, who has been reviewing it.

We continue to meet with the district and BCTF frequently throughout each week, communicating our health and safety concerns and addressing plans in preparation for a sound and safe return to site-based instruction. The Superintendent has also agreed to meet directly with a group of Primary teachers, because some of the greatest concerns we have heard are about how teachers can work safely with our youngest students.

Under the umbrella of Health & Safety, some of the big issues include:

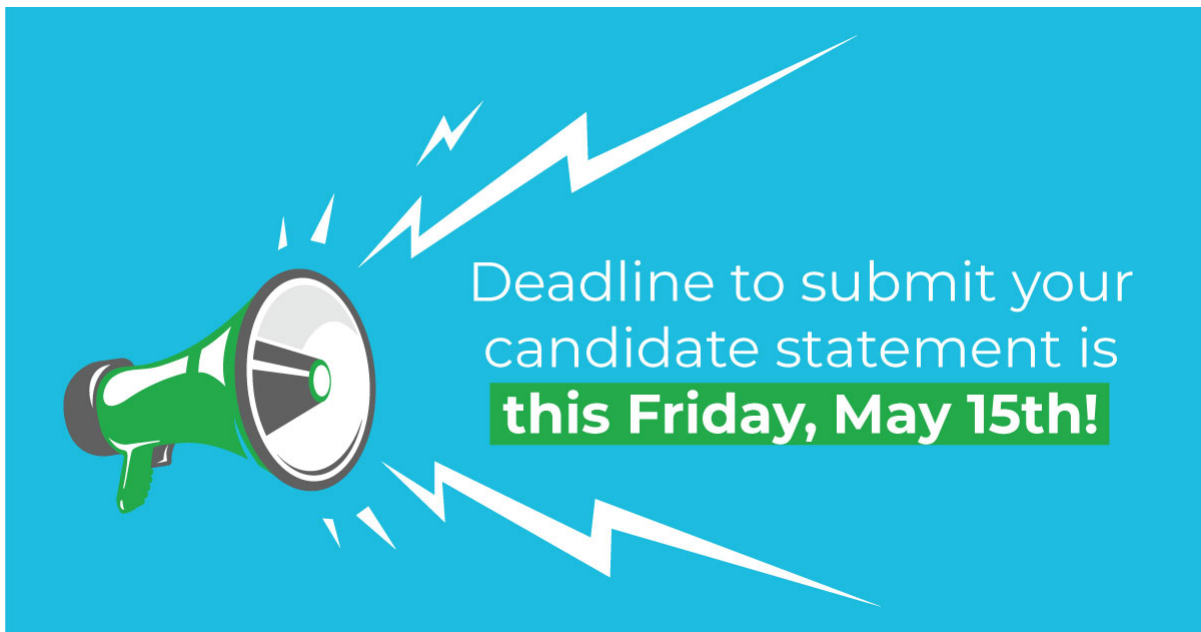
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Social distancing – inside and outside school buildings
- Cleaning and Hygiene protocols
- Health & Safety Training
- Teachers’ health concerns and illness protocol
- Student illness protocol
- Teachers’ child care needs
- Elementary/Secondary site-specific concerns
- Teaching Schedules – on-site vs. online
- Non-enrolling/Specialist concerns
- TTOC concerns
- Communication with district

- Communication with families

We will continue to share updates with the membership regularly via the STA Connection and also by email. We also feel the stress of not having all the answers in this difficult time, and your questions and anxieties are our top concern.

We are all awaiting the announcement from the premier and Dr. Bonnie Henry, anticipated to be this Friday, outlining the return to some face to face instruction. We hope quite a few questions will be answered that day, both by Dr. Henry in her recommendations and in documentation to accompany any decisions that are announced.

Annual General Meeting Candidate Statements



If you are interested in running for a position (whether as a full-time table officer working in the STA office, as a member of the Executive Committee, or as a member of the Resolutions Committee), please review the attached "[Call for Nominations](#)" document. If you are considering whether you would like to run for a position, or are curious to know more, please contact Matt Westphal at pres@surreyteachers.org.

If you wish to provide a candidate statement (for Executive Committee and Resolutions Committee) to be distributed to the membership before the AGM, please **submit it to the STA office by 4 pm May 15, 2020** via email at sta@surreyteachers.org or fax to 604-594-5176. The maximum length for candidate statements is 600 words. We are in the midst of planning how the online AGM in June will work, and will be communicating further details soon.



- May 14 – Ratification Townhall
- May 14 – International Solidarity Committee
- May 18 – Victoria Day
- May 19 – Executive Committee
- May 20 – Young Worker Committee

- May 15 – AGM Task Force
- May 15 – STA Candidate Statements Due
- May 15 – STA Award Applications Due
- May 20 – STARA via Zoom
- May 21 – Labour Affairs Committee

STARA Meeting on May 20

The next STARA meeting will be taking place **via Zoom at 4 pm on Wednesday, May 20, 2020**. All members are welcome to attend, but only STARA reps, committee chairs, and Executive Committee chairs can vote. The meeting agenda includes a Health and Safety Q&A, executive reports on remedy, finance, and the STA Annual General Meeting, election of scrutineers for the June AGM, a chance to bring up and discuss school concerns, results and implications of our ratifications, and committee elections. There will also be a prize draw for those who attend! If you have not registered to attend the meeting, you can do so by clicking [here](#).

Local Bargaining Agreement - Ratification Vote

The STA membership will be voting to ratify our local contract from 8 am – 6 pm on May 19, 2020. The secret ballot will be emailed to your Surrey school's email account from vote@simplyvoting.com. A separate email was sent out recently with details and attachments. The changes to the collective agreement are minor.

There will be an online **Town Hall meeting via Zoom on Thursday, May 14 from 3:30-4:30 pm** where you will have an opportunity to ask questions about the Agreement that is being proposed for ratification. Information on the Ratification and Town Hall, along with meeting links, has been sent to Staff Reps who should please distribute the packages forward to members. If you do not receive an information package, please email sta@surreyteachers.org for your copy.

New Salary Grid and Retroactive Pay!

We can expect to receive our 2% retroactive salary payment by June 5! (Earnings that require individualized manual retro calculations, such as remedy and maternity/parental leave top-ups, to be paid by June 30.) This increase also applies to TTOCs and Summer School employment. The retroactive 2% increase is calculated on pay for every day worked since July 1, 2019. View the [revised salary grid for Surrey](#).

STA Awards

THE STA
AWARDS
DEADLINE IS
**THIS
FRIDAY,
MAY 15TH!**



Every Spring, the STA sends \$1,500 to each Secondary school-site and \$500 to each Learning Centre for scholarships and bursaries for graduating students. As well, awards scholarships, bursaries and the Jennifer Wadge Memorial Social Justice Award.

This year, we offer two new awards of \$2000 each to graduating Surrey students who self-identify as Indigenous (Indigenous Student Bursary) in addition to four \$2000 Jennifer Wadge Social Justice Awards which are awarded to graduating Surrey students who are active in Social Justice pursuits. The [criteria for these awards](#) are available on our website. If you require any additional brochures or flyers for your school, or have any questions in regards to these awards, please feel free to contact the STA at sta@surreyteachers.org.

Deadline for applications is **May 15, 2020** so encourage your students to get their application in as soon as possible.

Staff Committee! Discuss the upcoming Round 2 postings at your school

Schools should have a functioning staff committee, as it is a right in our contract (Article A.34). Staff committee is usually a very good way to make sure things are working smoothly and to suggest policy improvements and catch potential errors. It is particularly important to have a meeting where the staff committee has a chance to review the staffing needs of the school and the postings that are upcoming. Postings in the rounds should come first to the staff committee for review, and the staff committee can ask questions about the process the principal has undertaken in preparing these postings. **Postings must be offered internally before they are posted.** The staff committee can help bring issues the principal hasn't considered while preparing the postings to her/his attention. If any job is posted in your school that wasn't posted internally first, please contact Mark Keelan at the STA grieve2@surreyteachers.org. For advice on staff committee functions, please feel free to chat with Julia our 1st VP at 604-594-5353. The closed report for Round 1 will be released on May 19. Round 2 begins May 26.

Principal/Vice Principal Transfers

The District has announced principal and vice-principal appointments and transfers for the next school

year. If you do not receive it from your administrator, please ask for it.

Good news for TTOCs!

Retroactive salary is not considered to be earnings and will not impact EI benefits.

Summer Pro-D Vote

Amongst many other unknowns, there is also uncertainty around the possibility of summer Pro D activities and the vote that must take place in order for summer Pro D to happen. This is a complex issue and we are working with HR to find a solution for a vote under these circumstances that is in line with the current agreement between the STA and the district. We will provide more information when we have worked out a solution with HR. Some staffs hold the vote at a May staff meeting. However, a vote can be held at a later staff meeting with seven days' notice given to staff. Attending summer Pro D is not mandatory and all professional development, including summer Pro D, must be teacher initiated and directed.

New professional supports for teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic



The BCTF has produced a new series of professional supports to help teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic. These materials, and others like them, have been posted on the Federation's resource sharing space TeachBC at <https://teachbc.bctf.ca/>. Here are links to the latest series.

- Assessment during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://teachbcd.bctf.ca/permalink/resource2051>
- Continuity of learning during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://teachbcd.bctf.ca/permalink/resource2050>
- Inclusive Education: Supporting students with special needs during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://teachbcd.bctf.ca/permalink/resource2049>

Missed your School visit?

If your school has not received a visit from a table officer or executive member this year (we visited 107 work sites before Spring Break, yay!), and you would like to have a zoom meeting with one of us and your staff, we could do it! Please contact Julia at 1vp@surreyteachers.org, or Stacy at repsupport@surreyteachers.org, to request a virtual visit. This is a chance for teachers to discuss any aspect of union work in the schools.

Get the Zoom 40-minute limit removed FREE!

Register with your surrey schools email here: <https://zoom.us/docs/ent/school-verification.html>



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 goes to Michael Li from Sharon Dyck:

“I want to send out a huge THANK YOU to Michael Li, a BASES teacher at Guildford Park Secondary, for his instrumental assistance in setting up an on-line learning platform on Teams for all the BASES teachers, EAs and students. He does whatever we ask him to do, in a very quick and efficient manner, all while caring for 2 young children at home. We appreciate it so much, Michael!”

Thank you Sharon, you and Michael are now entered into our monthly draw for a \$25 Indigo! gift certificate. Please submit your “shout outs” to Angela via communications@surreyteachers.org to spread the kindness around our local and for your chance to win a gift card too!