

From the Executive of
the RPSTA
Phone (525-0561)

RPSTA Executive

Your elected
Executive is com-
prised of the fol-
lowing
teachers:

Patrick Maze -
President

M. Jeff Ruf-
Vice-President

Bashab Banerjee
Jay Fladager
Melissa Gerlach
Barry Houlden
Tricia McNair
Jeff Perry
Andrew Pelling
Sejal Pilatzke

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UPDATE

VOLUME I ISSUE 6

June 23rd, 2011

Bargaining Continues!

What a year this has been! We have seen our Provincial Bargaining Team endure the longest and most challenging set of negotiations in STF history.

So far, since May 2010, we have completed 42 days of negotiations, throughout which teachers across the province have united in a resolve that is stronger than it has ever been.

RPSTA has helped lead the way, through helping with the organization of the May 5th sanction day, and organizing the very successful May 26th sanction which saw thousands of Saskatchewan teachers rally at the Legislature, and then walk to Victoria Park.

Regina Public School Teachers can be very proud of their local association, which had its members developing social media videos that received a strong response from teachers across the province. Please check out our YouTube channel by searching RPSTA through YouTube.

The RPSTA Executive would like to wish all members a relaxing summer with friends and family. Please continue to check your emails throughout the summer. Executive is planning a meeting after the results of the June 30th mediation report are released, and the STF will also keep us up to date through email.

A photograph of three young people: a woman and two children (a girl and a boy) smiling. To the right of the photo is text: "For their future" in green, "Invest in teachers" in blue, and the website "forourfuture.ca" in red and blue. At the bottom right is the logo for the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, featuring a stylized figure and the text "SASKATCHEWAN TEACHERS' FEDERATION".

Cost of Sub Leaves?

Of all the leaves in our contract, Article 8.02, Additional Leave for Personal Matters, commonly referred to as the “Cost of Sub” leave, is the most misunderstood. It states that, upon request, teachers may be granted up to two days per school year, at a deduction from gross pay equal to the average cost of a substitute teacher, for each day absent for personal matters not specified under article 8.01.

In effect, this article gives teachers the

ability to keep their pay, and reimburse the division for the cost of the substitute, which is usually at a lower rate depending on where the teacher is on the Provincial pay grid. In order to be equitable throughout the division, this article is offered to all members, even members who are not in a classroom and do not require a substitute. However the substitute fee is still deducted, and the leave works out better than the teacher receiving no pay for the leave.

Also, the leave is offered on PD days, when teachers do not require a substitute, however, again, the sub cost is still deducted and the teacher ends up with more net pay than if they had taken a leave without pay. So, even though a substitute teacher is not required in many situations, the cost of sub leave is still used, as it ends up benefitting the teacher in the end.

RPSTA Executive Elections

Congratulations to Launel DeWitt, Chris Keyes and Mike Markesteyn, who are newly elected RPSTA Executive members for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years. Andrew Pelling was re-

elected to Executive for a two year term.

The RPSTA would like to thank Bashab Banerjee, Trish McNair, and Melissa Gerlach for their service to Regina Public teachers as they end their terms on executive.

What's Your Bottom Line?

As we get closer and closer to reaching a tentative Provincial agreement, it is important that all RPSTA members spend some time considering what their minimum amount would be for a reasonable tentative Provincial Collective Agreement.

The STF Provincial Bargaining team has been very good about not sending a weak agreement out to our membership. This strategy, which was recommended by the government, is a deliberate strategy used as an attempt to divide our membership and demoralize our bargaining team.

That being said, all members will still have the opportunity to vote on a tentative agree-

ment, when it is finally reached. At that time each teacher will have the opportunity to decide whether what is being offered is sufficient given our history of negotiations, and whether the offer will allow us to keep our purchasing power over the next two years.

It is the belief of the RPSTA Executive that factors like feeling financially tight after a long summer should not influence your decision. Your decision should be based on the factors that the STF have been working towards throughout the process: a deal that affirms the worth of teachers.

As such, please spend a little time in June or early July

thinking about what your minimum number to reach that objective would be, and remember that amount when we are asked to vote on a tentative agreement.

It would be unfortunate for us to lose sight of our goal of a deal that affirms our worth, simply because of the timing of coming off a summer with bills to pay, and waiting for the September pay cheque. RPSTA gives a special thank-you to all of the teachers from around the province, and students, parents, and labour groups, including CEP, COPE, CUPE, SUN, SGEU, HSAS, and others who supported us by attending our Rally on May 26th.

Congratulations, Superannuates!

On Thursday, June 16th, the RPSTA hosted the Superannuates Reception at the Conexus Arts Centre. We honoured the 50 superannuates from Regina Public Schools.

Congratulations to each of you! Thank you to the Superannuates Committee, which consisted of: Beverly Zimmerman (chair), Celine Holloway, Lilly Duncan, Twylla Berriault, and Edna Evans.

We appreciate all of their hard work! Also thank you Wayne Tranberg, who did an excellent job in his second year as Master of Ceremonies.

R P S T A

Contact us:

#205-3303 Hillsdale Street
Regina, Sask.
S4S 6W9
Phone: 306-525-0561
Fax: 306-565-8446

RPSTA Goals:

The RPSTA has committed to improved communications as a goal for the upcoming school year. This will include increasing members' understanding of the RPSTA and its roles. (You may have noticed a more informational aspect to the Update.) We are also committed to improved relations between our Association and all of our members, and improved relations with Regina Public Schools Senior Administration



RPSTA Website:

The RPSTA website contains updated Executive Member and Councillor information, and it also contains our LINC contract in PDF form. In addition, on the website you can find the RPSTA constitution, RPSTA Updates, and information on RPSTA Committees. Please visit our website at:

www.local.stf.sk.ca/rpsta

Have a Great Summer!

Summer holidays are finally upon us. On behalf of the RPSTA Executive, please have a relaxing, safe summer with family and friends.

