

From the President of  
the RPSTA  
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# UPDATE

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4

May 17, 2012

## RPSTA Executive

Your elected Executive is comprised of the following teachers:

Patrick Maze -  
President

M. Jeff Ruf -  
Vice-President

Launel DeWitt  
Jay Fladager  
Barry Houlden  
Chris Keyes  
Mike Markesteyn  
Andrew Pelling  
Jeff Perry  
Sejal Pilatzke

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## RPSTA Elections in Full Swing!

RPSTA moved to an electronic form of elections last year. 2012 marks the first year that the electronic format is being used for the positions of President and Vice-president.

Electronic elections have served to reduce human error in the electoral process, and made the process a lot more efficient. Thanks goes out to our Elections Chair, Jay Fladager, for implementing our move to electronic elections—we are currently the only local association in the province using this advanced method! We also owe thanks to Joanna Sanders for keeping the RPSTA.com website up to date with the latest information regarding elections.

Please visit [www.rpsta.com/elections](http://www.rpsta.com/elections) for more information.

The election for President began on March 29th with the call for nominations, and concluded on April 20th with Pat Maze being re-elected as our President.

Vice President nominations opened on April 23, and on May 3rd Sejal Pilatzke was declared elected. Congratulations to both Pat and Sejal. We are currently voting for four RPSTA Executive positions. Good luck to each of the 8 candidates, and on behalf of the membership, thank you for showing leadership and taking an active role in the democratic process.

## Enjoy May Long Weekend

**May 18 to 21. Have an enjoyable and well-deserved long weekend!**

# Are you Retiring this Year?

The 2012 RPSTA Superannuates Reception will be held at the Conexus Arts Centre in the Theatre Lobby on June 14th beginning at 7:00 pm. All members are welcome to attend.

The event will include a short program for our roughly 35 superannuates at which time they will receive a gift from the RPSTA and one from the STF. This will be followed by snacks and refreshments, and some time to visit.

Superannuates who plan to attend should RSVP by emailing [rpsta@accesscomm.ca](mailto:rpsta@accesscomm.ca) by June 1, 2012.

The RPSTA also publishes The Register, which is a compilation of written submissions from each superannuate. Superannuates are asked to forward a digital photograph and a write-up that you would like to publish in the RPSTA Register to [rpsta@accesscomm.ca](mailto:rpsta@accesscomm.ca) by May 31st.

The RPSTA would like to thank and congratulate each of our 2012 superannuates, and wish them a fulfilling retirement.



**Don't forget!** All STRP members are **STRONGLY** encouraged to purchase pension service within the interest free period ending on May 26th, 2012 for any or all of the three days during which salary was lost due to the withdrawal of professional service. For further information, go to the For Members section of the STF website.

## STF Forums Plant Seeds

The STF has hosted some superb Forums which have been attended by Regina Public Teachers. On May 4, the theme was Accountability and the learning centred around differentiating between Student Achievement and Student Learning. Interesting professional reflection and dialogue ensued. Have you ever stopped to think about the difference between these two terms? They are used interchangeably in much of the current literature on assessment, but Forum participants came to some clear understanding that these two terms are NOT synonyms. Naturally, the question arose, “So why are we spending so much time on all these assessments of learning?” In fact, many participants came to the conclusion that the tools used to measure student “achievement” are actually deterring us from doing what so many of us do best—planning and teaching for student “learning.”

May 11<sup>th</sup> saw teachers from around the province examine the subject of Inclusion and the STF policy regarding Special Education. This year, the policy will undergo a fairly in depth review and rewrite as a result of a resolution from 2010. Teachers, administrators and consultants engaged in research review and discussion around what is currently happening in Saskatchewan schools with regard to Integration and Inclusion and shared what was working and what needed to be examined more closely in order for social justice and equity to be achieved. Also examined was the SPDU research on Teacher Wellness and some of its findings as they pertain to the area of Special Education and the need for adequate supports in the new Inclusion Model.

Forums are open to STF Members. Watch the Bulletin for upcoming opportunities to participate. Fantastic dialogue and professional learning are guaranteed.

Submitted by Sejal Pilatzke

### **Question:**

Can Professional Development opportunities be offered during our preparation time?

### **Answer:**

P.D. opportunities can be offered, however attendance must be considered voluntary in nature, with no coercion to attend, and no repercussions for not attending.



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## RPSTA Goals

The RPSTA Executive has committed to:

- Enhanced communication with senior administration and with our membership
- Stronger resolutions to STF
- Increased focus on our mandate to the membership
- Strengthening our Constitution

## [www.rpsta.com](http://www.rpsta.com):

Please visit us at [www.rpsta.com](http://www.rpsta.com) for the latest information and resources including our LINC contract, the RPSTA constitution, RPSTA Updates, election notices, and other important information.

### RPSTA School Visits:

RPSTA President Patrick Maze is continuing school visits. These are informal discussions regarding the services of the RPSTA/STF and any member issues/concerns.

Upcoming Visits:

May 21st (noon)	Argyle School
May 30th (noon)	Scott Collegiate

Please contact Patrick Maze at the RPSTA office if your school would prefer a visit during a staff meeting or a time other than noon-hour. Thanks!