

December 14th, 2017 Rep Minutes

Prayer; Louise Fader

1. New contracts for EA's in place for 2018/19;

The impact this will have on teachers working as EA's isn't clear yet. This will put EA's on a permanent contract, which could impact their ability to collect EI over the summer. There will be a pay scale; again how this will affect teachers working as EA's is unsure. Will a teacher's training be recognized on par with special needs training that EA's might have.

2 - There is an outstanding question to Head Office on how the government decreasing MSP premiums by 50% will impact school budgets. Head Office still needs to confirm that its impact will be on the local school budget, not on Head Office budget. As well, in January at the VCSTA Exec meeting with CISVA, VCSTA will ask if there will be a guideline to schools for how that extra money is to be spent, to impact learning in schools.

3 - In order to coordinate some virtual collaboration space for Catholic school teachers, Nathalie Magel is inviting anyone interested in learning to use FreshGrade for collaboration, to contact her at [nathalie.magel@fatimachool.ca](mailto:nathalie.magel@fatimachool.ca). Using FreshGrade would have teachers using & learning a digital portfolio app while collaborating to build a sharing space. Thanks to Sandra Reis from OLPH for expressing an interest in this collaboration.

4 - January VCSTA Executive meeting with CISVA Superintendents and Principals Group:

In addition to the question above on changes to budget due to MSP changes, we will bring up:

\*how to compensate teachers equitably across CISVA when there is mandatory pro-d on a day off...

\*Classroom Enhancement Fund - what guidelines is Head Office providing to schools around teacher involvement in spending these resources for the classroom, and in parent awareness

5 - People who paid their VCSTA membership fee by personal cheque or paypal will be able to pick up their income tax receipt at CEC, on the Thursday at the VCSTA booth. If you opted to have your membership fee paid by the school and taken off of your paycheque then you will not pick up a receipt. Rather, the fee will be shown on your T4 issued by your school. There will be no rep meeting in February because of CEC.

6 - Bursary applications and membership fees are due are due today.

Note: Many schools still have not sent their electronic form with teacher names of those paying membership dues this year. That form is available on the VCSTA website under the "Forms" tab. Please fill that in and send it along by email.

Open Discussion:

A Rep has indicated that some staff are wondering why we can't get pay over 12 months rather than 10. Is there a way to have a choice? Rather than the choice being with the bookkeeper, could it be with the teacher? Apparently the Principals' Association may be interested in exploring this idea.

A comment was about minutes not being sent out for October and November. Minutes will be sent out more regularly from now on.

CEC is almost completely finalized in its planning. Is there any information we would like to pass on help the planning committee reach the teachers? Feedback about CEC should go to your school principal to communicate through established channels back to head office.

Comments:

The higher quality of the speakers, the better.

One rep indicated that she heard colleagues mention missing the smaller breakout sessions, liking the round table discussions.

A general impression that the interactive learning was preferable than the lecturing.

Having time for networking would be appreciated, perhaps after shutting down early. Would a space be available for that?

There was appreciations that the posted schedule includes ending early, since traffic leaving downtown on a Friday can be very heavy.

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:30**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**