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The WTA NEWS

For Your Information

By: Dave Najduch, President

2009-2010 WTA Collective Agreement Ratified

By now all of you will have heard that the WTA contract for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 has been ratified by both The Winnipeg School Division and our membership. We are hoping to see the back-pay and the increase on pay cheques at the end of January.

This is not the time and/or place to get into the specifics about the ratification. I will say in print that we had responses from every electoral unit in the Association and that the response rate was very high. The specifics of the vote were shared verbally by the Negotiations Chair, Joan Fransen at the January Council meeting and you can check with your school Council Representative for detailed information.

To all of the Council Representatives who managed the ratification process, I would like to say a special thank you. It is because of your efforts that the process went as smoothly as it did and that all of the envelopes with the ballots were returned to the WTA office on time for the count.

As a member of the Negotiations Committee for almost two decades and a Table Team member (these are the individuals that actually meet with the WSD members to negotiate the contract), I know the effort that goes into the process. To the other Table Team members, Joan Fransen (Chair), Chris Pammenter, Melinda Guenther-Balodis and Henry Shyka goes a special thank you. Your commitment on behalf of the membership is very much appreciated. The path to a collective agreement is not easy.

A final reminder, Joan and her Committee start the entire negotiations process all over again in the months to come. Check with your Council Representative after February 17th, for what items are being considered for the 2010/2011 package.

WTA Executive Motion on Secession from The Manitoba Teachers' Society

There is rarely a dull moment in this job. Based on a motion passed at the January 13th, 2010 Executive meeting, life will probably get more interesting in the months to come. The motion was brought forward by the WTA AGM Committee and asked that the Executive strike an Ad Hoc Committee that would investigate secession from The Manitoba Teachers' Society. Yes, you read correctly, leave MTS.

Before the phones start to ring, the Ad Hoc Committee will meet three or four times between now and the end of the school year. The Ad Hoc Committee's function will be to review the issues related to leaving MTS and report back to the Executive. This WTA Committee would serve the same function as the one currently working in the Louis Riel Teachers' Association on the same issue.

The issues related to staying in MTS and/or leaving are complex and would require much more space than I have here to discuss. I think it is safe to say you will be hearing more about this in the months and possibly year to come. As a final comment, *if* the WTA were ever to leave MTS, it would only occur after and full and lengthy debate concluding in some form of general membership vote. At present, we are a long way from that point.

CAP – The Sequel

by: Joan Fransen, Vice-President

During the last school year The Winnipeg School Division informed us that the Assessment and Instructional Support Services Department—together with Math Support—was making revisions to the Mathematics portion of the Comprehensive Assessment Program (CAP). These revisions were driven by the change in the Math Curriculum; the current CAP tool did not match the new Math Curriculum.

Both Dave and I were invited to attend an inservice for a group of teachers and administrators who volunteered to participate in a “Field Test” of the new tool. With the testing instrument came what has come to be known as “*The Learning Pathway*”—a graphic which outlines curricular expectations in a stage-by-stage format. The WTA welcomed the opportunity to observe/participate and has had a representative at each successive meeting. In addition, we have provided input/feedback throughout the process. Our area of focus has been the impact on your workload and working conditions. Specifics regarding the introduction of the math curricular changes, administration of the CAP test, recording/reporting information, communication with teachers, connections to the Grade Three Provincial Assessment, translation to French Language, and Full-Class field testing have been addressed.

Several revisions have been tested in the field, with feedback provided by teachers and administrators involved. Our hope is that these revisions will facilitate a less time-consuming tool and allow for professional autonomy where warranted; that is, there are many instances where teachers have observed students demonstrating particular knowledge and/or skill without the need to formally test.

The process has evolved to the stage that by the end of January all Elementary Schools will have sent an administrator together with a teacher representative for a half-day of training on the newly created “E-Module.” This E-Module is an online training course designed to familiarize all teachers involved in the CAP process with *The Learning Pathway*. It is important to note that *The Learning Pathway* is not the CAP testing instrument but actually a support document intended to be used throughout the year. Administrator and teacher representatives will, in turn, facilitate school-based training using the E-Module. It is our understanding that each school has set aside one half-day professional development time in order to accomplish this. Having worked through the E-Module on my own, I am confident that this can be done within that time frame.

In April, the administrator and teacher leaders will return for a second half-day training on a second E-Module. The subject is expected to be the introduction to actual CAP tool and training in administering CAP. Again, the representatives will return to their schools to facilitate half-day training sessions among staff members.

It is our understanding that The WSD intends to fully pilot the new CAP tool in each school—by each teacher—next year (2010-2011 school year). Feedback will be accepted in order to improve the tool.

The WTA will continue to participate/observe when invited. We, also, welcome your feedback in order to best represent your collective concerns.

WTA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

All parts of the application form must be completed fully and submitted on time for consideration of the application

Name of Nominee: _____

Current Location: _____

of years Association involvement: _____

Please complete the following precisely and accurately, and if necessary, append additional pages.

1. Major Association/Society Professional...:

Area of involvement	Dates
a) Council Rep.	_____
Total # of years of service	_____
b) Executive (specify roles)	
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
c) WTA Committees (specify)	
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
d) Other committee involvement (specify)	
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Major contribution to the Association (e.g. Service to the Association/membership through advocacy/support.)

Specific areas:

Dates

Please provide any further information on the nominee's contribution to the Association that you may feel the committee should consider.

In addition, please provide the names of two members who would provide additional information. The Committee may contact these people should they require further information. You may only support ONE application per year.

Name

School

Phone #

1.			
2.			

Name of Nominator: _____

Current Location: _____

Phone Number: _____

**Return this form to the WTA office via FAX - 837-9698 by:
February 15th.**

REMINDER: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2010/2011 WTA EXECUTIVE ELECTION

The Executive Nominating & Elections Committee is calling for nominations for the 2009/2010 WTA Executive. If you are interested in running for a position on the Executive please contact the Association office at 831-7104 or Lesley Wallis, Chair, Executive Nominating & Elections Committee, Meadows West School.

What is the WTA? The Winnipeg Teachers' Association represents all teachers, including substitutes, clinicians and lab assistants in The Winnipeg School Division. The Association negotiates for its members with the Winnipeg School Board. The WTA actively supports the well-being of all members through various committees such as Teacher Welfare, Professional Development and Public Relations.

Who can be an Executive member? Any member who indicates their willingness to run for election to the Executive when the call for nominations goes out. Candidates may be asked to speak at the Election Forum during the March WTA Council meeting. The new Executive year begins on June 15th.

What will I do if elected? All Executive members attend a retreat/workshop to become familiar with current issues and to determine (based on interest and experience) which committee they will Chair and/or sit on. There are committees which require less time and are ideal starting points for new members.

What is the time commitment for an Executive member? There are two Executive meetings per month. The meetings start at 4:30 PM and run between two to four hours (supper is served.) There is one Council meeting per month commencing at 6:30 PM. Committees meet at times determined by their mandate, or need, and can vary from two to three times per year to once a month.

What do I get out of it? Some rewards are extrinsic. Members are reimbursed for travel to Executive meetings and for dependent care. The opportunities for Professional Development are many and all are encouraged to take advantage of them. Substitutes are paid for by the Association when individuals attend PD opportunities.

Some rewards are intrinsic. Members of the Executive play an important role in achieving improvements in the working lives of teachers. They gain an insider's view of the politics; negotiations and goals of those involved in education throughout the Province. Executive members know that they have helped all their colleagues by serving their Professional Association.

Is that all? No. You will get to work with a group of fun-loving, hard-working, supportive people who may soon become a group of trusted friends.

For further information please contact either the Association office or Lesley Wallis.

WTA 2009/2010 Pre-Retirement Seminar
REGISTRATION FORM

Applicant Data

First Name Initial Last Name

Social Insurance Number: ----- (*required to obtain data for you from TRAF*)

Home Address: ----- Postal Code: -----

Home Phone: ----- Work Phone: -----

Spouse or Partner (Full Name) -----

His/Her date of birth - Note: this information is required. -----
Month - Date - Year

Will your spouse/partner be attending? Yes [] No []

There is a charge of \$15.00 *per attendee* for materials, coffee, dinner, etc.

Please indicate below if you have any dietary restrictions or allergies:
Specify type of dietary restriction/allergy: -----

Retirement Seminar Data

I would like to attend the Pre-Retirement Seminar on (please check ONE):
March 18th, 2010 []

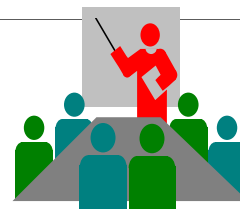
at McMaster House Arnett Auditorium, 191 Harcourt Street commencing at 5:00 PM
T.R.A.F. will provide you with a maximum of TWO printouts of retirement information based on possible retirement dates that you designate. Retirement dates may be milestones (e.g. age 65), or specific dates (e.g. June 2014). *Please NOTE: estimates will not be provided to anyone but the pension plan member.*

----- Retirement date #1 Retirement date #2 -----

Confirmations will be sent to applicants. Please note that enrollment is limited (maximum of 80). Please apply early. Cheques are payable to **The Winnipeg Teachers' Association**, payment (\$15.00 per attendee) is due with the application. Mail the application and cheques to the WTA office, 202-2639 Portage Avenue R3J 0P7. **Deadline for applications is one month prior to the seminar.** If you have any questions please contact Glenda Shepherd, 831-7104.

Electoral Units not represented at the December Council meeting:

Andrew Mynarski, Carpathia, Children of the Earth, David Livingstone, Dufferin, Garden Grove, Gladstone, Glenelm, Inkster, Interdivisional Services, J. B. Mitchell, King Edward, Lab Assistants, LaVerendrye, Lord Nelson, Lord Selkirk, Luxton, Mulvey, Principal Sparling, Ralph Brown, Sacre Coeur, Support Services, Tyndall Park, Victoria-Albert, William Whyte, WAEC—700 Elgin Avenue



Reminder...

Maternity/Parental Leave and the Dental Plan...

Please be advised that individuals who go on (or are currently on) Maternity/Parental Leave are covered for the length of the leave 54 weeks.

ManuLife Information

Life Events for Enrollment Status Change

An employee who had waived coverage initially is eligible to join the plan upon:

- ◇ marriage (including common-law after 12 months cohabitation)
- ◇ legal separation/divorce
- ◇ birth, legal guardianship or adoption of the first eligible child
- ◇ death of a spouse or dependent child
- ◇ termination of a common-law relationship; or
- ◇ involuntary loss of coverage under spouse's benefit plan (does not include retirement)

Note: you must enroll within 90 days of the life event occurring.

Quote of the Month

"Tis education forms the common mind:/Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined.

—Alexander Pope (1688-1744)

FYI

Manulife - "Wellness Report" & Newsletters available at:

www.manulife.ca/groupbenefits

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES TO THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER IS:

Friday, January 29th, 2010

The views expressed in articles in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Association