



BEAUTIFUL PLAINS SCHOOL DIVISION
BEAUTIFUL PLAINS TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
Liaison Meeting Minutes
November 3rd, 2020



Meeting Location: Division Office, Board Room

Time: 4:30 PM

Present: Garth Hunter, Darian Major, Lavern Biehn, Heather Brister, Allen Hanke, Kelvin Hollier, Val Parayeski, Trish James, Jason Young,

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. and chaired by Jason Young. The composition, purpose and guiding principles of the liaison committee as laid out in the Collective Agreement were reviewed.

1. The minutes from the May 7th, 2019 liaison meeting were circulated and reviewed.

2. Business Arising from Minutes

Speech and Language Pathologist- J. Young provided an update on the budget process leading up to the recent hire of the speech and language pathologist in the division. It was noted that Dana Ginter has been hired on a ½ time, permanent contract in this role. This will allow us to fill a need that has been growing over the last several years as our population continues to grow.

Indigenous Land Acknowledgment- J. Young provided an update that land acknowledgements are now part of divisional professional development days as well as regular BPTA meetings. We continue to recognize the importance of Truth and Reconciliation in our school division.

Inclement Weather Policy/Practise- J. Young circulated and reviewed the joint FAQ document that was created jointly with the BPTA and Board of Trustees which outlines our divisional practises around inclement weather. The document can be found directly on our divisional web page. The main change that was agreed upon last year was that all schools would remain open, even in the event buses do not run, if the temperature is below -46 (“cold day”). This would not preclude schools from being closed in the event of a “storm day” when weather conditions are extreme enough that highways close or make it otherwise unsafe for travel.

BPTA TOPIC:

3. Challenges Around Substitute Teacher Shortages

-J. Young provided an overview of the challenges we face in dealing with having adequate numbers of substitute teachers. The current pandemic has greatly exaggerated these challenges. Staff are now being encouraged to not come to work if they have any COVID symptoms (even mild ones) as well staff are often gone from work for multiple days as they await COVID results, or are required to isolate.

-discussion about current university education students substituting when available and BPSD also supporting them in getting a limited teaching permit;

-teachers certified somewhere else in Canada were also agreed on for adding to our sub list and BPSD in supporting them in getting limited teaching permits.

-discussion about teaching permits for teachers certified out of country and it was decided that we not go there yet.

-there was discussion about hiring of substitute teacher(s) on contract and the challenge this poses would likely mean taking a sub off the current list. It also has limited ability to address the number of teachers that are out on a daily basis (ex. average 10 teachers out per day).

- we will add a column to the sub list that notes who is not currently certified. This will allow us to continue to try and fill the need for subs with certified teachers as our first choice.

-we will continue to do our best to recruit and promote our sub list as we recognize that this is ongoing issue heightened by the pandemic; upcoming scheduled presentations include: U of W on Nov.16 and Brandon U on Dec. 16.

4. Other Items/Future Items

-No additions to the agenda were suggested

5. Next Meeting

-Currently the BPTA President, Heather Brister and the Superintendent, Jason Young have been working through ensuring one meeting annually is being held as the minimum as laid out in the Collective Agreement. They also discuss when and if there are needs for additional meetings as topics arise. The liaison committee was in support of this practise continuing and no formal meeting date was set for the next meeting.

6. Adjournment

-J. Young adjourned the meeting at 5:05 PM