



Bargaining Update

2013 October 21

Included in this bulletin are the reports from the local bargaining team since local bargaining resumed in the new school year.

Report from the Table

The Bargaining team met with the Board for our second bargaining session of this school year. We counter-proposed on Layoff and Recall, and feel confident that we are close to resolution on this item. Our efforts have been focused around including as much of the Hope Award as possible to streamline the information for our members and consolidate these critical rights in one article of the Collective Agreement.

Friday, we received responses from the Board to the last of our proposals tabled during the last school year. We were disappointed by the unwillingness on the part of the Employer to consider more transparent and equitable ways of sharing the information we all rely on to facilitate the employer-employee relationship. Once again, the Board maintained that there were several items they were not authorized to discuss, contrary to the advice we have received from the BCTF. We are frustrated that we have an increased number of items to bargain locally, yet the employer continues to show little to no interest in seizing this opportunity to improve our working relationship and address outstanding issues of dispute. We had tabled an attempt to ensure WorkSafe coverage for teachers who are participating in extra-curricular activities, and once again had these concerns dismissed by the Board.

We will continue to prioritize Post and Fill and Layoff and Recall in our discussions with the Board and have sought additional dates to continue to discuss the objectives our members have sent us to address.

2013 October 18

Firstly, welcome to our new team members, VSTA rep John Silver from Vancouver Technical Secondary and John Oliver Secondary, and VESTA rep Robyn Wharram from Roberts Annex. We are so happy to have new representatives who bring knowledge and new perspectives to this work.

Today was a productive session where we signed off on a proposal for Layoff and Recall. Our goal to incorporate the Hope Awards into the existing language was achieved, in addition to a number of small improvements that we believe will improve the process for laid off members and assist in consolidating our rights in the Collective Agreement. Despite our success today, this remains only the second clause we have reached agreement upon after 18 sessions.

We are continuing to discuss improvements around term length and post and fill rights for Consultants and Mentors as well as creating new language for Community School Team teachers, who are not currently represented in the Collective Agreement.

Our caucus is working hard to prepare a new proposal on Post and Fill, despite serious roadblocks erected by the Board to transparency and clarity of process. We are uncertain whether achievable goals remain for us on this Article, but we will persevere as long as we believe progress is possible. Our next bargaining date is November 1, and we hope to table language on Post and Fill as well as Health and Safety.