



## TALKING POINTS

February Council, 2020

*Please note that Talking Points are intended only to assist you in your PTTA report. Feel free to add any information from the meeting you think is important to share with your staff.*

### 1. Collective Bargaining

PTTA continues to prepare for its upcoming arbitration hearing starting April 13, 2020.

### 2. Legal Challenges

The Charter of Rights legal challenge to Bill 28 is finally complete with final submissions from both sides. In the final submission the government admitted that there was NO fiscal crisis when they drafted the legislation, the government was more than willing to let unions take strike action and the government had done NO financial analysis of any cost savings that PSSA would make. They also stated that the figures of .75% and 1.0% in years 3 and 4 were arbitrarily picked and that the legislation had already been drafted when the consultations with unions were taking place.

### 3. Government Actions

Government funding for the upcoming school year has been announced. Overall, the total amount went up about 0.5%. This amounts to a cut as it does not keep up with inflation. In Pembina Trails, we have experienced approximately a 0.2% reduction in funding, even though we had an increase in enrollment of approximately 3.5%. Those gains were offset by a reduction in equalization payment and another one-sixth reduction in the Tax Incentive Grant (TIG). School divisions have been ordered to reduce personnel at the management level by 15% and keep any increases in the special requirement to 2%.

### 4. Pembina Trails School Division Budget

The school division presented its draft budget on February 13, 2020. Highlights include an increase of 15 FTE teachers and 16 Educational Assistants. There will be a reduction of one Assistant Superintendent and one administrative secretary to meet the governments mandated 15% reduction in management costs. The special requirement tax increase is currently at 1.95%. The board indicated that in order to keep class sizes small, or at least at the same size, there would be some reassigning of teachers into classrooms who are not currently in classrooms.

The Public Schools Finance Board has denied a request for portables at South Pointe School for next year citing 250 empty seats in nearby schools. The SAT will be looking at proposals to alleviate crowding for board consideration at an upcoming meeting.

### 5. Women in Leadership

PTTA will be hosting a Women in Leadership symposium on April 30, 2020. Information regarding this event will be sent to schools soon.

### 6. PTTA Trivia Night

PTTA is hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trivia Night on March 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion on Pembina Highway. Join your colleagues for laughs, food, and competition! Links to the registration information can be found on the PTTA website at [www.ptta.ca](http://www.ptta.ca)

**7. Notice of Call for Nominations.**

Call for candidates for PTTA Executive for 2020-21. Contact Kathy Slovinsky [pttapastpres@mymts.net](mailto:pttapastpres@mymts.net) if you wish to run. Nominations are open until March 1, 2020. This date is extended to March 15th with signatures of 10 PTTA members.

**8. Call for Delegates - 2020 MTS AGM**

PTTA is eligible for 22 delegates. Dates for AGM are May 21-23, 2020. If you wish to be considered as a delegate, please contact Lise Legal [pttacb@mymts.net](mailto:pttacb@mymts.net) no later than February 28, 2020

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