



TALKING POINTS

October Council, 2019

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 is preparing for its upcoming arbitration hearing in April, 2020. It is **extremely important** that we get an excellent response to this survey to aid us in the arbitration process. Surveys will be handed out at November staff meetings and need to be returned to council representatives as soon as possible. PTTA will collect the surveys from the schools by November 8th. Principals have agreed to provide time at the staff meetings to fill out the surveys. PTTA will ensure that school reps who were unable to collect their survey packages at the council meeting will receive them before their November staff meeting. The arbitration hearing for Louis Riel Teachers' Association is slated to start November 25 and run until December 6, 2019.

2. Legal Challenges

The November 19th date for the hearing of the Charter of Rights challenge against Bill 28 is quickly approaching. It will probably be at least six months before we can expect a judgment. It is likely to be just the next step in an extensive legal process. The attempt by the government to adjourn the hearing has since been withdrawn by them.

3. Government Actions

The first session of the new legislature has finished sitting. During this sitting, the government introduced Bill 2 which will amend Bill 28, the Public Services Sustainability Act which severely curtailed our ability to bargain freely with our employer. The amendments (Bill 2) give the government greater flexibility in the application of Bill 28 and greater ability to influence the outcome of possible arbitration awards that do not meet their approval. There is no word yet as to when legislation will be introduced that will allow the move to expected Provincial Bargaining for teachers. The report of K-12 Education Review Commission is due to be released in early spring. The report is expected to have recommendations regarding the funding of public education, possible amalgamations of school divisions, and the structure/governance of school divisions.

4. MTS Professional Development Day

A reminder to all members that they are expected to attend the MTS PD Day on October 25, 2019 to their FTE if that is a day that they would normally be at work. If you do have to miss the day for some reason, please remember to record your absence along with the appropriate reason in SmartFind.

5. Class Sizes

The current guidelines for class size targets in Pembina Trails are 24 students for grades K – 3 and 28 students for grades 4-8. Class sizes for high school will vary depending on the class/curriculum area. Please let PTTA know if you have a class in which class size numbers are unmanageable or may pose a safety concern.

6. Contact Time Survey

This year the contact time survey will be significantly shorter as much of the information that we collect will be collected in the arbitration survey. The contact time survey will once again be online and available at the end of November.