



TALKING POINTS February Council, 2018

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. Have a great day! Bob, Lise and Debra

1. Collective Bargaining

The Collective Bargaining Committee has notified the board of PTTA's intention to open negotiations for the 2018 – 2019 school year. Regardless of the announcement of the government's intention to move to a Provincial model for bargaining, PTTA will continue to operate under the current rules until such time that the government changes legislation to move to a different model.

2. MTS Priorities

Norm Gould made a presentation to council outlining the Society's priorities at this time. These priorities include:

- changes to BEF (French Education Services)
- government literacy and numeracy objectives
- an update on the legalities of Bill 28 and its detrimental effect on teachers buying power and possible long-term effects on teacher pensions
- the government's intention to change to a provincial bargaining model
- school division amalgamations

At this point in time, teacher lobbying and political involvement appears to have helped in having the government back away from the more drastic reductions to BEF, and outright changes to teacher pensions. The government's intention to move to a provincial bargaining model was a blindside to both MTS and the School Board Association. At this time there is no information on a timeline for implementation or in what form the model will take. The government has also indicated that their "comprehensive" education system review due to take place after trustee elections in the fall will include amalgamations.

3. "Let's Talk Teaching" Regional Consultations

The government is currently holding meetings with stakeholders about Literacy and Numeracy education in Manitoba. Teachers are not included in these meetings. In response, MTS is hosting a series of regional consultation meetings across the province. On Wednesday, March 14th at 4:45 pm, the Metro Region is hosting a consultation meeting at the Khartum Shrine Centre. The consultation is to gather teacher input on Literacy and Numeracy strategies that will be compiled with data from other consultation meetings to be presented to the government. Teachers can sign up to attend the meetings by logging in to My Profile on the MTS website. Please see the email that was distributed on February 27th by PTTA for more information.

4. Letter Writing

You can help keep the talk about critical education issues alive by contacting your local MLA, the Minister of Education, Ian Wishart, or the Premier, Brian Pallister. Below is the link to the MTS website where you will find a guide called "Speak Out" that will provide all the information needed for those wishing to write letters to their MLA's.

<http://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2018/01/09/regional-meetings-set/>. Additionally, you can find all of the MLA's at the link listed below by Constituency. We encourage all our members to make their displeasure known.

http://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/members/mla_list_constituency.html

Please note that a handwritten letter can be particularly effective with political figures.

5. Enigma Winter Escapes

Reminder that you can still sign up to participate in our Escape Room Challenge! Information is available on the PTTA website (www.ptta.ca).

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