



TALKING POINTS January 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 and the school board met in December where PTTA presented its opening package. A second meeting is scheduled for February 12 to receive the Board's opening package. Even though there are meetings taking place, we are continuing on our path to arbitration as well. There will be a member survey regarding bargaining distributed in March.

2. **Education Review**

The Minister has named the members of the Education Review Commission with former Conservative MLA Clayton Manness as one of the co-chairs. Teachers will be receiving a document from MTS detailing what you should know about the review, how MTS will be participating and how you can participate as well.

3. **Funding Announcement**

The government made public the funding announcement for schools on January 24, 2019. Overall, the funding for schools increased by 0.5% which translates to about \$6 million dollars. This level of funding is below the inflation rate so is in effect an overall cut. Due to increased enrollment and an increase in equalization under the education funding formula, Pembina Trails will see a 2.3% increase in funding which translates to approximately a \$1.4 million increase. The government also strongly encouraged school boards to cap tax increases to 2%.

4. **Wellness**

MTS is launching a new service called LifeSpeak that will be available to teachers 24/7. The service consists of over 480 vignettes in both English and French featuring experts on a variety of topics ranging from Stress Mastery to Mental Health Issues to Parenting Topics. The service is slated to start in March. More information is available on the poster in your staff room.

5. **Employee Benefits**

Staff are reminded that when life events such as marriages, divorces, births and deaths take place they have a window of 90 days to make changes to their benefits packages. Make sure that you inform TRAF of any changes that may change a beneficiary.

6. **Spotlight on PD**

In a new initiative to promote Professional Development activities for our members, there will be a short segment at each council meeting called Spotlight on PD that highlights PD events. This month Jo-Anne Gibson, Library Learning Consultant and Literacy Consultant, shared a professional learning session that she hosted for teacher-librarians and teachers from various schools. The session featured Trevor MacKenzie, whose work in the field of inquiry served to kick-off an inquiry cohort that Jo-Anne is hosting until the end of the year. Jo-Anne also encouraged members to take advantage of the Joint PD fund and consider attending a two-day workshop in early April in Toronto with inquiry guru Kath Murdoch. Jo-Anne also shared that she had utilized the PD fund to attend the 17th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Education 2019 this past January and found it to be very informative.

If anyone wishes to share their PD experiences for Spotlight on PD, please contact Debra Morrissey at pttavp@mymts.net

7. Young Humanitarian Awards

Nominations for the Young Humanitarian Awards are now open. Do you have a student or group of students who are deserving of this award? The deadline for nominations is February 28, 2019. More information about the award is available at the MTS website www.mbteach.org

8. Notice of Call for Nominations

Nominations are now open for PTTA Executive. All positions are open for nominations except President which is a two-year term. Interested members can contact Dan Mitchell (pttapastp@mymys.net) with your name and position that you are interested in before March 1st. After March first, members can still be nominated in writing and with the signatures of ten members. The final deadline for nominations is March 15.

9. Valentine Quiz

Think you know a lot about Valentine's day? Take the PTTA Valentine Quiz and find out! All entries that have the most correct answers will be entered into a draw for a \$25 gift certificate to a local restaurant. Deadline for entries is Feb 15, 2019 at 3:30 pm. A link to the quiz can be found on the PTTA website (www.ptta.ca) or by clicking https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PTTA_Valentine_Quiz

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