

ECSSA News

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

March 2007



2007—2008 Staffing

It is so hard to believe that it is that time of year again, although staffing is beginning a bit earlier this year. An e-mail has been sent to all ECSD users which outlines all the procedures and timelines for staffing for the 2007—2008 school year. We recommend that you access this e-mail. We will take the opportunity here to highlight a few items of importance. First...some important dates:

April 2—Exchange list sent to all ECSD users by e-mail

April 11—Information Meeting for Casual and Temporary Contract Support Staff (Service Centre—Blue Room—4:30)

April 12—Complete list of names of staff requiring reassignment submitted to Human Resources

April 16—Information Meeting for Reassigned Support Staff (St. Anthony 4:00—5:30)

May 16—Bulletin #1 available on-line

May 30—Bulletin # 2 available on-line

We want to emphasize the importance of being pro-active and informed throughout this process. First, you must ensure you have been notified of your status for 2007-2008, **prior to April 12**. If your supervisor has not contacted you with this information, be sure to ask. If your FTE is being reduced by more than .1, you have two choices: accept the reduced hours or ask to be placed on the reassignment list. If you choose to be placed on the reassignment list, you will be giving up your current position and seeking a new one through the reassignment process. If you choose reassignment, we highly recommend that you attend the information meeting on April 16. Unless your assignment is guaranteed for next year, do not pass up the opportunity for reassignment.

This is also an excellent time of year to consider a change in your assignment even though your position may be available to you next year. There are many circumstances which may have you considering a change. Are you starting to feel overwhelmed by your job? Is the stress of your position too much to handle? Do you have an on-going conflict with a co-worker or supervisor? Do you find yourself bored or lacking challenge in your position? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may want to consider a move during this round of staffing. Getting too attached to our job, our co-workers and our workplace often makes us afraid of change. Even when feeling dissatisfied, we are reluctant to face a move. A move can be a very positive experience by providing new friends, new surroundings, new challenges...learning, growth and development. Is it time for a change?

Remember that ECSSA is here for you if you need any guidance, support or information during the staffing process. Do not hesitate to call if you need any assistance.

General Meeting Information

We thank all those members who attended the general meeting on February 21. The turnout was terrific and provided very interesting discussion and questions about some items on the agenda. We would like to pass along some informational items, including results of voting, to those who could not attend. The details of these proposals were mailed to your home but if you require further clarification contact the ECSSA office.

Two by-law amendment proposals were brought to the membership. The first, a slight change to our dues structure, allows the Local to absorb temporary dues increases rather than passing them along to the members, was approved by those in attendance. As well, a proposal was brought forward to reduce our quorum for general meetings from 10% to 5%. This proposal was also approved by the members at the meeting.

We also asked our members to participate in the CEP Humanity Fund. This fund supports workers' rights in third world countries as well as in Canada. The members approved the following proposal: effective September 1, 2007, one dollar per member per month will be deducted from your pay cheque to support this fund. We sincerely thank our members for their generosity and support for this important social justice cause.



Caring Report

On behalf of our members we extend our sympathies and prayers to: Mary Lamontagne of Good Shepherd on the passing of her mother-in-law; Lorraine Sieben of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on the passing of her mother-in-law; Pat Bruin of Our Lady of the Prairies on the loss of her mother, and to Laura Fogden of AADAC Youth Treatment Residential on the passing of her mother.

We also extend our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Deb Filevich of St. Joseph High School.

Negotiations

ECSSA has begun negotiations with the School District. We have already had two meetings on March 6 and 7, and have scheduled further meetings on April 12 and 13 as well as April 23 and 24. ECSSA representatives on the Negotiation Committee are Denise White, Danny Burrell, Veronica Slavik, and Rick Klimchuk plus observers Cheryl Andrews and Diane Lacika. The District representatives are Peg Mitchell, Paul Gagne, Andy Isbister and Trustee Judy Buddle. We will keep our members informed as much as possible through this newsletter.

Support Staff Conferences

During Teachers Convention, two support staff conferences were offered. On behalf of the members who attended, we thank everyone involved in the preparation and presentation of both of these conferences. As usual, the feedback was extremely positive and both events were appreciated by our members.

An item to note for these conferences in the future. Since these conferences are held on your official vacation days, you are not obliged to attend, as some of our members were led to believe. The choice is yours.



You Are Invited
ECSSA Annual Banquet
“Celebrate What We Do”

Thursday, May 3, 2007
Santa Maria Goretti Centre
11050—90 Street



Cocktails: 5:30 p.m. ~ Supper: 6:30 p.m.
 Tickets: \$25.00 members ~ \$35.00 non-members
****Please make cheques payable to ECSSA****

For more information or to order tickets,
 E-mail **Lise Viel** = liseviel@telus.net OR viell@ecsd.net
 OR call 473-2656 after 5:00 p.m.
 Deadline for tickets is Thursday, April 19th

Tables of up to ten can be reserved if you wish to sit together as a group. In order to facilitate reserved table requests, order your tickets early. Tickets will be forwarded to your worksite in late April when seating arrangements have been confirmed. This year’s theme is Hawaiian so bring out those bright colors and lets “Celebrate What We Do”.

Retirees and Long Service Recipients

As part of our annual celebration and banquet we will be honoring the following people:

15 Years of Service—Victoria Bastide, Jeanne Beier, Simone Bessette, Joann Biron, Judy Bortoluzzi, Fatima Cabral-Brockie, Jean Dowling, Jane Fedun, Trudi Foisy, Joanne Gill, Olga Izquierdo, Maureen Keeler, Doris Kirkland, Mary Kmiech, Vera Kwasniewski, Mary Lamontagne, Sharon McPhee, Loretta Maddalena, Darlene McKibbon, Sharon Monson, Rosie Poanessa, Coline Podaima, Carmela Ricioppo, Ivy Sarafinchan, Muriel Smolarchuk, Cindy Stafford, Debbie Stocks, Dora Winski

25 Years of Service— Lorraine Beaudoin, Mary Jane Cox, Betty Frebrowski, Linda Girard, Donna Horne, Janet Meara, Kim Schur, Veronica Slavik, Valerie Vik

Our Retirees—Isabel Bilyk, Mary Jane Cox, Joanne Howell, Karin Jackson, Marilyn Jolly, Marivone Lier, Elizabeth Machida, Vivianne Montpellier, Beverly O’Brien, Patricia O’Keefe, Elizabeth Relf, Maureen Scrivano, Veronica Slavik

We wish to extend congratulations to all our long service recipients and best wishes to our retirees. We wish you many years of health and happiness as you embark on this new phase of your lives!!

Public Interest Alberta—Education Task Force

For the past year ECSSA has been involved with this task force which conducted a survey of Albertans' opinions and concerns regarding educational funding in the province. Currently we are seeking out people who are interested in joining the Education-Constituency Advocacy Teams. The purpose of these teams is to arrange meetings with each MLA to engage them in a discussion about the many issues facing K-12 Education. Lobby kits will be provided to the teams. This is an excellent opportunity to participate in the struggle for improved educational funding—an issue which directly affects all of our members. Public Interest Alberta will provide all the information you need as well as support and guidance on conducting these meetings. If you are interested in this exciting opportunity, contact the ECSSA office at 419-2519 for further information.

Meetings

Thursday, March 15 Employee Groups Meeting with Superintendent
 Monday, March 19 District Budget Committee
 Monday, April 2 Negotiations Staffing Sub-Committee Meeting
 Monday, April 2 Executive Meeting
 Wednesday, April 4 Board of Directors Meeting
 Thursday, April 5 Employee Groups Meeting with New HR Director
 Thursday, April 12 Negotiations
 Friday, April 13 Negotiations



Enjoy Your Spring Break!!

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

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Support Staff

The glue that holds it all together!!

