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President's Message

Spring break is almost here, so what's new? Well, the Interlake School Division is one of 21 divisions whose provincial funding was cut. All divisions saw a mandated 15% cut in administrative costs and a cap on school tax increases. The government has announced provincial bargaining for teachers but has not provided further details. The promised report (action plan?) on literacy and numeracy is due before the end of the month and the government will launch a comprehensive review of education beginning in January 2019. Throw in Bill 28 and we have quite a lot to ponder. The good news is our Teachers' Society is on top of all this. We have highly talented and experienced people working on all of these files. They do so while making every effort to secure grass roots input into their decisions. The ITA regularly sends delegates to provincial seminars and regional meetings have been held to seek direct input. As we move forward none of this will change: MTS staff will work hard and there will be continued avenues to have your voice heard. Specifically, Norm Gould will be attending our AGM on April 24 to bring us up to date and listen to our concerns. Until then, feel free to become more involved. [Read up](#) on the issues at hand; speak to your friends and neighbors; attend our AGM to become better informed; write to your MLA; and, above all, stay tuned. Your union is moving toward action; and we want you want to be a part of it.

2018/2019 ISD Budget by the Numbers

\$38.3M. Total budget expenditure

0.52%.... Increase in spending for 2018/2019

0.51%.... Projected enrolment increase

\$13,652. Projected cost per student

4%..... The amount provincial funding for the ISD has dropped in the past two years.

1 The number of wellness support workers added to the ISD next year.

1 The number of technology lead teachers cut from the budget (0.5 FTE)

0.13..... The FTE drop in professional staff overall

\$1.1M ... ISD Surplus, June 2017

2 The number of school trustee positions cut (after elections there will be 7 trustees)

ITA Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies

The Interlake Teachers' Association Executive, in conjunction with the Manitoba Teachers' Society and with the assistance of Myers LLP, has spent the current school year rewriting the ITA Constitution, Bylaws, and Policy Manual. These documents are now complete and will be presented to you at our AGM. This is a complete rewrite. Many of the changes have been put in place to bring our documents in line with those of the Society and modernize the language. Changes that are more substantive include:

- harmonizing ITA rights of membership with MTS rights of membership;
- limiting the term of the Past President to one year;
- providing a procedure for members to call a membership meeting;
- detailing clear and more formal election protocol;
- allowing for electronic ballots;
- providing a procedure for members to remove an Executive Member from office; and
- clarifying the use of the ITA PD fund

All these documents are now on the [ITA Website](#). Please take the time to become familiar with them; we will be voting on these at our AGM.

ITA AGM: April 24

The Annual General Meeting of the Interlake Teachers' Association is just over one month away. This event has been well attended in recent years and I thank you all for your support. As I have said in the past, this is the one day of the year that your Association needs you. We need 40 members to make quorum, so we can elect an executive and pass a budget, but we aim much higher than that. This is an event to learn about the issues and socialize with your colleagues. Each year we endeavour to make this more than a voting meeting by bringing in guests to speak on issues of the day. Well, right now, there is no issue more topical than what our government has done and what it might do in the future. For this reason, MTS president, Norm Gould will join us to speak at length on this topic. He was at the table when the government called unions to discuss the deficit and he can give us a first hand account of how that went. He is now at the table as provincial bargaining is under discussion. This is real, and this is important. It is the opinion of many that the cuts we have seen so far are just the beginning. Please plan to join us on April 24, 4:30 PM, in the Stonewall Collegiate Music Room to meet with your Association colleagues and to hear from your Society President. In these interesting times, this is one thing you can do for your union – and find out what your union is doing for you.

