

President's Message

March brings with it a whisper of spring and new growth, or perhaps more a feeling of "we made it through another winter". The weather is warming, outdoor recess is more frequent (and wet), and many organizations are preparing for their own sense of renewal. In fact...

NOTICE of the INTERLAKE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

April 23rd, 2019 at 4:30 pm in the Stonewall Collegiate Music Room.

Food and beverages provided. Bring a colleague.

AGENDA

Election of the 2019-20 Executive

Presentation of the 2019-20 Budget.

Guests: Current and out-going MTS President – Norm Gould

Current MTS Vice-President – James Bedford.

Bargaining update from the MTS Collective Bargaining Standing Committee (CBSC) – John Bock.

NOTICE of ITA Executive Elections – If you are interested in volunteering for your union, there is a list of the executive positions on our website, www.interlaketeachers.ca. Please contact the Local Electoral Officer, Mark Lawson, for more information or to submit your name. A list of candidates will be presented in the first April edition of the newsletter.

NOTICE of Campaign Procedures for ITA Executive Elections – If you are an AGM aficionado, you will recall that last year, our membership passed three new documents; the ITA Constitution, By-laws and Polices. The later took effect immediately, requiring 50% of the vote as per our former constitution. The first two required further approval from the Provincial Executive (PX) of the Manitoba Teachers' Society, and did receive such on January 18th of this year.

However as of the last AGM, we had no official campaign guidelines should two or more candidates choose to run for one position. Thanks to an ITA committee and MTS guidance, we now have;

Campaign Guidelines for the Interlake Teachers' Association

1. Candidates shall not use Interlake School Division resources for personal campaign purposes. This includes, but is not limited to computers, printers, photocopiers, and office supplies.
2. Candidates shall not use the Interlake School Division email or network for the purposes of campaigning unless authorized by the Electoral Officer and the Superintendent of the School Division.
3. Each candidate shall be permitted an 8 x 11" page document stating their biography and election statement. This document may be placed in school staff rooms on the ITA notices board, and on the ITA website. It shall be submitted to the President by the first Monday in April in order to appear in the ITA newsletter, prior to the Annual General Meeting.

4. Where two or more candidates are nominated for the position of president, each candidate shall be allowed five (5) minutes in which to make a speech at the Annual General Meeting.
5. Candidates shall not spend more than \$200 of personal funds on their campaign.

Recent News Items:

➤ **Education Review Watch** - Recent Articles

- Avis Glaze named as the lead consultant – [LINK](#) and the MTS response – [HERE](#).
- Education Library to close - [LINK](#). MTS questions the closure – [HERE](#).

➤ **More Links:**

- Nova Scotia government's press release of "The Education Reform Act", March 1, 2018: [LINK](#)
- The complete 78-page Glaze report: [LINK](#)
- Nova Scotia government's message to teachers and principals: [LINK](#)

MTS encourages all members to follow the website and news, and to join the letter writing campaign to have your voice heard. There does not seem to be any sign of the promised "consultation process" in the future, or at least not one that includes teachers.

➤ **Pension Sustainability Seminar:**

- Approximately 60 people attended the Lakewood region Pension Sustainability Seminar on March 12, and listened to presentations from TRAF (Teachers' Retirement Allowances Fund) and MTS Benefits Staff. In summary, the fund that we contribute is 99.9% funded, while the fund the Province contributes is not so good. Projections have the Province not being able to pay their portion by approx. 2050. So of course they would like to change how our pensions work. No definitive rate or plan changes were presented, but rather what some of the changes may look like, and their affect on teachers at different phases of their careers.

➤ **Bargaining Update:**

- Two locals are going to arbitration: Louis Riel (LRTA) and Pembina Trails (PTTA) have dates of November 2019 and April 2020 respectively. Locally, the ITA has recently sent a second letter to open bargaining to the ISD Board, and are awaiting a response. You will recall the Board communicated last year at this time, that they would not be entering bargaining as they awaited further direction from the Provincial Government.
- As of Monday, March 18th, filibustering tactics blocked the passing of several bills at the Provincial Legislature. Among them was proposed legislation that included a plan to centralize teacher bargaining. [FULL STORY](#)
- March 16, the Collective Bargaining Standing Committee (CBSC) and Local Bargaining Chairs met to further solidify the MTS position and strategy in anticipation of any government announcements. The CBSC body of work will be voted on by members of the Provincial Council at the annual meeting in May.

Take a breath...

This onslaught of news was not meant to provide you with study material for spring break. Rest, recharge and come back refreshed. Know that you have strong representation both locally and provincially. Keep yourself informed. Talk about the great work educators do while you head to wherever your spring break travels take you. Best wishes and be well!