

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 31 – SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 34 SUPPORT STAFF

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD SEPTEMBER 4, 2104

Report from Business Representative – Arlene Munoz
Recording Secretary (1:00pm) – Sherry Langton
Recording Secretary (6:30pm) – Alison Schwartzenberger

Winners of Teamster Local 31 Scholarships (\$2,500 each) were read out – there were four from SD34. Winners of the Art Price Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500) read out – It was a difficult decision this year as two recipients were each very worthy of the award. As such, the scholarship was shared equally between two students whose parents are members of SD34.

Winner of the \$10,000.00 James R. Hoffa Scholarship Emma Beaumont and her mother, School District employee Linda Beaumont attended the 1:00pm meeting and were presented the scholarship.

The Teamsters Bargaining Committee met on August 20th to finalize the proposal package. President Stan Hennessy will be chairing this round of bargaining for the support staff. The Bargaining Committee welcomes Pres Hennessy to the Committee. The wealth of experience and knowledge he brings to the table should prove invaluable when facing BCPSEA's hard line tactics.

As promised in earlier meetings, a copy of the proposal package will be made available to the membership once it is exchanged with the District. Bargaining dates are set for Sept 11, 17 and 18 with October 6 & 7 tentative.

The Union was told that initially a provincial rotating strike would be in effect the last week of August. That did not happen. The Union was then informed by ADTA that teachers would be picketing from first bell for 2 – 3 hours per day. That also did not occur. Some sites picketed 3 hours, some all day, some not at all.

On September 3rd Pres Hennessy spoke with Pres Smuland and requested that the ADTA implement a rotating strike within District 34. The teachers could picket a set number of schools on a rotating weekly basis so that not all would be affected each day but rather 1 day per week. The Abbotsford teachers voted against this request opting instead to picket 3 hours each day at each site.

SD34 was successful in obtaining an Exemption Order from the Labor Board for the following sites: Facilities, School Board Office and ITC. There will be no pickets at these sites so all employees that report to those sites may attend work on a daily basis. The employees working out of these sites must honor other site's pickets when they are visible. Question was asked who applied for the exemption – the answer is that the District did so and only applied for the sites that do not have teachers as part of the work site.

Pres. Hennessy and I met and discussed how best to both honor the teachers' strike and assist the membership with financial stress due to the strike. Due to the unheard of 3 hour picketing of the District sites it was decided that only the day shift employees would be unable to attend their work sites. As the teachers' pickets were aimed solely at that shift the afternoon shift would be able to attend their work sites. No pickets were ever erected at any point during the afternoon shift hours.

Teamsters Canada and Local 31 have again committed to assisting the support staff with “lost wages”. The rate remains as it was in June, \$70/day for a full shift and \$35/day for a half shift. These monies will be available as soon as the District presents their employee report of hours worked and/or missed.

To further assist out of work support staff the Union and the District have agreed to hold a variety of training sessions at various non-teaching facilities. Any time taking these training sessions will be paid by the District at your regular rate of pay so if taking a half day training session, the District would pay for those hours and Teamsters would pick up the other half day if it came to that.

The Director of HR has informed the Union that they will honor Pres Hennessy’s request for full pay for all employees who attended work on Aug 27, 28, 29, 2014 due to the chaos of those three days.

First Aid courses are not mandatory. Custodial Dept has issued a statement that they were but that has been retracted. Arlene Munoz will be verifying the term “designated” in the Collective Agreement as it pertains to First Aid attendants.

Friday, September 5th is a regular work day for support staff due to a teachers’ rally being held instead of picketing. Work will be designated by the AO on site. Work should be within the realm of your usual duties. (EA should not be expected to clean or move furniture but rather filing and things of that nature)

To date, next week would appear to look much like this week. Keep checking CKNW for news updates

The term EA refers to Education Assistants.

A member reported to the meeting that their teaching staff told her that they are only picketing 3 hours to “help” the support staff. My response was that if they wanted to “help” the Teamsters they should have rather voted to accept rotating pickets as requested by the Union.

The term AO refers to Administrative Officer

The \$40.00/day daycare money from the government was discussed and it was noted that no money would be sent out until the teacher strike was settled.

It was recommended by a member that when working the afternoon shift make sure you are working!

Do you declare your “lost wages” to EI? My contact at EI (see posting on Teamster website) informed that it is not necessary to claim it. If you are currently on EI you should keep your claim open/active.

Draw Winners – 1:00 pm

Nell Harrison – Water Bottle
Sarah Kamp – Hat
Ken McClaren – T Shirt
Linda Scott – Teamster Bag

Draw Winners – 6:30 pm

Angela Taschuk – Scarf
Nicki McMurray – Water Bottle
Pegeen Hammer – T Shirt