

Message from the Chair...

A \$38 million-dollar deficit can do a lot of damage. We have 241 members identified for transfer so far this spring (plus 31 members who haven't found placement from last spring) for a total of 272 and counting. This number does not take into account the members who took significant reductions in hours for next year as well.

The really tough part is there are no-where near enough new positions posted in the placement pool, nor are there likely to be positions that will be posted for those who are in more specialized or one-of-one positions. This will leave many without positions. Others left behind will have to struggle with ever increasing workloads. We already have members who have to access the food bank. There are those who already work multiple jobs to survive in the current economic climate. We have people on the brink of homelessness.

The sad reality is that the work is still there. The system needs to operate. Student need is significant in schools. How much more can CBE afford to take away? How much more can CBE expect from staff who are at their limits now? Every second is accounted for in positions. Many positions don't have the hours to support the work that needs to be done, placing employees in impossible situations.

Decisions are being made to reduce the numbers of safety inspections in schools and worksites. The system is looking at what the least acceptable level of cleaning is. Why would looking at the lowest possible levels of accountability in safety or anywhere else be right? But this is what it has come down to at the end of the day.

You might ask what is Staff Association doing about all of this, and that is a good question. We have spoken with senior leadership in the system. We have asked for a meeting with the Education Minister, we have been liaising with other employee groups, parent groups, etc. to get the information out there around all of this.

Reporters have been calling. We had been waiting to see what the fall-out would be. We can now talk to the media and speak to the impacts of the cuts as the situation sits right now.

What can you do? You can speak with and write letters to your School Board Trustee, MLA representatives, the Premier, the Education Minister. Tell them what you see and experience in whatever capacity you work in. We all need to be advocates for public education.

Staff Association Elections Update

In accordance with the CBE Staff Association Bylaws (7.2(b)), the new Board of Directors elected the Executive Officers of the Association on May 17, 2017. The new Executive Officers are:

Lois Robb, Chairperson
Jen Copithorne, Vice-Chairperson
Nancy Huizinga, Treasurer
Charlene Barva, Secretary

The complete Board of Directors is as follows:

Name	CBE Position	Worksite
Lois Robb (Chair)	Seconded	Staff Association Office
Jen Copithorne (Vice-Chair)	School/Family Liaison	Area 4 (Marlborough Centre)
Nancy Huizinga (Treasurer)	Food Prep Assistant	Forest Lawn H.S.
Charlene Barva (Secretary)	Psychologist	Area I (Parkdale Centre)
Leah Arkley	Career Practitioner	Chinook Learning Services
April Byers	Psychologist	Area I and Area IV
Julia Kim	Lunch Supervisor	Rideau Park School
Mike Minard	Chef Instructor	Robert Thirsk H.S.
Rae-Ann Royal	Library Assistant	Bowcroft School
Jane Waldron	Educational Assistant	Fish Creek School

The Staff Association congratulates and welcomes new Board members **Julia Kim, Mike Minard, and Jane Waldron.**

The Association, would like to thank Jackie Galambos for her service over the past two years, and Larry Frandle for his service and leadership as Vice-Chair over the past four years.

Thanks also to the previous Executive for their leadership and commitment to the Association.

When we combine individual strengths, unite towards a common goal, and collaborate to get results, we all get to share in the success! Thanks to everyone old and new -- thanks for making our team work.

SA Scholarship Application Deadline Reminder

Just a reminder that Staff Association's Scholarship Award Application deadline is fast approaching. Completed application packages should be submitted to the Scholarship Coordinator at the applicant's high school (**no applications are to be handed into the Staff Association office**). The deadline to receive applications is normally May 30th, however, applicants should check with their Guidance Office for application deadlines in their school.

Please visit our Website's homepage (www.staffassociation.ca) for more scholarship information.

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If you wish to visit the SA office, please e-mail or phone ahead to book an appointment to ensure that someone is available to assist you.		