

May 8, 2020

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***Penny Morgan, Acting President Kaitlin Thorarinson, Acting 1st Vice-President
Trevor Takasaki, Acting 2nd Vice-President***

MRTA General Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 4:00 pm via GoToMeeting

Election Information

This Special Election Bulletin has been prepared to provide information to all members about who is running for President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President and Local Reps, including their position statement and career highlights. This year's elections will be run differently due to the restrictions around gatherings.

- Elections for Executive Council and Committee positions will happen electronically using the Simply voting platform and will not happen in real time. Voting for all positions will open Tuesday, May 19th and close by noon on May 20th. Results will be announced at the General Meeting on May 20th at 4:00 pm. More information will be coming soon.
- Any MRTA member is eligible to stand for election for Executive Council positions.
- All MRTA members are eligible to vote.

These are the people who are currently running for the roles of President, Vice-Presidents, and Local Representative:

President:
Trevor Takasaki

1st Vice-President:
Martin Dmitrieff

2nd Vice-President:
Sonja Krzus

Local Representative (3 to be elected):
Martin Dmitrieff
Dale Hardy
Kiel Lemmen
Penny Morgan
Ryan Neufeld



Please be aware that teachers can still submit their names to the MRTA office to run for any committee and most Executive positions; NORMALLY nominations from the floor are also allowed for any position, as are drop downs. This will not be the case this year.

The window for nominations for President, Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President or Local Representative is now closed.

Nominations for all other Executive Council positions and committees will close May 13, 2020.

- If you're interested in running for one of these positions, or any other Executive position, call the MRTA office at 604-467-2111 or email Elaine at elaine@mrtaoffice.ca.

Position Descriptions

The President and 1st Vice-President are the most visible and active roles in the MRTA. They work full-time in the MRTA office, serving as the voice of members at many levels and in many situations. Theirs is an A to Z job, quite literally running the gamut from advising and advocating to participating in Zone meetings. This year, we will also elect a 2nd Vice-President who will be released up to .6 FTE to support this work.

The Local Representatives serve on the MRTA Executive but also represent MRTA teachers at the BCTF Representative Assemblies and Annual General Meeting. This Special Election Bulletin will include statements and biographical information for those people nominated to each of the two release time positions, as well as nominees for Local Representative positions.

Candidates for Executive Council Positions 2020/21



For President Trevor Takasaki

This year, I have decided to run for the President of the MRTA, after discussing it with people who felt I was up for the challenge of the position. I start by mentioning the collaborative decision to run because it is important that all of us working together continues to be the defining principle of the MRTA for years to come. By this, I mean that I want to emphasize my desire to listen to everyone's voices and opinions with an open mind and a willingness to be informed of what the membership want from the perspective of everyone involved. To do this, I believe it is important to be humble enough to see that everyone has something important to contribute, whether it is a seasoned union activist or a first year teacher, just getting started. I also believe that I can't be all that people need me to be without the expertise and assistance of many other people. What I feel I bring to the table is calm discernment, the ability to learn quickly, and the ability to communicate and advocate effectively. I will be the first to admit that I have much to learn and it will take time, but I am committed to putting in the hard work to make sure this happens, as quickly as possible. I also want to make sure that teachers feel that our executive team, and myself in particular, are effective advocates for the needs of teachers when we work with the district. I will do my best to put a strong clear voice to the concerns we have and strongly and effectively advocating for fair treatment and safety for all teachers and students.

Trevor Takasaki

EXPERIENCE:

MRTA

Acting 2nd Vice-President

Local Representative

Policy Review Committee (Executive sub-committee) Member

Pro-D Committee Member

Staff Rep

BCTF

AGM Delegate - 2015/16 and 2016/17

Teaching

Thomas Haney Secondary: Gr 9-12, 2012 - Present

Westview Secondary: Gr 9-12, 2004 - 2013

Willingdon Youth Detention Center: Gr 9-12, 1994 - 1995 (Volunteer)

I Uzupełniające Liceum Ogólnokształcące Chelm, Poland (Volunteer): Gr 9-12, 1994 - 1995

Education

PDP 2004 (SFU) English Language Arts

BA 2002 (SFU) English Language Arts/ Political

Candidates for Executive Council Positions 2020/21

EXPERIENCE:

MRTA

Policy Review Committee (Executive sub-committee) Member: 2018 - Present
Local Representative: 2017 - Present
Joint Educational Change Implementation Committee: 2014 - Present
Social Justice Committee: 2013 - Present
Communications Committee: 2013 - Present
Membership Officer Position: 2010 - 2012 & 2013 - 2015
Executive Council Committee: 2009 - Present
School Staff Representative: 2009 - Present
TTOC/New Teacher Committee (and Chair in later years): 2008 - 2013

BCTF

Tri-National in Defense of Public Education Conference: 2018
Workshop Presenter at BCTF Summer Conference: 2017
Representative Assemblies & AGMs: 2017 - Present
Advocacy Works Teacher - Parent Conference: 2017 - 2018
Metro Fraser Valley Zone Meetings: 2009 - 2010, 2012 - 2014, 2015 - 2018
Local Rep at BC Federation of Labour Conventions: 2010, 2013 & 2016

Teaching

Thomas Haney Secondary: Ma & Sc Gr 8-12, Foods 9, 2009-2010, 2012-2013, 2014 - Present
Westview Secondary: En 8 & 11, SS 8, Support Gr 8-12, 2013 - 2014
Maple Ridge Secondary: Ma & Sc Gr 9-11, Health & Career 8, 2010 - 2012

Education

BEd 2007 (UBC) Biological Sc/En Language Arts
BSc 2006 (UBC) Bi-Animal Physiology/En Language

Other

City of Maple Ridge Environmental Advisory Committee: 2018 - 2019
CEED Centre, Board of Directors: 2017 - Present
Teacher Sponsor, THSS Fruit Salad Organization: 2017 - Present
Teacher Sponsor, THSS Boardgame Club: 2015-Present



For 1st Vice-President and Local Representative

Martin Dmitrieff

I am currently seeking a 1st term in the office at the MRTA. I've been teaching for 12 years, 11 of which I've been involvement with the committees and executive of our association. Cumulatively, I've learned and developed numerous skills during my representation at the MRTA. I feel I am ready to move into a role with more direct responsibility, looking after concerns of all MRTA members. My leadership style is influenced by a diverse set of experiences that especially rely on the interactions and relationships built with other leaders in the teaching profession.

Central to my philosophy is recognizing that the power and energy to exact positive change comes from building relationships and sharing our experiences. The onus is on all in educational leadership to listen, acknowledge, and respond to the needs of teachers and their classrooms. This is only done well through a greater understanding built upon relationships and shared experiences.

From there, we must use our voices to represent our teachers, and ensure the significance of their needs is understood. Often concerns can be drowned out, especially due to competing priorities, but tapping recognized allies among relationships can enhance and build more voices for change. Fellow educators, CUPE colleagues, trustees, and parents can all be allies on a variety of topics. Recognizing where there are shared concerns is key in building momentum to push. As greater demands and stresses are loaded on to teachers, push we must, because the health of our teachers depends on it.

Candidates for Executive Council Positions 2020/21

For 2nd Vice-President

Sonja Krzus

EXPERIENCE:

MRTA

Executive: Member at Large

Health & Safety Rep

Staff Rep: 1990 - Present

BCTF

BC College of Teachers: BCTF Rep (Zone 7) 2005 - 2008

Chairperson: Fitness Investigation Sub-Committee

Vice-Chairperson: Discipline Sub-Committee

Member and/or Chair: various Administrative Discipline Panels 2005 - 2010

Teaching

Pitt Meadows Secondary School: Gr 8 - 12, 1993 - Present

SD 42 TTOC: 1990 - 1993

SD 43 TTOC: 1990 - 1991

Education

PBDip 1995 (SFU) English

PBDip 1990 (SFU) Criminology/ Education/ Psychology

PDP 1982 (SFU) Secondary Education/ ELL

BA 1981 (SFU) Criminology/ Political Science

OFA Level 2

Other

Politically active in both Federal, Provincial and Municipal politics (NDP) having previously served on the local executive committees (Federal and Provincial), and volunteered in many other campaigns and capacities: 1981 - present

Actively work in animal rescue having worked with Border Collie Rescue and Turtle Gardens

Rehabilitating and training dogs for rehoming: 25+ years

Member/ Volunteer of Amnesty International: 1985 - present

The coming year will bring big changes to the MRTA offices; after this election we will have both a new President and 1st Vice-President. I bring over 30 years of MRTA Staff Rep and Executive experience with me to help facilitate this transition.

I like to solve problems as efficiently, and where possible, as co-operatively as possible. My primary concern is for the teaching and learning conditions of our members. The well-being of teachers is paramount; we must be treated with dignity and respect, adequate resources must be available, workloads need to be equitable, and, most important of all, teachers must be listened to when pointing out needed improvements to the educational system.

When needed, our members are entitled to the best representation possible within the parameters of existing legislation and regulations. I have an extensive background in administrative tribunals as relating to teaching practice; was on the team that wrote the current Standards of Practice for teachers in BC; have a background in criminal, labour, and administrative law; have extensive experience with Health & Safety regulation and practice; and have experience conducting investigations. This makes me an ideal candidate to sort through complex problems to find logical solutions.

I have been a union member since 1975 when I joined CUPE as one of the first women to be employed as a lifeguard in the City of Vancouver.

Representing workers has been a lifelong commitment.

Sonja Krzus



Candidates for Executive Council Positions 2020/21

For Local Representative

Dale Hardy



EXPERIENCE:

MRTA

Communication Committee Chair
Social Justice Committee
Executive Council
Alternative Local Rep
Pro-D Rep for Continuing Education

BCTF

BCTF Adult Education Advisory Committee

Teaching

Riverside Centre Con. Ed: Gr 11-12, 2006 - Present
Canadian Technical Trades Institute: 2005 - 2006
Vancouver Career College: 2003 - 2005

Education

M.A. (SFU): 2007 Russian literature
Pre-requisites for Masters in Counselling (UBC): 1991
PDP (SFU): 1979
B.A. (University of Manitoba): 1977 French Language/
Religious Studies

Other

Alouette Addictions Services Board Member
Youth Volunteer Program Coordinator at Katzie First Nations
Support for Adult Education at Katzie First Nations
Extensive Social Service Work: Emergency care group homes and special needs group homes
Extensive overseas postings: Nigeria, Japan, India, Taiwan

After serving as an Alternate Rep for the last year, I now seek the position as Local Representative for the MRTA. This is now my 14th year teaching in our district. My previous work included overseas postings in Nigeria, India, Japan and Taiwan. In addition, I have been an owner/operator/caregiver of group homes for Adolescents in Crisis, Youth Under 12 apprehended by the Ministry and Special Needs Youth.

My involvement with the MRTA includes Chair of the Communications Committee, member of the Executive Council, member of the Social Justice Committee and Alternate Local Representative. With the BCTF, I am presently the co-chair of the Adult Education Advisory Committee. This three year commitment requires presentations at the AGM, Rep Assemblies and Summer Conferences.

My mandate includes the following:

- To serve the interests of our membership as opposed to serving an ideology.
- To make sure all educational shareholders, especially our School Trustees are aware of our members' issues.
- To work collaboratively with other locals while representing my own.

Dale Hardy



MRTA AGM Wednesday, May 20, 2020 - via GoToMeeting - 4 pm

Candidates for Executive Council Positions 2020/21

For Local Representative Kiel Lemmen

EXPERIENCE:

MRTA

Executive Council Membership

Chair: Current

Executive Council Alternate Local

Rep: 2018 - 2019

Joint Educational Change
Implementation

Committee Member: Current

Working & Learning Conditions/
Bargaining Committee: Current

PMSS Staff Rep: 8 years

PMSS Strike Captain: 2014

PMSS Pro-D Rep: 2013 - 2019

PMSS Pro-D Rep: 2013 - 2019

BCTF

AGM Delegate: 4 years

Teaching

Pitt Meadows Secondary: Gr 8-12, 2007 - Current

Pitt Meadows Secondary: Gr 8-12 Special Education,
2011 - 2015

Education

Masters 2015 (SFU) Educational Practice

B.Ed 2007 (SFU) Educational Psychology

BA 2006 (SFU) History/ Geography

Other

PMSS Social Studies Department Head: Current

PMSS Technology Committee: 2014 - Current

UBC School Associate: 2016 - 2017

SFU School Associate: 2015, 2017, 2018

District Collaboration/ School Teams: 2014 - 2019

PMSS School Based Team: 2011 - 2017



Hello Colleagues,

“Stewardship is leaving a system better than you found it”, says Sir Michael Barber. This does not imply that a system is broken, rather it acknowledges a true reflective capacity and recognition of one’s ability to apply themselves within a system to its long-term benefit. For nearly a decade I have participated in a variety of roles in our Local, motivated by a strong sense of stewardship, and I seek to continue strong representation and advocacy through the role of Local Representative.

I stepped forward for Local Representative, serving as an Alternate, in 2018/2019 and represented our Local at the BCTF AGM for the last four years. I currently sit on the Executive Committee in the Membership position and on our Local’s Bargaining/Working and Learning Conditions Committee. During the 2018/2019 Local Bargaining process I aided in developing a bargaining strategy, developed new Local language based on the needs and desires of our local, and participated in the bargaining process, in the room with District representatives.

It is a privilege to serve members at the school and district level and I look forward to representing and applying your voices further through the role of Local Representative. I request, and thank you, for your support in achieving this goal.

Thank you,
Kiel Lemmen



Candidates for Executive Council Positions 2020/21

EXPERIENCE:

MRTA

Acting President Feb 24, 2020-Present
1st Vice-President May 2018 - Feb 2020
Executive Council (position: Secretary, LR)
Staff Rep for many years
Rep for Health & Safety, Pro-D, Social Justice
Staff Committee member: many years
Committees: Early Career Teacher, Pro-D,
Convention, Finance, Local Election
Picket Captain & member of Picket Support
Team: 2014

District Elementary Reporting Sustainability Committee -
Co-chair

District Curriculum Implementation Committee

BCTF AGM Delegate – many years

BCTF

Local Representative: 2017 - 2018

Member of PIAC (Professional Issues Advisory Committee)

Facilitator for Pro-D Chairs at Zone Meetings: 2017-2018

Spoke at BC Labour Federation rally for public education -
“Because We Care”

Member of the New Teacher Mentoring Project

Co-chair/co-facilitator of Metro Mentoring Network: 2017 -
2018

Leadership Institute certificate in Working and Learning
Conditions: Non-enrolling Ratios, Class Size, Class Composition
and Supports for Students with Special Needs: 2019

Teaching

District Helping Teacher for Mentoring: 2015-2018

Blue Mountain Elementary Grade 1,2,3: 2000-2015

Blue Mountain Elementary K job share; Gym Prep K-7; Teacher
Librarian: 2005/06

Davie Jones Elementary Grades 1,2,3: 1989-2000

Education

Master of Ed Practice 2012 (SFU) Efficacy in Math Students

Graduate Diploma 2010 (SFU) Numeracy

BEd 1989 (UVIC) Math/Science

Other

- Extensive experience in team work & collaborative problem solving
- Extensive experience planning & presenting workshops & sessions
- Extremely comfortable & confident public speaking
- Mentor & sessional instructor for Graduate Diploma programs with SFU 2012-2015



For Local Representative Penny Morgan

BCTF Representative Assemblies are held three times a year, and they are the place where the democratic decision making of the Federation takes place. Over the two days, many resolutions and recommendations are discussed, debated and voted upon. Local representatives also attend the BCTF AGM as delegates as well. It is very important that the representatives of our district make sure to vote in the best interest in of the teachers of Maple Ridge. We have our own unique circumstances, needs, and concerns that must be brought to the table. Serving as Acting President this spring, First Vice-President for two years, and LR for a year before that, I have become adept at understanding the structures of the BCTF and have been privy to information as a release officer that has allowed me to maximize my voice and vote at the Local Representative Assemblies to make the most impact. I have been able to provide insight to the other representatives to help them too. I have been able to situate myself in my role representing the members of our local, keeping in mind the many different groups that I have worked with and supported: school based staff, itinerants, helping teachers, adult educators, etc... As I will be returning to the elementary classroom in the fall, I will have that lens to look through. I will again have first hand experience of the issues faced by elementary classroom teachers: class size and composition, lack of support for students, remedy, lack of TTOCS, violence/safety in the workplace, autonomy, to name but a few. I will take my role very seriously if elected as one of our local representatives for the 2020/2021 school year.

Penny Morgan

Candidates for Executive Council Positions 2020/21

For Local Representative Ryan Neufeld

EXPERIENCE:

BCTF

Former SD36 Pro-D Rep

Teaching

Thomas Haney Secondary: Gr 8-12 2018 - Current

Sullivan Heights Secondary: Gr 8-12 2008 - 2018

New Westminster Secondary: Gr 8-12 2002 - 2008

Education

PB15 2010 (SFU) Technology in Ed

Restitution Training 2003

BA 2001 (SFU) English/ Kinesiology

Other

Former Executive Member of Burnaby Lake Rugby Club

Former Executive Member of Surrey Secondary Schools Athletic Association

I am applying for the position of Local Rep and/or Member at Large because I value the role our union plays in supporting members, have served as Pro D rep (SD36) in the past, and feel I am ready to be more active again after two years in SD42. Specifically, I believe my experience as a support teacher could be beneficial for moving dialogue forward around restructuring positions that are consistently left empty in our district.

Ryan Neufeld

It ain't so much people's ignorance that does the harm as their knowing so darned much that ain't so.—JOSH BILL



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