



Palliser District Teachers' Convention Association



Minutes

Full Board Meeting

Hospitality Suite – Hyatt Hotel

Hybrid - Zoom Online Meeting

January 20th, 2024

9:00 a.m. (Breakfast – 8:30)

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89633844367?pwd=XSzYlMS7poJT7eU6aMSovOix8l73V7.1>

In attendance: C. Crane, S. Doikas, D. Dumont, P. Ehrman, S. Engel, A. England, C. Fraser, L. Gibson, C. Gonsalvez, R. Hatch, B. Hohenwarter, T. Hrysak, G. Hunter, B. Kirk, J. Lafrenière, S. Leppa, K. McElroy, P. Morck, J. Munton, L. Murphy, L. Neville, S. Paton, A. Pollard, A. Rai Nannan, S. Rasmussen, M. Shain, C. Wasylynuik, J. White

Virtual: L. Avramovic, S. Buchfink, A. Caporicci-Urovitch, E. Clarkson, C. Froese, S. Gammie, K. Hinton, D. MacArthur, K. Muir, K. Nakaska, Y. Toney, S. Watson, J. Yersh, B. Yagos

Absent: B. Baum, R. Kruger

1. Call to order, Welcome and Land Acknowledgement – 9:04 am

- Land Acknowledgement – read by Jill White

2. Human Rights Statement

- As an organization that promotes and is committed to respecting human rights and ensuring a safe, secure, and healthy environment for all, the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) works to ensure that all present at or participating in ATA programs and events are protected from violence and harassment.
- All ATA members are therefore expected to promote and defend the fundamental human rights of everyone engaged in ATA programs, activities, or other ATA work. ATA members are expected to treat one another with fairness, respect, and dignity and to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, accountability, competence, and integrity as representatives of the provincial Association as well as their respective locals and subgroups.
- Furthermore, ATA members are obliged to act to prevent violence and harassment wherever possible and report to the appropriate person in authority any suspected breaches of this statement that come to their attention.

3. Approval of Agenda

- **Motion:** That PDTCA adopts the agenda of the January 20th, 2024, meeting.
Moved by Christine Crane/Seconded by S. Paton.
- **Jenn Munton/Christine Crane made an amendment to the agenda to move the Policy Review to 12.1**
- **Voted on the amended agenda. carried**

4. Minutes of previous meeting

- **Motion:** That PDTCA approve the minutes of the September 16th, 2023 – Hybrid- in person/zoom online PDTCA meeting. **Moved by Ryan Hatch/Seconded by Cory Fraser. Carried**

5. Unfinished Business – Policy Review (moved to 12.1)

6. Correspondence

- Notice of Absence from Rita Kruger, Brenton Baum,
- Danny Maas – 2024 Teachers’ Convention Attendance for Preservice Teachers
- Danny Maas – ATA Goose chase Account for Conventions
- Canace Graham – Update Association Staff Session Schedule
- Contracts for Larry and Bertha to sign.
- Minutes from Locals: Christ the Redeemer, Livingstone Range, Three Drums of Wheat, Foothills, Prairie Land, Palliser, Rocky view, and word that the vote was taken and will be sent from AEEFA. (Still need to hear from Chinook’s Edge and Canadian Rockies) – so far all have been in favor of the changes.

7. Treasurer’s Report

- S. Leppa presented the financial report.
- Sherry informed the board that the executive feel that we need to make an increase in our fees.
 - An explanation from our meeting “Convention by Numbers” is posted on the minutes page on our website.
 - Suggested a fee increase of \$115.00 for the next 5 years.
 - The PDTCA Constitution says we need to give 30 days’ notice to the Locals.
 - The increase would be \$21.00, from \$94.00 to \$115.00. We will vote on this increase at the March 23rd, 2024, meeting. Reps need to let their locals know of this increase and the reasons why.
 - Please see the minutes from the November 29th, 2023, meeting “Adhoc Committee – Convention by Numbers” to help explain the reason behind the increase.

8. Old Business

8.1. Fall PDC

- Attended by Tara Hrysak
- Excellent sessions at PDC

8.2. Fall Convention Meeting

- Attended by Tara Hrysak, Alison England, Larry Neville, and Jill White
- Learned that some of the convention boards are also having to raise their fees.

9. New Business

9.1. Board Member Duties – C. Crane

- See Christine’s report for more details.
- All board members need to sign up for at least 90 to 115 minutes.
- The link will open Sunday, January 21st, 2024, to sign up.

- Pre-Registration is a live document, and your delegates can see exactly where they are in the session. They can also delete themselves if they change their mind.
- Make sure you are wearing your RED vest from 8:30 to 3:30 both days even if it's not a time you have sign up.
- Jenn will be doing a tour on the Wednesday evening.
- Paulette will set up a "What's App" for the board – You need to send Paulette your name and phone number.

9.2. Board Member Responsibilities – C. Crane

- Discussion – see Christine's report for more details.

10. Executive Reports

10.1. **President** – Jill White –Email: president@pdtca.org (report posted)

- Thank you to the executive for all your hard work in putting this convention together, especially Bertha, Alison, Paulette.
- **Work Completed**
 - Sent out our proposed Constitutional changes as voted on to all Local Presidents, requesting they vote on it by the end of December, if possible. To date, we have received official minutes from Christ the Redeemer, Livingstone Range, and Three Drums of Wheat, Foothills, and word that the vote was taken from AEEFA, and Prairie Land, with official minutes to follow.
 - Arranged with CCTCA Presidents to allow Executive board members from each of our Associations to attend each other's conventions.
 - Meetings attended:
 - Nov. 22nd - Met online with Bertha and Sherry regarding budgeting.
 - Nov. 24th - Attended Fall Convention meeting.
 - Nov. 29th - Convention by the Numbers Committee via Zoom. Items discussed include Larry's remuneration, Speaker fees and expenses, delegate fees.
 - Dec. 1st - Executive met for the December Policy review meeting.
- **Work in Progress**
 - Waiting on votes from Locals on the proposed Constitutional changes
- **New Business/Action Items**
 - Invite Superintendents or special guests to attend a Keynote session. Jill will check with the Local President to find out if they would like their Superintendents invited.
 - Waiting to receive minutes from meetings where member Locals voted on the proposed constitutional changes. Once (if) we receive at least 6 Locals having voted in favour, we will send the changes to PEC for review.
 - Information and recommendations from the Convention by the Numbers Committee meeting on November 29th – (see President's report for details)

- Larry Neville's contracted position was discussed and was decided that he will be paid the same as an Executive position.
- Larry Neville's and Bertha Yagos' contracts needed to be renewed and signed. These were mailed out to both Larry and Bertha to be signed and mailed to Barnett House.

Items/Questions for the Executive and/or Board

- If you have not already done so, please forward the minutes from the meeting in which your Local voted on the proposed constitutional changes.
- Is there anyone besides Superintendents that I should invite to our convention?
- Is there anything else you would like me to address or do before our convention event?

10.2. **Past President – Jenn Munton (Report posted)**

- **Work Completed**
 - Confirmed #PDTCA24 for hashtag.
 - Ordered stuff for photo booth.
 - Researched Goose Chase idea
- **Work in Progress**
 - Goose chase App is going to start before convention this year.
 - PDTCA tall letters were stored and will be reused again this year in the Exhibits space. Booth 104
 - Thursday between 3:30 – 5:00 all board members are invited to come up to the Conference Suite for food and conversations.
 - On Wednesday, at 5:30 pm in front of Thomson's Restaurant for a tour
 - Honorary Presidents Reception will start at 6:30 pm on Wednesday evening.
- **Action Items**
 - Goose chase to be linked to website and advertised on social media.
 - Work on photo display.

10.3. **Vice President – Christine Crane (Report posted)**

- **Work Completed**
 - Set up the new Google doc for duty sign up with the changes in times for Keynote speakers (ie. introductions, speaker host) and length of each session, French sessions, pre reg.
- **Work in Progress**
 - Inform board members about the sign up for duties.
 - Remind people of obligations of Board duties
 - Double check with Greg Poile about one night accommodation - haven't heard back...
 - Ordered Apple award for Greg and travel voucher as gift.
- **Action Items**
 - Executive should have name tags.
 - If people need a name tag but missed or left it at home could just have a sticky label - bring sticky labels

- All board members are expected to attend the Honorary Presidents Reception – 6:30 pm
 - Dress is semi-formal.

10.4. **Program** – Alison England (Report posted) – more detail in report.

- **New Times and Structures**
 - 8:50 – 9:00 – Opening remarks – O’Canada, Land Acknowledgement, Human Rights Statement
 - 9:00am - 3:20 pm both days.
 - 60-minute sessions with 20 minutes in between
 - Keynotes: In EX Hall beside exhibits. Keynotes will go on at the same time as sessions. Keynotes will still present twice.
- **Work Completed**
 - The program!!
 - Just requested 12 ATA workshops, waiting to find out how many we get, and putting them into program.
 - 86 Palliser teachers are presented.
 - Continuing to make changes to program based on updates (cancellations, etc.)
- **New Business/Action Items**
 - During Fall Convention Meeting in November: I talked with other program chairs regarding strategies to get people to stay at Convention throughout whole time.
 - Talked with other program chairs to see how they efficiently vet and book sessions. Based on these discussions, I would like to set up a better way to have board members help with vetting
 - Save the Date for an In Person Vetting – end of July, at Jenn Munton’s school.
 - U of C preservice teachers will be presenting their Posters on Friday morning in the Hallway outside the Hyatt Ballroom. Please attend and support these Pre-service teachers.
- **Keynotes:**
 - Catriona Le May Doan:
 - Thursday morning, 9:00-10:00 am and 10:20-11:20 am
 - Renée Michaud:
 - Thursday morning, 10:20-11:20 am
 - Jared Cooney-Horvath:
 - Thursday afternoon, 1:00-2:00 pm and 2:20-3:20 pm
 - Phyllis Webstad:
 - Friday morning, 9:00-10:00 am and 10:20-11:20 am
- **Featured Speakers**
 - Vanessa Vakharia The Math Guru: Friday Morning
 - Dr. David Naylor, Astrophysicist: Friday Morning
 - Dr. Jared Cooney-Horvath, Educational Neuroscientist: Friday Morning
 - Mr. Jason Schilling, ATA President: Friday Morning
- **21 Off Site Sessions** – see report for a detailed list.

10.5. **Facilities** – Lindsay Avramovic **Email:** facilities@pdtca.org (Report posted)

- **Work Completed**

- The Facilities Team and Program Chair met with the Hyatt & Calgary Convention Center on November 22nd and January 19th to review and finalize program and facility spaces for both locations.
 - Cost savings due to new format, same room set up,
 - Security will be on-site.
 - No coat checks due to renovations.
- We are at 100% of our room block for the Hyatt and 90% at the Fairmont Palliser (brings our room rental down a significant cost)
- Meal numbers, speaker rooming list, board member rooming lists have been forwarded onto the Hyatt for processing. We have few boxed lunches this year but are way up in numbers for the two days of speaker lunches.
- This year we have a prayer room – see Sched for room location.
 - Guidelines for this room will be on a sign outside the room)
- **Work In Progress**
 - After Convention 2024, the Facilities Team will review venues for future executive/board meetings in earnest. Will visit the Stampede Convention Centre sometime in later 2024 when it is open and operating.
 - One of our executive meetings next year will be at the new ATA facility in Calgary.
- **New Business/Action Items**
 - Three Drums of Wheat and Canadian Rockies are asked to submit their logo for the digital signage board. We are no longer using local banners.
 - President's reception is scheduled for 6:30 PM in the Thomson's Social Hub at the Hyatt on Wednesday, February 21st.
- **Convention Meeting Dates**
 - February 22/23, 2024 (Annual Convention)
 - March 22/23, 2024, Exec/Full Board Meeting
 - May 31/June 1, 2024, Exec/Full Board Meeting
 - September 20/21, 2024, Exec/Full Board Meeting
 - December 6th, 2024, Executive Meeting/Policy Review meeting
 - NOTE: Booked at new ATA building in NW Calgary for a 10:00 a.m. start. We will see some minor cost savings with this change, which will move our meeting away from the Fairmont Palliser.

10.6. **Contracted Executive Assistant** – B. Yagos (Detailed Report posted)

- **Work Completed**
 - Program on Sched – 255 sessions – 87 speakers are teachers from Palliser Convention
 - Reminder that SCHED is just like a booklet – not a pre-registered session.
 - Pre-registration is open and will close February 11/24 – over 800 registrations so far.
 - Speakers have been notified of session details.
 - Delegate, speaker, student teacher information links have been added to the website.

- Honorary President is on the website.
 - Zoom Link for Pension interviews.
 - **Work in Progress**
 - After Feb. 11/24 – all pre-registered people and those on the waiting list will receive an email stating their status.
 - ATA workshops and Staff Sessions need to be added to Sched.
 - Prepare BIG binder of sheets showing payment information for each speaker along with session details.
 - Create and print nametags, door signs listing sessions, prepare sign-up sheets, etc.
 - Would like to try sending out a link to do digitally pre-registration.
 - **New Business/Action Items**
 - Teachers need to bring ATA cards for ID.
 - Meeting with the sales rep for our database sometime next week on Zoom. They have increased their prices and going to try and see what kind of pricing we can get as we are a not-for-profit group.
- 10.7. **Exhibits – T. Hrysak exhibits@pdtca.org (Report posted)**
- **Work Completed**
 - Almost Full – getting some of CCTCA overflow as their exhibit space is full.
 - Met with Amanda from Show Services and Ursula from CTCC
 - **Tara Hrysak/Lindsay Avramovic moved that PDTCA discontinues the Exhibitor of the Year award effective immediately. Carried.**
 - **Update this in policy next year.**
 - **Work in Progress/Action Items**
 - To Date we have 120 reserved booths and 6 open booths.
 - Processing booths as they come in.
 - Finalizing the master booth list
 - Work on Instaphoto moment in exhibits hall.
 - Work with Jenn on Goose Chase Exhibits tie-in.
 - Collecting final payments
 - Discontinue the “Exhibitor of the Year” as of this year as it says in Policy “at the discretion of the Exhibits Chair” so a motion was made at the Executive meeting last night to discontinue the “Exhibitor of the Year”. This will be changed in Policy next year.
- 10.8. **Social Media – Paulette Morck (Report posted)**
- **Work Completed**
 - Been doing lots of posts with keynotes, new times, general info about sessions.
 - With Approval from Jill, Bertha and Sherri I purchased a subscription to Buffer that allows me to create many posts to post.
 - **Work in Progress**
 - I will be the person in charge of FAQ’s this year. Bertha gave me access to them.
 - **New Business/Action Items**

- I would like to create a repeating post about changes to the program.
- Will start making posts about Goose Chase

10.9. **Secretary – S. Paton (No written report)**

- Information is posted on the webpage within 2 weeks of the meeting date.
- Please notify the President, Facilities Assistant and Secretary when you cannot attend a meeting.

10.10. **District Reps – K. Nakaska - (Report posted) - absent.**

- Focus on Convention and Specialist Councils
 - Proposed draft budget – ATA fee increase of approx. \$90.00. This will be discussed at ARA this year.
 - ACE – Alberta Colony Educators
 - Survey – would like to have a specialist council.
 - We need at least 200 active ATA members to fill out this survey. (see this link in Karen’s report)
 - Indigenous Education Committee
 - Recommendations
 - Prepare guidelines to appropriately host indigenous speakers at Conventions.
 - Have an Indigenous Education Facilitator.
 - Specialist Council – in Medicine Hat – Nov. 1st and 2nd.
 - Summer Conference Committee
 - Increase allowance for delegates for summer conference.
 - Increase grant and aid for delegates who travel beyond 500 km return.
 - All members should be able to stay at Banff Summer Conference.
 - Reduce the conference by one full day to 3 days.
 - DEHR committee
 - Establish 2 annual seminars.

10.11. **Provincial ATA – C. Gonsalvez – (Report posted)**

- Alberta Education has approached the Association with a request to have two curriculum-related sessions at each convention. ATA staff is integrating these sessions within the ATA staff and President sessions, and convention boards will be notified by email of these program changes.
- A reminder that the ATA Human Rights Statement is to be acknowledged at the convention – stated by the Convention President or Executive member at a Keynote session.
- Pull up displays for the ATA Human Rights Statement
- No attendance passes are needed for student local members attending convention.
- For convention boards who may wish to use the ATA Goose chase account, please reach out through your ATA Staff Advisor for the login credentials.
- Morgex has rebranded as Belair direct and will be at every convention, and Randy Pearson has indicated a willingness to offer prizes for

Goose chase activities that involve interaction with their Belair direct exhibit booth.

Motion: That PDTCA receives the committee reports as presented.
Moved by Carmen WasyInuik/Bernie Kirk. Carried

11. Action Items

- 11.1. Invited Guests – Superintendents and Board Members – J. White
- 11.2. Local Concerns
 - Why does the executive spend 2500.00 on computers?
 - Why does executive get a hotel room when they live in Calgary?
 - Want an update on alternate venues for our convention?

12. Business arising from the December 1st, 2023, minutes:

- 12.1. Jenn Munton/Amrit moved that we table the Policy Review to the March meeting because we have run out of time. Carried
- 12.2. **Policy Review**
 - Discuss the changes made to the Policy at the Policy meeting in December 2023. This policy has been on the minutes page for all to read to see the changes and come prepared to vote on these changes.

Meeting adjourned by J. White/S. Paton at 12:00 p.m.