



OUR SIDE OF THE TABLE #1 – March 13th, 2019

From: The Vernon Teachers' Association Negotiating Team

After surveying the membership last year, three rounds of school visits, several general meetings, and numerous meetings of the bargaining committee, we can report that today, the VTA Negotiating Team met with the Management Team for the first time. Our agenda was to discuss a Protocol Agreement, which is a document establishing the etiquette for our local bargaining process.

The VTA and Management introduced their respective Negotiations Teams as follows:

VTA: Barry Dorval, Lisa LaBoucane (spokespersons and lead negotiators), Cori Huizer, Robyn Ladner

Management: Tammy Sowinski (spokesperson and lead negotiator from BCPSEA), Malcolm Reid, Sterling Olsen

Ahead of today's meeting, the teams exchanged their protocol proposals by email. During the four hour meeting, we made significant progress on the process of combining them into one mutually agreed upon protocol document. We are very close on this and we expect to have a final version at our next meeting.

We also set eight more bargaining dates for April and May.

Of note: In our opening letter to the Board of Education, we were clear in our hope that we would see trustees at the bargaining table. The management team informed us that trustees won't be at the table. The VTA is still hoping to see them at some point during negotiations as observers.

The BCTF held a conference call on March 13th, announcing that the provincial parties have signed a "Facilitated Local Impasse Process". This process will be for any items that have been 'thoroughly canvassed' at the local tables, and that either party wants to refer for facilitation on or before June 15th. This is not a mediation or arbitration, but support to help the local union and management find an agreeable solution to their impasse. The facilitator travels to the local table, and the costs of the facilitator are borne by the provincial table.

- VTA Negotiating Team