

# Our Side of the Table



## Local Meeting – June 2, 2011

### Vernon Teachers' Association Negotiating Team

Today's meeting was delayed as Management needed more time to prepare. We began productively, however, by signing-off on three articles: A.21 - CEA's, G.34 – Self-Funded Leave (housekeeping), and G.32 – Long-Term Discretionary Leaves (housekeeping).

Bargaining broke out briefly today as we resumed the conversations about Staff Meetings. Management made a counter-proposal which acknowledged the need for limits on the number of Staff Meetings.

**VTA:** ***"We're convinced there is a need for a definition of staff meetings...teachers are constantly asking, 'Is this a staff meeting? Is that a staff meeting?'...I would like to be able to discuss a definition."***

**Management:** ***"Yes, we can talk about that."***

In the afternoon, we tabled Health and Safety language. The VTA Health and Safety Chair outlined our proposed improvements and updates to the current language (D.29) to match WorkSafe BC policies. Management would not discuss it.

We then tabled language under Article D.30 regarding our Joint District Health and Safety Committee. Management also tabled language on this article, but their suggestion was to eliminate it – and the committee – altogether.

**VTA President:** ***"You want to take a functioning committee and throw it out...I'm concerned about that."***

**Secretary-Treasurer:** ***"There's no question, we do take health and safety very seriously."***

**VTA President:** ***"I'm starting to think there is a question."***

Next, we proposed language on Violence Prevention and Protection in schools. Management would not discuss it.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 9th. You can send feedback and comments to: [vtanegotiatingteam@gmail.com](mailto:vtanegotiatingteam@gmail.com) You can also stay informed and post your comments to the new Facebook group: **"VTA Bargaining Page."**