



Teachers with Administrative Responsibilities Committee - Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Annual Report 2013 – 2014

Mandate

The mandate of the Teachers with Administrative Responsibilities (TWAR) Committee is to provide a voice for teachers in administrative positions. The committee reports to, and makes recommendations to, the Provincial Executive on matters affecting teachers with administrative responsibilities through various provincial committees. In addition, the committee considers resolutions for Annual Council and makes appropriate recommendations. The TWAR Committee has a close working relationship with the School Administrators Association (SAA).

Committee Membership

Paul Betuik
Grant Dunn
Grant MacLean (NSTU Executive Staff Officer)
Mary MacLeod
Joyce Veinot-Gates
Dan Stephenson (Committee Chair)
Mike Stewart
Robert Wigle

Meeting Dates

The TWAR Committee held meetings on the following dates:

November 1, 2013

March 21, 2014

April 4, 2014

Budget

The budget for the committee was \$5,775. The actual expenses for the committee to conduct business was \$5,108.

Overview of Discussions, Decisions and Activities:

- G. MacLean provided a review of roles and responsibilities and the history of the formation of TWAR.
- Discussion of administrators concerns with levels of the support from NSTU when administrators are in their role as agents for the boards. B.J Aucoin suggested as a resource to administrators as a PD opportunity. Committee members to make contact with RRC chairs.
- Discussion of the increasing roles and responsibilities of principals as site managers, increasing over-sight by boards seen as micro-managing, increasing number of reporting responsibilities.
- Discussion of the continuing concern with the level of member engagement.
- Discussion of up-coming resolutions for Annual Council.

- Discussion of the impact of the Cyber-Bullying Act on the role of the administrators, the process at schools, and the revisions to the departmental reporting process.
- Council resolutions were discussed before forwarding to PEWC.
- Discussion of the varying manners of the noon-time supervision and related challenges around the province.
- Discussion of the AIMS report as related to teacher discipline processes and the role of the Union. Clarification of factual errors in the report and the related media issues.
- Discussion of harassment policies in the Halifax and Tri-County Regional School Boards.
- Discussion of recent pension news and possible up-coming changes.
- Discussion of the direction and roles for Professional Learning Communities and Continuous School Improvement.
- Joint discussion with SAA regarding administrator roles and voice within the Union and perceptions of SAA resolutions that are received at Annual Council.
- Discussion of increasing legal liabilities for those in administrative roles.

Readers are directed to the minutes of the committee, as the official records, for any further clarification of the items noted above.

Suggested Committee Goals for 2014-15

- Increase collaboration with SAA.
- Raise awareness of collegial nature of administrator and teacher relationship.
- G. MacLean to participate in a session at SAA Conference Day.
- Review the role of the principal and offer direction for the separation of site-manager and instructional leader roles.

Summation

Continuing themes are arising over the years for members of the committee and the larger membership they represent. Contact and engagement with the Union, balancing site and instructional responsibilities, increasing reporting and liability concerns, and the teacher and administrator relationship continue to be at the forefront of administrator concerns.

M. Stewart, P. Betiuk, and D. Stephenson have completed their participation terms and received the thanks of the committee and the Union for their participation with the committee. The committee extends its thanks to G. MaLean for his support and guidance over the year.

Respectfully submitted by D. Stephenson (Chair TWAR 2013-2014)