

CROSSCURRENTS

MAGAZINE



WINTER 2013

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Vice-President's

*Getting ready for the AGM
Constitutional Motions
SEA Executive Candidates Form*

PSA's spend a day with reps from the Ministry

SEA Executive 2112/2013:

Crosscurrents Magazine is the official publication of the B.C. Special Education Association, a PSA of the BC Teachers' Federation.

Crosscurrents Magazine publishes original articles concerning issues related to special education. Practical and theoretical articles are sought. Potential contributors are encouraged to submit reviews of strategies, methodologies, publications, research, and historical and philosophical studies as well as reports of the effectiveness of innovative programs. The opinions expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, the SEA, or the BCTF. For information regarding this magazine or to submit articles, letters, etc., please contact the Editor for the Special Education Association of BC at: publicationssea@gmail.com

Please submit items as Microsoft Office (Word) documents. Please submit articles for the Winter 2012/13 issue to the Editor @ publicationssea@gmail.com by January 30, 2013.

Follow us on

twitter



@seaofbc





Vice-President's Message

Hello and Happy New Year! We are looking forward to seeing you all in a few short weeks at Crosscurrents, but we have a few things we want to share with you before then, so we are sending you this brief newsletter, a mini-newsletter, if you will. Firstly, we have proposed a couple of constitutional amendments we would like you to have a chance to look at before voting on them. In addition, we wanted to share with you a recent event involving SEA along with a number of other PSAs. Look for that story on page 4-5.

Please be sure to join us at the 2013 Annual General Meeting. This is the best opportunity all year long to meet and connect with members from around the province, to get news and updates on SEA activities, to have your say and maybe share a laugh. It is also the time to finally make that move to let us know of your intention to join the executive and participate with us on the exciting journey toward Crosscurrents. We are always looking for new faces and new ideas. Please consider completing the Candidate's Form on the following page. This year, elected positions include Secretary and Treasurer, as well as a two-year Member-at-Large position. Each position also connects to a job. While Secretary and Treasurer have clearly identified jobs attached, the Member-at-large positions may be assigned tasks as varied as Publications, Professional Learning, Speakers, Chapters & Membership, Conference Coordinator and Registrar. Be sure to indicate your areas of interest and related skills and experiences to help us in making the best match of person to role.

Annual General Meeting Proposed Constitutional Changes

At the latest executive meeting of the SEA, the following motions were passed to be presented at the AGM for ratification. Please read in preparation for the Special Education Association's Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday, February 21, 2013.

Motion #1: To add a section 2.4 to our Constitution, under Finances, stating that sitting executive members shall receive an annual complimentary membership.

Motion #2: To amend section 1.2 of our Constitution, related to Honorary Life Membership, to add that Past Presidents of the SEA shall automatically be granted a Honorary Life membership.

CANDIDATE'S FORM
S.E.A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2013-2014

Name: _____

Position/Title: _____

School(s): _____

District: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ School Phone: _____

I am a candidate for the following elected SEA (2-year) Position(s):

Secretary Treasurer Member-At-Large

I wish to be considered for an appointed (1 year) position _____

My candidacy is supported by:

Name: _____

District: _____

Home Phone: _____ School Phone: _____

Email Address _____

In addition to performing the tasks of the position, each SEA Executive member is assigned other job responsibilities and serves as a member of several committees. Please list, in priority order, all Executive jobs and committees of interest to you. Outline relevant previous experiences or interests.

At the AGM you will be requested to give a brief oral presentation (1-2 minutes) outlining your qualifications for the position.



PSAs & the Ministry of Education

On December 14, 2012, Reps from PSAs were invited to the BCTF to hear Bill Standeven and Rod Allan of the Ministry of Education present a report on Future Directions in Special Education to the BCTF Executive. Reps from a number of PSAs were in attendance, including Alternative Education, Gifted Education, and SEA.

Prior to the arrival of the Ministry reps, BCTF Researcher Charlie Naylor presented a well-researched pre-report to the assembly, which was followed by a Q & A session. Although the PSA reps were not included in the speakers list at the end of his report, we were provided a brief opportunity to ask questions following the presentation from the Ministry.

Charlie's report was based on his careful study of a number of recent documents and reports released by the Ministry, as well as the reaction to some recent relevant court cases. Charlie reviewed The BC Education Plan and the Global Education Leader's Program (GELP), the Special Education Innovation Projects. Future of Special Education in BC*, and a Case Study: Developing an Education System, for the 21st century.

Charlie's key concerns were presented:

- Three overt 'drivers' for the impetus to 'reform SPED (the Levin Report, 2011)
- Various educational jurisdictions are arguing that SPED is not working to produce improved outcomes for students
- Paperwork takes priority over service to students
- The increased prevalence of attaching EAs to individual students appears to produce no improvements in outcomes.

7 Other things to consider

- *Provide appropriate & relevant support for resource/support teachers who work with SPED students*
- *Provide significant pro-D to support the delivery of research-based targeted or intensive support interventions*
- *Develop a school-wide resource-allocation model that supports the principal and school team in the allocation of EA time*
- *Transition the funding model for student support services from one based on designation criteria to a mixed funding model (targetted & block)*
- *Change ministry accountability requirements from compliance audits to quality review self-audits that are based on student achievement information and plans for improvement as part of the reporting-out process*
- *Develop a simplified IEP template*
- *Support and promote self-directed IEPs for secondary students*

While the BC report copies the Saskatchewan model which call for in-service training as one key principle, there is no suggestion of increased funding to enable in-service to occur. Might the model be implemented but in-service omitted?



Discussion questions to consider

- *Designations/funding is a pivotal issue – are changes driven by economic or educational considerations?*
- *Explicit rationale is education, but is the implicit rationale economic?*
- *What are the potential ramifications of a shift in the funding and service-delivery model?*
- *How realistic are proposals restating what was recommended in the 2000 Review of SPED, when they have not been addressed in 12 years?*
- *Some positive elements if focus is sustained*
 - *UDL*
 - *change in audits*
 - *Simplified IEP*
 - *Focus on collaboration (if extended to include BCTF)*
- *Contradictions between history of present government cuts, lack of systemic support & proposals suggesting increased support for resource teacher*
- *Is there a changing role for school psychologist with the RTI proposal?*
- *BCTF and PSAs systematically excluded from information, discussion and pilots, with BC CASE consider the key link for the ministry*
- *Should the BCTF consider how to better access and share information through its PSAs, locals and other channels*
- *BCTF link to community organization – possible Inclusion Summit with a neutral facilitator*
- *How might the Moore case impact future service delivery?*
- *What strategies and actions to consider pre-and post- election?*

Then the Ministry Reps Spoke

After Charlie completed his report and the assembly broke for lunch, Bill Standeven and Rod Allen presented the report: "Future Directions for Support Services: Pilots and other Projects that Flow Out of "The Pilot"*

This report was first presented to the Family Focus conference in October 2012 and later to BCCASE. No plans were made to present to any teacher group until the BCTF made the explicit invitation.

The Report presented a comprehensive 'vision' of special education based on 3 Key Principles

1. Early Intervention
2. A continuum of instructional support based on UDL and RTI
3. A Transition Years Model for school completion.

While the framework contains many positives, including streamlining of the IEP process and an emphasis on UDL and RTI, it is very short on particulars about how these practices can be realistically implemented and supported in schools with the eroded levels of funding extant.. During the brief Q & A that followed, several questions addressed this issue. The obvious answer; *firm and reasonable case-load limits and adequate training and qualifications for school-based resource teachers*, was presented to the assembly by your SEA rep. Sadly, no promises were made.

Respectfully submitted
Stephanie Koropatnick (Acting Vice-President)

** For a copy of the report, please contact me at seasecretaryandmailout@gmail.com*



SEA Executive 2012/2013

President:

Bonnie Jean Foulds

Seabcpresident@gmail.com

**Acting Vice President/
Secretary & Conference Mailout:**

Stephanie Koropatnick

Seasecretaryandmailout@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Lorna Foster

treasurersea@gmail.com

MAL: Conference Chair

Alison Ogden

seaconferencechair@gmail.com

MAL: Chapters/Membership

Denise Chow

seamemberscoordinator@gmail.com

MAL: Conference Speakers

Mary Berg

seaspeakers@gmail.com

MAL: Conference Speakers

Karen Hynd

seabcspeakers@gmail.com

MAL: Registrar

Carol McAndrew

searegistrar@gmail.com

MAL: Exhibitors/Sponsorship

Cindy Blackmore

seaexhibitors@gmail.com

Last Word....

*Remember.... there are still a
few days left to get in your
registration for...*

CROSSCURRENTS 2013

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 6**

Register online at: www.bctf.ca/SEA

