

PROGRESS REPORT: AN UPDATE ON 2015-16 BCSTA RESOLUTIONS

Issue 06 Resources What's New

March 31, 2016



In October, we provided an update on the activity around our 2015 AGM resolutions. Since then, we have continued to contribute to our strategic priorities, and would like to share a progress report on our AGM resolutions as well as the resolutions passed at our October 2015 and February 2015 Provincial Council.

[AGM 2015 Resolutions Tracking Document](#)

[BCSTA Resolutions Tracking 2015-16](#)

CENTRAL OKANAGAN SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE SPILLS ON WHAT IT'S BEEN LIKE BEING A NEW TRUSTEE

Issue 06 Profiles What's New

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Lee-Ann Tiede felt somewhat prepared when starting her term as a newly-elected school trustee for the Central Okanagan School District.

First, she has three children and is an active parent, giving her direct experience with the education system. She familiarized herself with local school district issues, read the district's trustee handbook and she has a sister-in-law who served as a trustee for 15 years, providing her insight in how it all works. Tiede also has experience serving on boards before, such as being a director of the Kelowna-Lake Country Electoral District Association.

During her campaign, she realized most people don't quite understand what school trustees actually do. After winning her seat, she quickly realized that a big part of her job is being a sounding board for unfiltered grievances from both faculty and parents, even if it's unrelated to her new position.

"I have this mom calling me all the time, asking how to get her daughter on the basketball team," Tiede said, with a hint of laughter. "She also has some issues with the coach and I've told her, 'be careful what you say to me, otherwise I can't be your advocate.' Then she says, 'I know, I just want you to listen.'"

Shortly after being elected in November 2014, she attended the BC School Trustees Association's annual Trustee Academy in Vancouver. The conference provided her a wealth of information, and one breakout session she attended was geared specifically to new trustees. She left that orientation with a name and number of an experienced person who she could call for help and advice, anytime.

"My mentor was actually [BCSTA president] Teresa Rezanoff," Tiede said. "To have that resource and the ear of the president of the BCSTA, that was huge. It was a great confidence booster to have someone like that looking over your shoulder."

Attending that session and making that contact soon benefited Tiede tremendously. She ended up chairing the Exempt Staff Committee that is charged with hiring senior staff, and an opening suddenly came up.

“This was my first term... then, our CEO, the superintendent resigned,” Tiede said, explaining she had no experience in the recruitment process. “It was expected, he was retiring, but I was a bit wet behind the ears.”

Tiede called Rezanoff for advice and help and she also had the support of her fellow trustees and district staff, all of which made her feel more confident in what she had to do.

“I had a great team to work with,” Tiede said. “We hired a fabulous CEO.”

It’s been just over a year since Tiede became a trustee and she has enjoyed her experience thus far, though she shares many of the same frustrations other trustees have, such as dealing with a limited school budget. Her favourite part of the job is visiting her liaison schools and interacting with the students. Last year, her middle child graduated from high school and Tiede spoke to that graduating class as both a school board representative and a proud mother.

“I thoroughly embarrassed my daughter,” Tiede laughed.

Besides spending up to 20 hours a week doing trustee-related work, Tiede juggles that commitment with her day job, working in administration for a healthcare technology company. Surprisingly, she hasn’t had a problem with balancing her two jobs and family life.

“It sounds really silly, but I have more family time now than before because everyone thinks I’m too busy,” Tiede said. “Friends don’t ask me to babysit for them because they think I’m too busy. I’m just not being asked to do all the crazy stuff that would fill up my day.”

While the next school trustee election isn’t until 2018, Tiede is receptive to running for a second term. She originally ran because she felt the school district was already doing a great job and she wanted to play an active role in maintaining that.

However, there is one thing that she completely dislikes that comes with being a school trustee which could prevent her from running again.

“Campaigning wasn’t fun,” Tiede said. “It might be different now as I’ve already been out there and did all that so people know who I am now, but selling myself is something I’ve never done before.

“I love what I do and if I can continue doing this without having to campaign again, I totally would.”

Author: Christopher Sun, Writer, BCSTA

HOW AGM WORKS

Issue 06 Resources Uncategorized What's New

March 31, 2016



To better prepare trustees for our upcoming BCSTA Annual General Meeting on April 14-17, 2016, below is a refresher on the purpose and procedures for AGM.

THE MAIN PURPOSES OF BCSTA'S AGM

The main purposes of the Annual General Meeting are to:

Discuss issues brought before the AGM by member Boards, Branches, the BCSTA Education Committee, the Aboriginal Education Committee, the Provincial Council and the Board of Directors. According to the Bylaws, the AGM:

- creates and amends Bylaws
- sets long-term Association policy
- sets a short-term advocacy agenda for the coming year.

Elect officers for the Association who will serve until the next AGM. The officers are the President, Vice-President, and five Directors (or four Directors in years when there is an immediate Past President). Between AGMs, the Provincial Council and the Board of Directors are charged with ensuring that the wishes of the membership expressed at the AGM are carried out. The Provincial Council may adopt resolutions on emergent advocacy issues.

PROCEDURES FOR BCSTA'S AGM

The BCSTA Bylaws cover points of order and procedures. Robert's Rules of Order and the Standing Rules of Order adopted by the meeting cover points of order and procedures not covered in the Bylaws.

DELEGATES: Delegates to the BCSTA AGM are school trustees of member Boards of Education and BCSTA life members.

QUORUM: Fifty delegates constitute a quorum under Bylaw 8(b).

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: The President appoints a Credentials Committee to validate duly accredited delegates and to act in the event of a dispute over voting powers. This committee reports to the delegates from time to time during the AGM on the number of duly accredited delegates present and the number of votes they carry.

CHAIRMAN: The President of BCSTA, or persons designated by the President, Chairs all sessions of the AGM.

SEATING: All delegates and special guests are asked to wear their name badges. Delegates sit with their respective Boards (in branch groupings). Gallery seating is provided for guests.

ELECTIONS: According to the Bylaws (15 (b) and (c)), nominations for office are to be submitted at least 30 days prior to the AGM. If nominations haven't been received for all offices, a nominating committee is appointed.

Additional nominations are called for at the conclusion of the opening ceremonies.

A Board of Directors Candidates' Forum will be held on Friday, April 15 from 3:45 – 4:30 p.m.

Each candidate for office will also have an opportunity to speak briefly (three minutes) to the delegates on Saturday morning, April 16. Elections are by ballot and will be held immediately after the speeches.

Each member Board of Education is provided with ballots. The Chair will announce the ballot number before marking takes place. Under current bylaws, a candidate must receive a clear majority of votes to be elected. In the election of Directors, balloting occurs until four (or five in years where there is no immediate past President) candidates are elected. In 2015, five Directors will be elected.

Defeated candidates may be nominated for other positions immediately before the election for that office.

According to Bylaw 9, "Delegates shall be school trustees duly accredited by the Boards of Education of which they are members. For purposes of ballot voting, Boards of Education having an annual enrollment of pupils (actual pupils, not full-time equivalents) at the most recent date established by the Ministry of Education for the reporting of student populations, shall have the following number of votes irrespective of the number of delegates:

1 to 249 pupils 1 vote

250 to 999 pupils 2 votes

1,000 to 1,999 pupils 3 votes

2,000 to 5,999 pupils 4 votes

6,000 to 11,999 pupils 6 votes

12,000 to 17,999 pupils 8 votes

18,000 to 23,999 pupils 10 votes
24,000 to 29,999 pupils 12 votes
30,000 to 35,999 pupils 14 votes
36,000 to 47,999 pupils 15 votes
48,000 to 59,999 pupils 16 votes
60,000 to 71,999 pupils 17 votes
72,000 to 83,999 pupils 18 votes
84,000 and over pupils 19 votes

RULES OF ORDER

The following Rules of Order are designed to facilitate progress at general meetings of the British Columbia School Trustees Association, to include members in orderly debate, and to ensure courtesy, fairness, and equality for all:

THE MEETING will be conducted in accordance with the Constitution, the Bylaws of the association, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised and any rules of order adopted by the assembly.

ACCREDITED DELEGATES are school trustees of member Boards and life members. Only accredited delegates may vote on, or speak to a motion.

GUESTS may be allowed to speak only at the discretion of the Chair. Guests must sit in the public gallery at the rear of the room.

ORDER OF BUSINESS is as written in the program, subject to alteration by a majority of the assembly, and subject to alterations deemed necessary by time considerations, at the discretion of the Chair.

SPEAKERS. A delegate wishing to speak must use one of the assigned microphones, be recognized by the Chair, and state their name and school district. The mover of the motion is entitled to speak first and to close debate after others have done so, except where there is a successful motion to immediately call the question.

DEBATE shall be limited to three (3) minutes for each speaker for each question.

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS must be related to the pending motion or report.

AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS shall be presented in writing to the Business Table, then provided by the Business Table to the Deputy Chair or Parliamentarian.

BALLOTS will be distributed at registration to each life member and secretary-treasurer (or other accredited representative) of each member Board. All ballots including the chief scrutineer's reports shall be placed in the custody of the Chief Executive Officer to be retained until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, after which time, they will be destroyed if no election or voting issue has been contested.

SCRUTINEERS will be representatives from the BC Association of School Business Officials, who will be responsible for the counting of votes and the collecting of ballots when a ballot vote is required.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES shall be silenced during the meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Per Bylaw 15, officers are elected in the following way: Should any candidate for the office of President or Vice-President receive a clear majority of the votes cast

Should any candidate for the office of President or Vice-President receive a clear majority of the votes cast upon the first ballot, he/she shall be declared to be elected. Should no candidate receive such clear majority, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes on the first ballot shall be dropped from the list and a second ballot and, if necessary, subsequent ballots shall be held in like manner until one (1) candidate receives a clear majority of the votes cast and such candidate shall thereupon be declared to be elected.

In the election of Directors, there shall be sequential rounds of balloting, with four (4) Directors elected in years when there is an immediate past President, and five (5) Directors otherwise. The following procedures apply: i. For each round of balloting, a ballot shall be issued for each vote allocated under 9(a) or (b), on which a voter may mark a sub-vote for each one or more candidates, not to exceed the number of candidates to be elected;

For each round of balloting, a ballot shall be issued for each vote allocated under 9(a) or (b), on which a voter may mark a sub-vote for each one or more candidates, not to exceed the number of candidates to be elected;

A threshold number of sub-votes is established equal to 50 per cent of the validly cast ballots;

Candidates are elected in order of the number of sub-votes received, provided they receive more than the threshold number of sub-votes.

If no candidate is elected on a ballot, the candidate with the lowest number of votes is dropped off.

Further rounds of balloting continue until the required number of Directors is elected.

PREVIEW: CSBA CONGRESS 2017 IN WHISTLER, BC

Issue 06 News & Events What's New

March 31, 2016

We are happy to announce that BCSTA will host the 2017 Canadian School Boards Association Congress and the Trustees, Educators and Aboriginal Gathering in beautiful Whistler, BC!

We hope to see a lot of our BC colleagues there, as it will be a unique opportunity to network with individuals from across Canada and learn from one another. More information will follow in the coming months, but in the meantime we wanted to give you a sneak peek into the look and feel of this exciting conference. Save the date: July 5-8, 2017.