

Central East District Representative Report January 2015

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DR Meeting Dates:

Jan. 15-16: Prov. Exec. Council
Jan. 19: Northern Lights Exec. Mtg.
Jan. 20: Battle River LC
Jan. 22: Committee on Role of Superintendent
Jan. 22: Curriculum Committee
Jan. 28: Aspen View LC
Jan. 30: Wellbeing of Children Committee
Jan. 30: NETCA Exec. Mtg.
Feb. 3: Battle River Exec. Mtg.
Feb. 5: Lakeland Catholic LC
Feb 6 -7: Local Presidents' Mtg
Feb. 9: Park Plains East Exec. Mtg.
Feb. 12 – 13: NETCA Convention
Feb. 18: Park Plains East LC
Feb. 23: Northern Lights LC
Feb. 28: Teacher Welfare Field Services Mtg.
Feb. 28: Battle River Pension Seminar

Specialist Council Conference Dates



Media Campaign!



Oil prices are dropping and the Alberta government is already hinting that the next budget will be a lean one. Click above to write your MLA to let them know that education funding must be a priority, even in times of low oil prices.

Provincial Executive Council: January 15 – 16, 2015

ATA Elections 2015: Ensure you can vote!

Provincial Elections

- Voter registration and **polls open** February 27, 2015 and close March 22 at 1700. We viewed a **demonstration of voting** online which presidents will also see at their upcoming meeting.
- Mark Ramsankar has been **acclaimed** as Provincial ATA President
- There will be an election for **Provincial Vice-Presidents (2)**. The following four candidates are running for VP: Greg Jeffery, Myrna McLean, Katherine Pritchard, Robert Twerdoclib

Government

- Annual Representative Assembly (ARA) will debate the **proposed budget** of 1.72% increase, which would increase our fees by twenty-one dollars to \$1245 per annum.
- Alberta Education – starting to develop a relationship with the new minister. We continue to press for an SLA as a tool for teachers to use in a rich repertoire of assessment. We do not want this to slip into a practice of **analysis of the responses** as PATs have. We continue to press on the issue of complexity and diversity in Alberta classrooms.

- **Alberta Education Regulatory Review**
Alberta Education is again actively working to develop regulations to support implementation of the Education Act. The Regulatory Review Project was overseen by a ministerial committee composed of one public member and four members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), including Maureen Kubinec, MLA for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock, as chair. Recommendations of particular interest to us include – home education, private schools, fees, school councils, charter schools.
- **Third-Party Study on Teacher Workload Advisory committee** – Approximately one-third of the Teacher Workload Survey has been completed. Researchers expect to be able to meet the deadline of July 31/15 for submission of the report.
- **Provincial Legislature – Spring sitting** will commence March 10
- **Meeting Dates for 2015/16**
Local Presidents' Meetings:
2015 10 30(eve)–31, AND 2016 02 05(eve)–06
Provincial Executive Council meetings:
2015 09 24–25 (T/F), 2015 10 29–30 (T/F), 2015 12 03–04 (T/F), 2016 01 14–15 (T/F)
2016 02 22–23 (M/T), 2016 04 07–08 (T/F), 2016 05 12–13 (T/F), 2016 06 09–10 (T/F)
- Dr. B T Keeler has died. We donated \$5000 in his memory to the Education Trust
- **Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF):** We forwarded 13 candidate names for participation in **Project Overseas 2015**. We provide funding for ten Alberta teachers to participate.
- **Media Campaign** -Reworking previous commercials with added features for the spring.

Research

- **Digital Reporting and Digital Assessment Tools: Evaluating Their Value and Their Impact** – A new research report, Digital Reporting and Digital Assessment Tools: Evaluating their Value and their Impact, was recently published. The research data show that digital reporting tools are seen as having low value on impacting instruction and assessment, yet extremely high impact on workload. See infographic at the end of report.
- A specific example of this research – students affected by glitches during Part A writing of English 30-1 and -2 last week.
- A new project is underway between Canada and Norway called the **NORCAN initiative**. This project will focus on the commitment to improve student learning in mathematics informed by the principle of “excellence through equity.” The proposed research question for this international partnership is: How can an international network of schools and educators committed to mindful leadership help to identify obstacles to students' mathematics learning and develop strategies for attaining success?

Professional Development

- **Diversity, Equity, and Human Rights (DEHR) Conference** – March 13 – 14 at Barnett House. Keynote speaker is **Darren Lund** discussing the importance of promoting equity and the acceptance of differences within schools and communities . Two delegates per local are eligible to attend. A limited number of additional delegates are welcome. Please contact your local president for eligibility and registration information.

- Research Needs to Support Inclusive Education -
<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ATA%20News/Volume%2049%202014-15/Number9/Pages/Research-needed-to-advance-inclusion-in-schools.aspx>
- 76th Annual Palliser Convention February 19 & 20, 2015- iLearn, iTeach, iLead
<http://www.pdtca.org/>
- Apply for an ATA Fellowship or Scholarship - Deadline February 27, 2015
<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/News%20Room/Announcements/Pages/Apply-for-an-ATA-Fellowship-or-Scholarship.aspx>

Member Services

- Have you read the latest issue of the ATA Magazine – What Does Member Services Do? Excellent issue!!
<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ATA%20Magazine/Volume%2095%202014-15/Number-2/Pages/Index.aspx>
- **e-liability** – don't write or respond to email when you are upset.

Teacher Welfare

- Teachers interested in becoming **Retirement Consultants** are invited to submit letters of application to Chris M Gibbon, Executive Staff Officer, Teacher Welfare via email chris.gibbon@ata.ab.ca or via mail to 11010 142 Street NW, Edmonton T5N 2R1. Letters should highlight reasons for applying and any relevant skills. Deadline for application is February 6, 2015.

DIGITAL REPORTING & ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Evaluating their impact on classrooms



In Alberta, the use of digital reporting tools (eg, PowerSchool, StudentsAchieve and Desire2Learn) and digital assessment tools (eg, Mathletics, SuccessMaker, DreamBox Learning Math and Raz-Kids) has grown dramatically over the past decade. In 2014, the Alberta Teachers' Association and University of Alberta researchers surveyed over 1,100 teachers and principals from across urban and rural Alberta about the perceived value and impact of these digital tools on instruction and assessment practices, teachers' work life and shifting parental expectations.

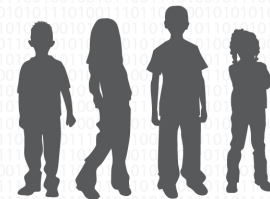
VALUE

Low Trust in Improving Instruction and Assessment for Students

Have digital reporting tools **improved** the level of instruction and assessment in classrooms?



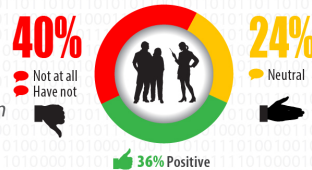
*Note that this trend line is now consistently moving towards the negative with each study on the subject conducted over the past five years.



Not Facilitating Communication

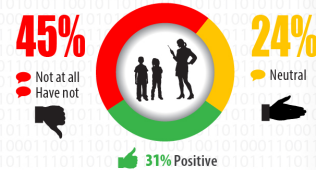
PARENTS

Have digital reporting tools facilitated and improved communication **with parents**?



STUDENTS

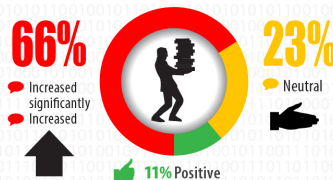
Have digital reporting tools facilitated and improved communication **with students**?



IMPACT

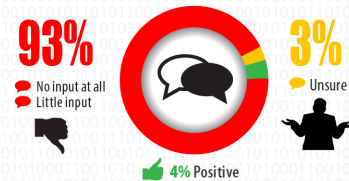
Significant Workload Issues For Teachers

How have digital reporting tools affected **your workload**?



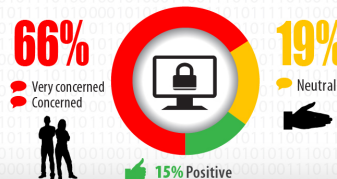
Relatively No Consultation or Input when Selecting or Implementing Digital Tools

How much input did you have in **choosing and implementing** this reporting tool?



Low Flexibility of the Digital Tools

How do you feel about the **flexibility** of digital tools?



Poor Technical & Professional Development Supports

What sort of **professional development supports** did you receive when initially attempting to learn how to use the digital reporting tool?

