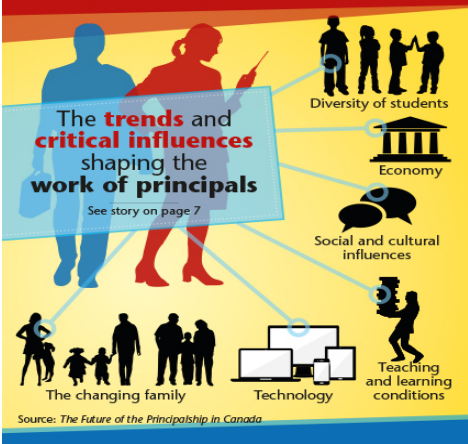
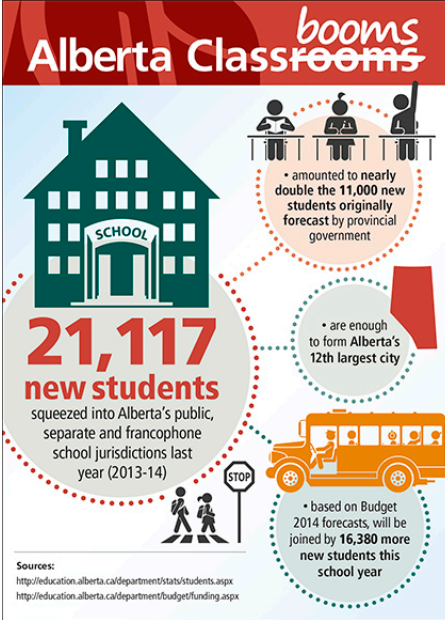


## Central East District Representative Report September 2014

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<p><b>DR Meeting Dates:</b></p> <p>Sept. 2 Battle River Sept. 4: Lakeland Catholic Sept. 5 NETCA convention Sept. 9 Greater St. Paul Sept. 10 RMEC specialist council Sept. 11 – 13 Fall Strategic Planning Sept. 15 Northern Lights Sept. 16 Battle River Sept. 17 Park Plains East Sept. 18-19 Provincial Executive Council Sept. 22 Well-Being of Children and Youth committee Sept. 24 Aspen View Sept. 26 Beginning Teachers' Conference Oct. 2 Lakeland Catholic Oct. 7 Battle River Oct. 14 Greater St. Paul Oct. 16 Curriculum Committee Oct. 18 NDP Leadership Convention Oct. 20 Northern Lights Oct. 22 Park Plains East Oct. 23 – 24 PEC Oct. 24 – 25 Local Presidents' Meeting Oct. 29 Aspen View</p>	<p><b>Important Dates:</b></p> <p>Beginning Teachers Sept. 25-27 <b>Substitute Teachers' Conference Oct. 17-18</b> TWAC Nov. 14-15 PDAC Nov. 28-29 Inductions and/or Retirement Park Plains East: October 15 Northern Lights: October 3 or 17 Greater St. Paul: October 18 Battle River: November 18 Lakeland Catholic: October 27 Aspen View</p>  <p>Source: <i>The Future of the Principals in Canada</i></p>	 <p>Sources: <a href="http://education.alberta.ca/department/stats/students.aspx">http://education.alberta.ca/department/stats/students.aspx</a> <a href="http://education.alberta.ca/department/budget/funding.aspx">http://education.alberta.ca/department/budget/funding.aspx</a></p>
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### From Professional Development

- 520 registrations for **Beginning Teachers Conference** in Edmonton. Please call in to Barnett House if you have not registered but intend to attend. Ask for PD section when calling.
- The Blue Ribbon Panel on Inclusive Education **released its report** last week. The report is organized around seven themes and contain 38 recommendations. The themes around essential conditions for implementation are: a) shared vision, b) leadership, c) research and evidence, d) resources, e) teacher professional growth, f) time and g) community engagement. The report is available online and will also be provided in condensed form later this year. Find it here→

<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ATA%20News/Volume%2049%202014-15/Number-3/Pages/Province-has-lost.aspx>

- SLA update: PEC **passed a recommendation** to urge the minister to direct school boards who do not have resources to immediately **withdraw from the pilot of SLAs**. Issues: marking time @ 40 minutes per student; school boards not providing release time and/or class time to administer SLAs. As an association we support PAT withdrawal and SLA implementation, however, not SLAs as the ministry is currently rolling out. See this article →

<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ATA%20News/Volume%2049%202014-15/Number-3/Pages/ATA-calls-on-minister.aspx>

- ATA Educational Trust Conference Grant \$400 – **deadline** to apply is September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Substitute Teachers' Conference October 17 & 18<sup>th</sup> in Edmonton!

## **From Government:**

### Prentice government

- Dirks, Mandel, Prentice: will run in byelections late October or early November.
- Gordon Dirks, new Minister of Education **met with President Mark Ramsankar** last week. He also came to PEC on Thursday afternoon to meet and listen. A letter was sent to the Minister on Friday regarding SLAs.
- Greg Bass has moved laterally to another deputy minister position and Gene Williams will serve as acting deputy minister.
- Legislature returns November 17 with Bills 9 and 10 dying on the order paper. These bills dealt with **public and private sector pension plan** amendments.

## **Actions:**

- We approved a **Local Presidents’ meeting** on the Friday evening prior to ARA.
- We approved up to a 2 million dollar **loan to BCTF** to assist in their strike. The \$ interest on the loan is allocated to SEF. Payment structure will be forwarded out.
- We approved a **\$25000 gift** to Syndicat des enseignants et enseignements du programme francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (SEPF BC teachers).
- Establishment of 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee for 2018.

## Research

- Teaching and Learning Conditions in Alberta: A comparison of recent research findings reinforced conclusions we have reached about workload of teachers. Corroboration from another research organization adds credibility to our findings.
- Parkland Institute Fall Conference: “Workers versus Profiteers: Labour, Power and Democracy” November 21 – 23, 2014
- The Future of the Principalship in Canada project and A Week in the Life of Alberta School Leaders were recently released - copies available
- Development of Teachers Leading Curriculum Change: A Whole-System Approach for Creating a Great School for All – we talk about “**renewal of curriculum**” not “redesign,” purposefully.
- David Berliner book: 50 Myths and Lies that Threaten America’s Public Schools
- Thomas Keenan book: Technocreep: The Surrender of Privacy and the Capitalization of Intimacy
- Growing Up Digital (GUD) – a **project partnered** between ATA and Harvard Medical School and School of Public Health. This will be the **world’s largest study** of technology, learning and health impacts on K-12 students.
- Pay attention to Dr. John Hattie research. He **rejects class size** as an important factor in education and dismisses socioeconomic background as having any influence on education. Read “Visible Learning and Invisible Leadership” article. Find it here →

<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ATA%20News/Volume%2049%202014-15/Number-3/Pages/Viewpoints.aspx>

## Media and such

- Media Campaign – begins end of this month. It will be multi-media with a focus on parents with school aged children. The ads are positive, humorous and general. A parallel micro-site has been created that can be easily changed, is specific and is serious/hard-hitting. Geo-targeted ads in the form of transit shelters radio, on-line, newspaper, specialty media, TV, and movie.
- No lanyards! Note!!
- CTF – we fund overseas projects: Pan African Teachers’ Centre, Teachers’ Action for Teachers, Teachers’ Action for Gender Equality, Palliser Dominca IT Project, Tools for Schools, Africa Foundation, Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan et.al.
- We had good representation at the annual meeting of CTF; President Mark was **reelected as a vice-president**.
- We are considering building options for SARO (Southern Alberta Regional Office)

## From Member Services:

**Trends:** Tweeting inappropriate messages, violating privacy.

- The association always seeks to ensure fair **process** for teachers and not to protect bad teachers.
- Board of reference decision – A board acted inappropriately in firing a teacher because of poor performance when they did not consider other teaching assignments that would be more appropriate for this teacher and where the teacher had previously been successful. This is incompetence in current assignment but not incompetent as the teacher had been successful in “other teaching settings”
- Board of reference – is fair process for a teacher. See this example →

<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ATA%20News/Volume%2049%202014-15/Number-2/Pages/No-zero-teacher.aspx>

## **Professional Conduct**

- The executive secretary has exercised power to immediately suspend two teachers who have serious charges brought against them.
- Complainant refusal to agree to an invitation would send the matter to a hearing. This has been amended. Complainant no longer has to agree to invitation. ES can order an invitation.

## **From Teacher Welfare:**

- **Web based videos** on “Steps to Retirement” and coming . . . Parental and Maternity Leave.
- **Top priorities of EPCs:** educating members on current entitlements building EPC capacity, building member support for collective bargaining, and researching members’ conditions of practice.
- Autonomy is a theme in bargaining. Autonomous P.D. How much of teachers personal money is going into P.D.?
- We are launching a four part pension campaign to educate ourselves about our pension. The first part is “It’s my future.” See post cards.

## **Legislated Framework – Part C: Teacher Workload**

- C1 – a report a year ago.
- C2 – Well, this is a hornet’s nest, but, our commitment to these demonstrates our willingness to work with government and boards in a constructive manner. This work also provides the foundation for our next round of bargaining in 2015 – 2016 around instructional and assignable time.
- C3 – 3700 teachers are part of this third party workload study.
- C4 – TCPAC has met successfully during the summer. A new minister may create change in this area.
- C5 – P.D. has started work on awareness of this clause and collection of data.

- Motion: that the **ATA urge the government of Alberta** to take ownership of the legislated settlement and direct superintendents and school boards to **comply with the requirements** of the Assurance for Students Act 2013 and produce tangible results by the end of the 2014 – 2015 school year.
- Teacher Board Liaison Committee: these are important for good **relationships** and for board members to clearly see what issues teachers have. The committee is difficult to establish if there is resistance. Here we need to exercise **diplomacy**. However, if there is nothing but frustration with the process, please contact Sharon Vogrinetz for a chat.

**Elaine** 😊