# Welcome to the 2022 Council of Representatives (COR) Training!





Local 37 of The Alberta Teachers' Association

# Everything you Wanted to Know About Local 37

But Were Afraid to Ask!

# **Introductions**

# **Local Office Staff:**

Tracy Kuehnemuth: Office Coordinator
 tracy.Kuehnemuth@edpub.org

 Wendy O'Brien: Local Staff Administrator wendy.obrien@edpub.org

Sharon Thorn: Bookkeeper



# Introductions

Catherine LeBlanc: Executive Staff Officer

catherine.leblanc@edpub.org

## Call Catherine if you have questions about:

- Leaves of Absence (Maternity/Parental/Adoption/Medical)
- Retirement
- Instructional minutes, assignable time, 30 minute work break
- Collegial/Interpersonal Relationship Issues



# Baby Steps...

"When I hear people say,
"the ATA"
what does that mean?

What are they referring to?"



The Local you belong to is based on the school district that you work for. In this case, that's Edmonton Public Schools (your employer.)

Most of our members when referring to "the ATA", actually mean the Local.



- People often confuse the Provincial Association with the Local.
- When people refer to "Provincial", "the ATA",
   "the Association", the "Big A", they are referring to
   the big umbrella organization.



- The Association is the provincial organization representing approximately 48,000 teachers across Alberta
- to arouse and increase public interest in the importance of education and public knowledge of the aims of education, financial support for education, and other education matters
- They also act as the Bargaining Agent for the 55 Locals across Alberta, and a few Charter Schools as well.





Local 37 of The Alberta Teachers' Association

When we refer to "your/the Local", we're referring to one of the 55 Locals that falls under the umbrella.

In this case,

**Edmonton Public Teachers, Local 37.** 



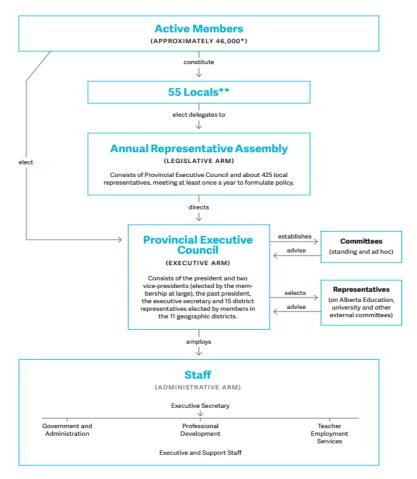
Local Assignments to Geographic Districts





# A.T.A. Structure and Organization





- In addition to active members, the Association has approximately 21,000 members included in other categories—associate. life and student.
- \*\* The Association also has 14 student locals and one special local.

# **Provincial ATA - Teacher Employment Services (TES)**

### **Association Program Area**



**Teacher Employment Services** for concerns arising from the law, general employment, the collective agreement, professional conduct or operation of the local.

### **Areas of Focus**

- Contracts of employment
- Professional relations/harassment
- Interpersonal relationships
- Assault/allegations
- Transfers/suspensions/terminations
- Evaluations and professional competencies
- Teacher rights, responsibilities, legal liability
- · Collective agreements
- Salaries, benefits and pension
- · Medical leaves and disability
- Maternity/parental leave
- Employment Insurance (EI)
- Occupational health and safety
- Group health benefits, including Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan



# **Provincial ATA - Professional Development**

Professional Development for assistance with matters related to pedagogy, curriculum, student assessment and teacher education.

- Curriculum
- Teacher professional growth plans
- Teacher Qualifications Service (TQS)
- Teachers' conventions
- Specialist councils
- Workshops, courses and presentations
- Grants, awards and scholarships

\*\* Principals and classroom teachers can request workshops, courses and presentation for their schools

## **Provincial ATA - Government**

**Government** for matters dealing with public education, political action, research and Association operations.

- Political action/advocacy
- ATA News, ATA Magazine and website
- ATA library
- Liaison with provincial government
- Association policy
- Research

# **Provincial Executive Council (aka P.E.C.)**

- a 20-person committee that creates and sets ATA policies and practices.
   It also creates standing and ad hoc committees to advise and assist it on various education-related matters.
- PEC includes the elected representatives of Alberta teachers plus the Association's executive secretary.
- Of the 20 members, 15 are **district representatives** from 11 geographic districts.
- The other five are the president, two vice-presidents, the past president and the executive secretary. Collectively, these five are referred to as the Table Officers or TO's.
- PEC meets at least eight times each year.



# Edmonton-McMurray vs Edmonton District

- Edmonton-McMurray is the district we (Ed Pub) belong to.
- It's comprised of Edmonton Public, Edmonton Catholic, and Fort McMurray Public & Catholic.

- It can get a little confusing because there is also "Edmonton District", which is comprised of Elk Island Public & Catholic, Greater St. Albert Catholic, St. Albert Public, and Sturgeon.
- Essentially the districts that directly surround Edmonton.

# **District Representatives:**

- Members of each geographic district elect their district representative(s) for two-year terms. (The next Provincial election is spring 2023.)
- They are very often referred to as "D.R.'s"
- The D.R.'s for Edmonton-McMurray District are:



District Representative
Nancy L Ball
nancy.ball@ata.ab.ca



District Representative

Darrin A Bauer

darrin.bauer@ata.ab.ca



District Representative

Carmen N Glossop

carmen.glossop@ata.ab.ca



Where's the Local office?

What does the structure of our Local look like?

Who is representing me at the Local level?



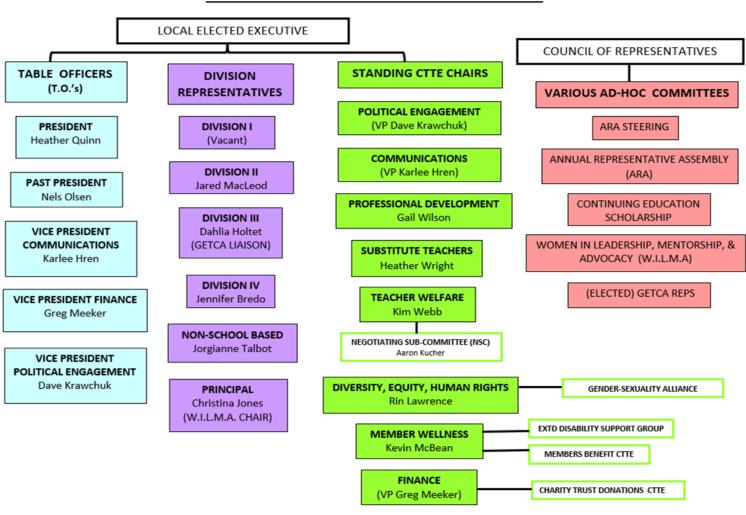








### EDMONTON PUBLIC TEACHERS LOCAL



Given all of the confusion surrounding Provincial ATA and Local 37, and knowing how busy teachers are both in and out of the classroom, in their professional and personal lives...

it becomes easier to understand why members become frustrated when they can't find what they are looking for or need.



# That's where YOU come in!





# The Four Cornerstones



### ENGAGE

- · Facilitate colleague participation
- · Link colleague to the ATA



### COMMUNICATE

- · From ATA to colleagues
- From colleagues to the ATA

Informing the teachers in your school about the work and events of the Association is one of the most important parts of your role.



### REPRESENT

- · At local council
- · At school



### INFORM

- · Maintain an ATA resource library
- · Distribute information to colleagues

# Here's our local in a nutshell.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsXPT38t9zl



 The Council of Representatives meet regularly throughout the year and act as the legislative body of the Local between General Assemblies.

### The COR deals with:

- any business referred to it by its members or the Executive,
- receives, considers and determines the disposition of all reports brought before it,
- approves the annual budget of the Local, and
- ratifies the audited financial statement of the Local.



# Who are COR Reps?

All teachers of Edmonton Public Schools are members of the Local.

### As members they are entitled to:

- vote at all General Assemblies and Bargaining Unit General Meetings (B.U.G.Ms)
- participate in the activities of the Local, and
- elect from their staff or DU, representatives and alternative representatives to serve on the Council of Representatives (COR).



- Schools are entitled to choose/elect one representative for every 15 teachers on staff (or portion thereof) to the Council of Representatives.
- For example: 16 staff members = 2 CSR reps
- Most high schools qualify to have at least 5 reps, and a few could have as many as 7-8
- More reps = a greater voice in influencing decision making

\*This is especially important when it comes to bargaining issues.



# Responsibilities of COR at a Glance

- Attend meetings of local council (Council of Representatives -COR) and provide a report to school staff both in writing & at staff meetings.
- If you are unable to attend a meeting, arrange to have an alternate attend in your place.
- Distribute or post Association and Local correspondence/ documents and call attention to significant items.



# Responsibilities of a COR Rep at a Glance

- Ensure members are aware of Provincial & Local matters including:
  - having an ATA online account/login
  - signing-up for Provincial Member Update emails
  - ensuring the Local also has their home email for Local updates & info
- Bring forward local school issues and questions at local ATA meetings. (This can also be done by getting in touch with the Division Rep for the grade you teach.)



# Responsibilities of a COR Rep at a Glance

- Ensure new teachers at your school are added to your school list.
- Communicate with teachers at your school about local and provincial information and issues.
- Encourage attendance at General Assemblies, Bargaining Unit General Meetings (BUGMs) and local/provincial activities.



# Responsibilities of a COR Rep at a Glance

- Up hold the Code of Professional Conduct and direct colleagues to relevant resources and support when they are in need of advice.
- Work with your school principal to ensure appropriate time on the staff meeting agenda for Association information.



# Representatives who serve on COR are responsible for:

 keeping their staff informed about the business of the Local, (as well as any Provincial information that might arise) and,

bringing staff concerns to the attention of the COR.



# As Reps you are asked to do this in a few ways. . .

- Attend (and sign-in at) as many of the CSRs as possible to ensure consistency
- Politely, vigorously, and persistently defend the time set aside for ATA business in staff meetings, and use it each and every time.



# Remember . . .

**YOU** are this Local's cheerleader.

Your voice and actions are **instrumental** in getting our messages out to our membership . . . all <u>7000 teachers</u> in Edmonton Public.

This is **especially important** during times of political uncertainty,

and when we are in a bargaining cycle.

Both of these things are occurring right now.



# Your help will also be greatly needed during times of bargaining.

So it's important that <u>you know</u> how the process works so you can explain it to your staff.



# **Bargaining 101:**

# How does bargaining work?





# How does bargaining work?

## **CENTRAL TABLE**



## **LOCAL TABLE**





# Whose interests are at the Central table?

#### ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT:

**TEBA** (Teacher Employer Bargaining Association) is made up of:

- Government Ministers
- School Board officials
- Superintendents

#### ON BEHALF OF THE ALBERTA TEACHERS:

**CTBC (Central Table Bargaining Committee) is made up of:** 

- Representative of the Bargaining Agent (RBA)
- Vice President of the Association
- District Representatives

We are fortunate to have two of our District Reps sitting on CTBC

– Carmen Glossop & Darrin Bauer





### **Central Table Bargaining - affects ALL Alberta**

### Teachers Teachers

TEBA team and provincial ATA Representatives (CTBC) negotiate which items will be discussed at Central Table and at Local Tables.

This list is known as the List of All Matters or L.A.M..

#### STEP 3

Proposal is created by the provincial ATA representatives that reflects the Central Table survey results/priorities.

#### STEP 5

CTBC (Provincial Reps & ATA) hold Member Information Meetings (MIMs) in order to inform members & give opportunities to ask questions about the proposed agreement.

#### STEP 6

Once a memorandum of agreement has been reached centrally, ALL Alberta teachers have the opportunity to vote, for or against it, online.

Move to LOCAL Table Bargaining...

# Collective Agreement Expires

#### STEP 2

Based on the negotiated list (L.A.M.), surveys are distributed to ALL Alberta Teachers to prioritize topics to negotiate. (Coin method) These priorities then comprise the Mandate for Bargaining.

#### STEP 4

Both sides (TEBA and our Provincial Representatives) present their opening positions and negotiations commence.

#### **Possibilities when Bargaining:**

- 1. Items can be agreed upon by both sides.
- 1. Some items are agreed upon by both sides, while others remain at an impasse.
- A mediator can be used to assist negotiate an agreement or to make recommendations that both sides vote on, or to "write out" (sides are too far apart, mediator steps back.)

# **Central Table Bargaining - Where are we now?**

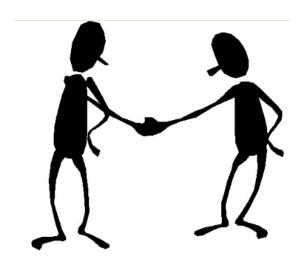
Central Table Bargaining concluded in June with the ratification of the Mediator's Recommend Terms of Settlement.

June 10th 2022 - 0.5% increase for remaining days in June only September 2022 - 1.25% increase

September 2023 - 2.00% increase



# Now we start Local Table Bargaining!





# Who is at the Local table?

### On behalf of the School Board (Edmonton Public <u>Schools</u>)

- Directors, Asst. Superintendents, Labour relations personnel
- Trustees (usually 2)

### On behalf of the Teachers (Edmonton Public <u>Teachers</u>)

- Negotiating Sub-Committee (NSC) (part of the Teacher Welfare Ctte)
- Representative of the Bargaining Agent (RBA Sean Brown)
- Executive Staff Officer of the Local (ESO)



### **Local Table Bargaining - affects only Edmonton Public Teachers**

#### STEP 1

The Local's Teacher
Welfare Ctte (TWC) and
our Representative of the
Bargaining Agent (RBA)
construct a survey to send
to Ed Pub teachers to
prioritize topics to
negotiate that are on the
Local Table List.

#### STEP 3

TWC reviews the survey results and presentations made, and prepares a draft opening proposal.

#### STEP 5

Bargaining Commences.
Negotiating Sub-Committee
(NSC) begins negotiations
with the school board.
If negotiations are not
progressing, teachers may be
asked to give permission to
the NSC to request a
mediator.

#### STEP 6

Once a memorandum of agreement has been reached locally, Edmonton Public teachers have the opportunity to vote, for or against it, online.



#### STEP 2

The TWC & RBA will hear presentations from interested subgroups and individuals on topics they feel should be included in the opening proposal.

#### STEP 4

The draft proposal is presented to Ed Pub teachers at a Bargaining Unit General Mtg (BUGM) where it can be amended and approved by teachers.

#### **Possibilities when Bargaining:**

- 1. Items can be agreed upon by both sides.
- Some items are agreed upon by both sides, while others remain at an impasse.
- A mediator can be used to assist negotiate an agreement or to make recommendations that both sides vote on, or to "write out" (sides are too far apart, mediator steps back.)

# What does the Teacher Welfare Ctte (TWC) do?

- Negotiate with the Edmonton Public Schools on behalf of Edmonton Public Teachers.
- Monitor the collective agreement and collect data that will help to deal with issues that arise from the agreement.
- > Monitor the overall welfare of our teachers.



### **HOW DOES LOCAL BARGAINING WORK?**

- > Surveys are conducted by the Teacher Welfare Committee
- Our Initial Proposal is created based on focus group meetings
- (ie. Substitute teachers, Principals, as well as presentations
  - done by individuals) and the survey results with input from Teacher Welfare
- ➤ The Initial Proposal is then presented to members at a BUGM (Bargaining Unit General Meeting) for possible amendments and ratification



### **HOW DOES LOCAL BARGAINING WORK?**

- The Edmonton Public Schools representatives and the Edmonton Public Teachers' TWC Negotiating subcommittee representatives (with the assistance of the Local's Representative of the Bargaining Agent - RBA) negotiate a local memorandum of Agreement or M.O.A.)
- Members attend a Bargaining Unit General Meeting (BUGM) and vote on the local Memorandum of Agreement
- > Board of Trustees Ratifies the new Memorandum of Agreement



# What is your role in this process?

- Keep the teachers at your school informed about where we are in the bargaining process.
- Encourage teachers at your school to sign-up for their ATA website login, <u>AND</u> the 'Worth Knowing' & 'Member Update' emails.
- Come to BUGMs and bring colleagues
- Come to Provincial Member Info Meetings (MIMs) on Central Table Memorandum





# What is your role in this process?

# **Encourage teachers to participate by:**



- Attending BUGMs to vote for or against the local memorandum
- Asking teachers to bring three (3) friends with them to BUGMs



# How do you stay informed?

- Subscribe to the Bargainers Blog on the Provincial ATA Website.
- Read the TWC reports that come in your COR package and communicate the information to your teachers.
- Check bargaining information on the Provincial ATA Website and the Local 37 website.



# **Local Bargaining Timeline to date:**

Monday September 26th - **T**eacher **W**elfare **C**tte Survey Opens @ <u>9:00am</u>
Will be sent to Member's **HOME** emails

Sunday October 2nd - Survey Closes @ 5:00pm

Monday October 3rd - Subgroup & Individual Presentations (15 min. time slots)
4:30 - 6:30pm, in-person or by ZOOM
Register by emailing: info@edpub.org

Thursday October 13th - **B**argaining **U**nit **G**eneral **M**eeting (BUGM) <u>In-person</u>

Edmonton Inn on Kingsway, <u>7:00pm</u>

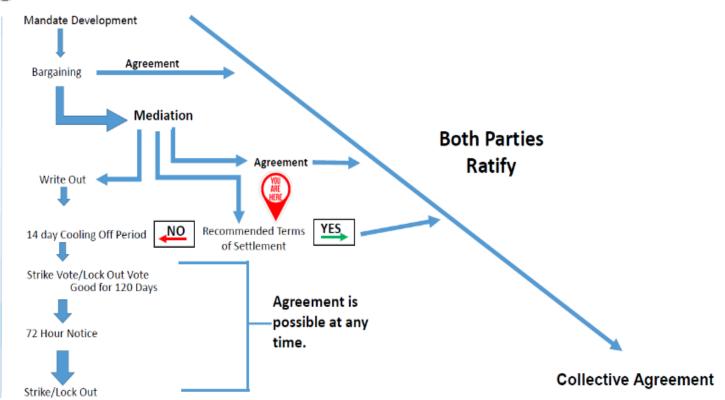
Opening proposal will be presented.

Members can amend and approve.



### **Bargaining Process Flowchart**

The Alberta Teachers' Association



### **2020 Local Matters List for Bargaining**

### A. Teacher Compensation Local

- Convention expenses and allowances
- Long service incentive
- Modifications for year-round schools
- Moving expenses and allowances
- Night school rates
- Pay for delivery of professional development/including teachers' conventions
- Service outside the operational days
- Summer school rates
- Teacher assigned to multiple locations allowance

### B. Group Insurance Local

- Parking
- Payroll deductions for savings
- Personal injury and property protection/liability policy
- Subrogation

#### C. Substitute Teachers Local

- Assigned duties of teachers replacing
- Booking of substitutes
- Cancellation of assignment
- Hiring of a substitute for each absence
- Injury on the job
- Itinerant substitute teachers
- Notice by teachers who require a substitute teacher (notice to the employer)
- Parking
- · Professional development
- Recognition of extended instructional day in relation to the daily rate of pay
- Rules around the Substitute teacher list (access, maintaining, and removal)
- Travel

#### D. Administrators Local

- Acting/surrogate administrators
- Creation of new designations/positions
- Evaluation of administrative teachers
- Lieu days
- Multiple designations
- Multiple sites
- Red circling
- Travel
- Vacation/work schedule

#### E. Leaves of Absence Local

- Additional parental leave (unpaid)
- Central funding of leaves
- Custody leave
- Deferred salary leave
- Emergency leave
- Employment insurance premium reduction
- General Discretionary Leave
- Graduation, convocation and university exams leave
- Impassable roads/inclement weather/school closure leaves
- Named Officials (Association secondment) including FTE
- Secondment
- Service club/volunteer
- Service to other agencies

#### F. Structure Local

- Catholic provisions
- Effective dates of local provisions
- Excluded positions from the collective agreement
- Faith/cultural/linguistic provisions
- Francophone provisions
- Pilot projects
- Teacher/Board liaison, wellness, advisory or local matters committees
- Union use of employer facilities and distribution of materials

#### G. Employment Local

- Expense claims
- Information and files
- Job postings
- Seniority
- Temporary/probationary teachers' notice
- Transfers
- Travel for work purposes (not including time)

#### H. Conditions of Practice Local

- Collaborative decision making model
- Colony teachers' conditions of practice
- Extracurricular activities
- Individual teacher directed professional funds
- Local directed professional development funds
- New teacher orientation and induction into the profession – new appointees
- Off-campus teachers' conditions of practice
- Placement and use of instructional and non-instructional days – school calendar
- Right to appeal unreasonable assignment
- Teacher assignment/deployment
- Teacher involvement in determining instructional groupings
- Tuition reimbursement

### I. Part-Time Teachers Local

- Alteration of part-time equivalent
- · Contiguous assignment
- Job sharing
- Movement between part-time and full-time assignment

# What else?

Many teachers aren't aware of **all** of the services that the Local provides for them.

Bargaining is only one of many.

Here's a look at some of the others . . .



### **Professional Development Opportunities**

- Indigenous teachings
- Art sessions
- Ukulele lessons
- Book Studies
- Keynote speakers
- Panel discussions
- Sessions on Teacher-Directed EPSB PD Days



### **Member Wellness Committee**

### **Social Events**:

- Paint nights
- Seasonal workshops (ie. Make your own Grinch-tree)
- Axe Throwing
- Wall-Climbing
- Pickleball
- Curling
- Family Events (WEM Waterpark/Galaxyland)

# Community/Charitable Opportunities (to raise the profile of teachers):

- Kids Kottage collections
- Habitat for Humanity
- Food Bank Drive

### Wellness Sessions:

- Yoga
- Learn-to-Meditate
- Financial Planning, etc

### **Member Wellness Committee** (continued)

### Members' Benefit Fund

The Local, through the Member Wellness Committee, administers a Members' Benefit Fund to provide financial assistance to members of the Local who:

- a. Exhaust their sick leave entitlement prior to the time that they become eligible for long-term disability benefits, or
- b. Find themselves in exceptional circumstances which create financial hardship.

The maximum benefit to any individual teacher shall be limited to a career maximum of \$8,000.00.

Local staff shall make every effort to keep the identity of applicants confidential from the Member Wellness Committee.

Claims on the Members' Benefit Fund will normally be honored only after expenses have actually been incurred or salary has actually been lost.

### **Teacher Development Fund (T.D.F.)**

The function of the Fund is to assist individuals or groups of teachers in pursuing professional development activities.

Funding may support costs related to courses, workshops or conferences, online courses, books, interschool visitation, collaboration or practical research, related substitute teacher coverage or any other PD activities which the teacher believes meet a professional growth need.

### This fund is not meant to replace PD funds at the school level.

- Individual two-year maximum is \$2,100.
- Group annual maximum is \$1,300 per group member to a group maximum of \$6,500.

### **Diversity, Equity, Human Rights (DEHR) Committee:**

- Panel Discussions
- Book Studies
- presentations
- workshops

### **G**ender-**S**exuality **A**lliance Meetings:

- second Tuesday of every month at Barnett House
- all teachers from any local (and their partners) are welcome to attend
- Seasonal social gatherings & activities
- Pride month activities



### \$\$ Scholarship Opportunities

- For children of members
- For members continuing their education
- For students for Model United Nations (SUNIA)

### Observe-A-Colleague Fund

Can apply to observe a colleague for a day each semester

# Teacher Welfare Committee (TWC) & Negotiating Sub-Committee

- Local Bargaining
- Surveys & Presentations for bargaining



## **Most Common Questions the Local Receives:**

### 1. Maternity Leave Information:

- Next Info Night: September 26, 2022 5-7pm; pre-registration required
- When do I let my Employer/Principal know?
- How much time am I entitled to?
- 12 months vs 18 months
- When do I apply for E.I.?

#### 2. Labour Code Standards

- 30 minute (continuous) break
- Can be 2 x 15 minutes, but only if the individual agrees (CANNOT be a staff vote)
- Can't be at beginning or end of day
- IF you get a prep/unassigned time, it can be counted as your break



#### 3. Questions around "The Code"

- We are all Members, therefore all bound by the same expectations
- Concerns with Colleagues / Principals
- When in doubt...call Catherine (780-455-2164)

### 4. Teacher Development Fund Questions

- Guidelines for applying (on our website)
- Deadlines for applying....must be a minimum of 2 weeks before
- Individual: \$2100 over 2 years
- Group(2 or more people): \$1300/person to max. \$6500 every year



## 5. Questions around Instructional / Assignable Time

With the recent round of Central Table Bargaining members voted to accept the following:

"Effective September 1, 2022 teacher instructional time will be capped at 916 hours per school year. Teacher assignable time is capped at 1200 hours per school year."

### Important things to know:

- Being told you have to be in your classroom 15 minutes before school starts counts towards your time
- Breaks in between classes counts towards it
- Supervision (before, lunchtime, after school) counts
- Staff / Department / Collaboration / Catchment meetings counts



Doors open – 8:50	10 minutes
Block 1	72 minutes
(break)	6 minutes
Block 2	72 minutes
(12-1pm lunch)	(60 minutes – not counted)
(doors open – 12:50)	10 minutes
Block 3	72 minutes
(break)	6 minutes
Block 4	72 minutes
Total:	320 minutes/day
320 minutes of instructional time per day	

X 30 minute lunch supervisions / week

1 X 60 minute meeting / week or month

90 minutes assignable time

60 minutes

On Connect, choose the calculator that best fits your school's schedule.

<a href="https://connect.epsb.ca/topics/central/staffmanagement/">https://connect.epsb.ca/topics/central/staffmanagement/</a> /teacherfull-timeequivalentftecalculators/

When in doubt...call Catherine to help you calculate it. 780-455-2164



# Questions?





# How do I help my staff help themselves to be informed?

• Phone: **780-455-2164** 

• Website: local37@teachers.ab.ca

Edmonton Public Teachers

Edpublocal37president

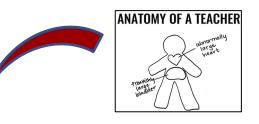
• 👩 : eptl37

@edpubTeachers@HQuinnLocal37

EdmontonPublicTeachers37



Alberta Teachers
For
Public Education



**NOT** Ed Pub related, but is some place to go to ask questions and talk about issues facing public education.

Also has many people in provincial ATA depts that can answer questions.



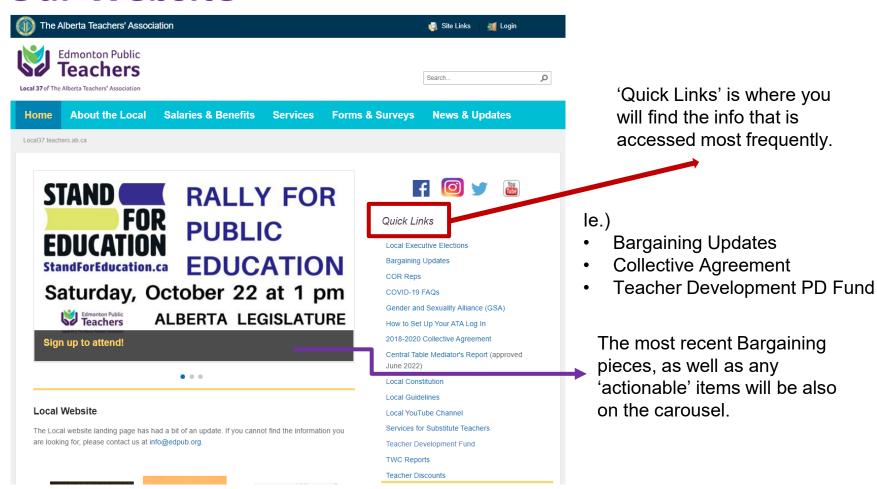
# Perhaps the most important thing to remember as a Council Representative . . .

As you support colleagues, please

- 1. Remember that **no teacher is excused from their obligation under the Code of Professional Conduct**, even in the role of school representative. Avoid making or listening to criticisms of colleagues, avoid making unauthorized representation on behalf of the Association or your Local, and always maintain the honour and dignity of the profession.
- 1. Point your colleague in the right direction. Information you receive in the regular school mailing packages may be helpful. You can also remind your colleagues to check the Association and/or Local website for information.



### **Our Website**

















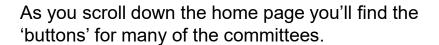












Here you will find updates on their planned activities, as well as sign-up information for Eventbrite for each activity.

You will also find the button for our COR Reps where you will find info on meeting dates, meeting materials, and the Eventbrite link to sign-up to attend.

\*\*Please remember to sign-up by the **Thursday the**week before the meeting as we need to submit

numbers to the hotel to ensure we have enough food for
attendees.

