

PROVINCIAL LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING NO. 3: Mid Contract Modifications

Between

The British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF)

And

The British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA)

The parties agree to the following to resolve disputes arising out of the implementation of the Provincial Collective Agreement:

1. Obligations of Boards re: Non-Enrolling/ESL Ratios
 - a. Boards are obligated to maintain the ratios so that they do not decrease below the 1997-98 ratios in Appendix A, including any amendments thereto.
 - b. Where a Board receives funding in order to decrease the ratios of non-enrolling/ESL teachers to students, the Board is obligated to expend the funds received exclusively on hiring additional teachers to those produced by the ratios in (a) above within the category specified including costs necessarily and directly related thereto. A Board is not required to spend funds beyond those allocated by the Agreement for the purpose of decreasing the ratio and thus may not be able to meet the Appendix A ratios set out for Years 2 and 3.
 - c. Where the 1997-98 ratio in Appendix A does not accurately reflect the non-enrolling/ESL service level in place on September 30, 1997, and where disputes regarding compliance have arisen, the 1997-98 ratio will be adjusted to reflect the level of service agreed by the Board and the Local by applying the following principles:
 - i. if the revised ratio remains superior to the provincial minimum ratio, then the revised ratio forms the base and Appendix A will be amended accordingly,
 - ii. if the revised ratio is inferior to the provincial minimum ratio, then the provincial minimum becomes the ratio in either Year 2 or 3.
 - iii. where the ratio in Appendix A included Administrative Officers in the "teacher" column when the levels of service were reported for 1997-98,
 - (i) if removal of the number of Administrative Officers from the 1997-98 ratio results in a ratio that remains superior to the provincial minimum ratio, then the revised ratio forms the base and Appendix A will be amended accordingly.
 - (ii) if removal of the number of Administrative Officers from the ratio results in a ratio that is inferior to the provincial minimum ratio, the

incumbent is grandfathered. When the individual leaves the position he/she can no longer be counted for purposes of meeting the ratio and the ratio must be met by counting only teachers within the bargaining unit.

- d. Should Article A.1.2 of the Provincial Collective Agreement come into effect, the obligations of Boards will continue as outlined in a. and b. above as long as the Ministry continues to replicate both the funding and the funding distribution system for Year 3 as outlined in Appendix A except where amended by mutual agreement of the parties and subject to the Ministry providing a letter confirming that the funding distribution system and monies in place for Year 3 will be replicated during any bridging period prior to the ratification of a subsequent collective agreement.

2. Resolution of outstanding district-specific disputes.

- a. School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain)

Special Education Appendix A ratio for Years 2 and 3 of the agreement is 1:342

The parties agree to request Ministry funding for the necessary additional FTE teachers to assist in meeting this ratio.

- b. School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)

Learning Assistance Appendix A ratio for Years 2 and 3 of the agreement is 1:490

- c. School District No. 33 (Chilliwack)

Special Education Appendix A ratio for Years 2 and 3 of the agreement is 1:342

- d. School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

Learning Assistance Appendix A ratio for Years 2 and 3 of the agreement is 1:504

- e. School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)

Counselling Appendix A ratio for Years 2 and 3 of the agreement is 1:651

- f. School District No. 78 (Fraser Cascade)

Teacher Librarian Appendix A ratio for Years 2 and 3 of the agreement is 1:569

- g. School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley)

Teacher Librarian Appendix A ratio for Years 2 and 3 of the agreement is 1:559

3. Process to resolve outstanding district-specific disputes

The parties each agree to name an individual representative to meet and discuss the following disputes (a. and b.) with the local parties and to attempt to achieve a resolution by June 10, 1999.

a. School District No. 40 (New Westminster)

Counselling

Learning Assistance

Teacher Librarian

ESL

b. School District No. 71 (Comox)

Teacher Librarian

Special Education

4. Teacher Librarian Preparation Time Relief

a. The BCTF agrees to withdraw its grievance pertaining to the provision of preparation time relief with respect to the following districts:

i. School District No. 22 (Vernon)

ii. School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)

iii. School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert)

iv. School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)

v. School District No. 75 (Mission)

vi. School District No. 82 (Coast Mountains)

b. The parties agree that any matters in the above mentioned disputes (4.a) that pertain to 1530 reporting not related to the provision of preparation time relief by teacher librarians be referred to the process established in 3 above.

c. The BCTF reserves the right to grieve any allocation of teacher librarian time to preparation time coverage that is not reasonably associated with the duties of a teacher librarian.

5. Primary Class Sizes and Special Needs Reductions

The parties agree that the grievance filed by BCPSEA will proceed to arbitration in an expedited manner such that every effort will be made to conclude the hearing in time to have a decision rendered prior to September 1, 1999.

6. Teachers-On-Call - Employment Insurance

For purposes of Employment Insurance, Boards will report 9.1 hours per day (pro rata for partial days) for teachers-on-call for all time reported on records of employment issued on or after June 11, 1999*. All previously issued Records of Employment, including coverage from September 1, 1997, will be revised on the basis of 9.1 hours per day and re-issued prior to October 31, 1999, unless a ruling from HRDC/Revenue Canada disallows claims based on the reporting level contained in the collective agreement.

Should Employment Insurance not accept 9.1 hours and substitute a lower number, Boards will not participate in any appeal process. Participation in any appeal process is the responsibility of the teacher-on-call and the BCTF.

The grievance filed by the BCTF is hereby resolved.

*Note: this date is dependent upon signing this Letter of Understanding by June 4. Otherwise the date will need to change to reflect a date one week from signing.

7. Teachers-On-Call - Employment Standards Act (ESA) Part 7 (Annual Vacation) and Part 5 (Statutory Holidays)

The B.C. Labour Relations Board Decision No. B551/98 regarding Sections 43, 49 and 61 of the ESA requires "arbitrators to consider together the collective agreement provisions for all employees covered by the agreement, and to compare them to the corresponding requirements of the Act, as also considered together for all of the employees."

The parties agree that until this decision of the LRB is beyond any form of appeal, that no grievances regarding the above matters will proceed to arbitration. Should Decision No. B551/98 remain the same, the BCTF will withdraw all grievances related to this issue.

8. Teachers-On-Call Benefits

The BCTF has identified 18 districts as not having advised teachers-on-call about their eligibility for benefits. BCPSEA will work with the districts identified to ensure that teachers-on-call eligible for benefits pursuant to Article B.2.4 are advised of that right. Where teachers-on-call have been advised that they are not eligible because of plan limitations, locals in those districts shall be provided with a copy of the master benefit plan identifying such limitations.

9. Accounting Manual Differences

The parties recognize that the methodology used to calculate service levels has varied from district to district.

Differences of interpretation by the parties of the Ministry of Education's Accounting, Budgeting and Financial Reporting Manual shall be referred to a three person committee composed of representatives of BCPSEA, BCTF and the Ministry of Education for final and binding decision.

10. Combined Intermediate/Primary Class Sizes

The parties agree that all fractions occurring from combined intermediate/primary class size splits shall be rounded down.

11. ESL Funding - Appendix A

- a. For 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 school years, ESL PCA funding shall be provided to each district in the same amount as provided in 1998/1999.
- b. The number of ESL teachers required in each district for 1999/00 shall be the same number of ESL teachers as employed in 1998/1999.
- c. An equivalent ESL ratio to that contained in Appendix A shall be calculated for each district by dividing the number of Ministry funded ESL students enrolled in that district on September 30, 1999 by the number of ESL teachers pursuant to 11(b).
- d. The ratio calculated in 11(c) shall be applied to determine the number ESL teachers employed by each district in 2000/2001 in consideration of the number of ESL students enrolled in that district on September 30, 2000.
- e. In no case shall the equivalent ratio of ESL teachers to ESL students be inferior to 1:74.
- f. A correction shall be made to Appendix A for School District No. 39 (Vancouver) to correct the error contained in the 1997 Form 1530 reported level of service. A special purpose grant shall be provided to School District No. 39 to enable the provision of 27 FTE additional ESL teachers such that the total number of ESL teachers employed by School District No. 39 on September 30th, 1999 will be 335.4.

12. Spring Staffing Process

To amend the process outlined in Article 61.7.5 [Provincial Article D.1.6] and Memorandum of Agreement clauses 9.b, c and d as follows:

- i. unchanged.
- ii. Prior to June 10, 1999 and May 30 in subsequent years, each School District shall hold a meeting with representatives of the Local for the purpose of general discussion of staffing plans for schools within that school district. The district shall make the local aware of any potential non-compliance with non-enrolling/ESL staffing ratios and/or the primary class size maximums and the reasons for that potential non-compliance.
- iii. In the event that the district concludes it is not able to achieve the required ratios and/or the primary class size maximums with the estimated funds, or that implementation of the article creates other costs which cannot be met with the allocated funds, the District shall, by no later than June 15 of that year submit its staffing plan to the Ministry with copies to the Local, BCTF and BCPSEA and state therein the reasons why, in the opinion of the District, it is not possible to achieve the ratios or maximums which would otherwise apply.

- iv. Between June 16 and September 15, inclusive, the staffing plan may be referred to a joint committee of no more than 3 representatives of the District and no more than 3 representatives of the Local. Any local believing its Board not to be in compliance with respect to meeting required ratios, may also call for and have a meeting of the joint committee. The joint committee shall meet within five working days of such referral and shall address whether or not it is possible to resolve any outstanding issues in order to achieve the non-enrolling/ESL ratios and/or the primary class size maximums referred to in the Agreement.
- v. When this process fails, either party, within 5 working days, may refer the matter to a mutually acceptable arbitrator from the agreed upon list for an expedited arbitration.
- vi. By September 30, the Ministry of Education shall communicate to School Districts in writing the level of funding the District will receive in each year to support increased levels of non-enrolling staffing.
- vii. unchanged.

The undersigned agree to recommend this Letter of Understanding to their respective parties.

Date: June 4, 1999

Original signed by Kit Krieger
For the BCTF

Original signed by Charles Hingston
For the BCPSEA

Joint interpretation of 1.d of the Letter of Understanding between the BCTF and BCPSEA dated June 4, 1999.

The parties (BCTF and BCPSEA) agree that 1.d is intended to provide stability during a bridging period, if any, without prejudice to either party's position on the question of a Board's obligation to meet non-enrolling ratios after June 30, 2001.

Dated: June 4, 1999

Original signed by Charles Hingston
for BCPSEA

Original signed by Kit Krieger
for BCTF

ljl/utfe/IWA Local 1-3567