

Subject: OSTU News
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Date: 2/20/2024, 6:59 AM
To: <keith@ostu.ca>

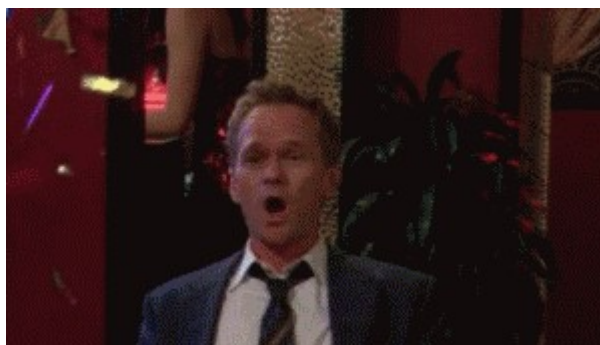
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OSTU News

#11 – February 2024



Congratulations to Kylie Holmes, Brian Berekoff, Traci Steves, and Angela McGuire-Holder, the four delegates elected to represent OSTU members at the BCTF AGM in March!



Bargaining Update

Thank you to all the members that came out to our Focus Group sessions in December and January as we were able to hear the strengths and challenges of some of the different roles our members have in the district.

Thank you also to those that completed the Provincial Bargaining survey that was recently sent out. We had 188 members respond, and the information gathered will help guide your OSTU Reps to the BCTF Bargaining Conference as they vote on the objectives our members feel are most important.

As a result of the input of the survey, OSTU is looking forward to submitting a motion to the Bargaining Conference on the OSTU's behalf. More details to come.

~ Brian Hutcheson
OSTU Bargaining Chair

BCTF News

Starling Minds Mental Fitness

The BCTF is pleased to announce the return of Starling Minds' most popular initiative, the Mental Fitness program—Cultivating Calm: Mindfulness Strategies for Chronic Stress, presented by Starling Minds' Mental Fitness Coach Tara Achkar.

This is a four-week webinar that will guide you through practices aimed at nurturing inner peace and tranquility. The webinar will take place every Tuesday, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. (PT), February 20 to March 12, 2024.

Step 1: [Register](#) for the four-week Mental Fitness webinar—Cultivating Calm: Mindfulness Strategies for Chronic Stress.

Step 2: Use your BCTF Member ID ([log in](#) to locate your Member ID) and the access code (**BCTFMEMBER** or

BCTFFAMILY) to register for the [Starling Minds Mental Fitness program](#). The Mental Fitness program is a self-guided program that will be used during the webinar series.

Dual Credit Policy Discussion Draft

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has recently released a [dual credit policy discussion draft](#) for feedback from the field.

There are three substantive changes compared to [current policy](#): encouraging students to take exploratory courses rather than precluding those who don't declare a future occupation; allowing for September and February funding access rather than September only; and, giving educators the discretion to include a few students in Grade 10 rather than grades 11–12 only.

If you are interested, you may provide feedback directly to the Ministry. Feedback on the discussion draft is due by April 29: dualcredit@gov.bc.ca.

Know Your Contract ARTICLE G.28 PERSONAL LEAVE

1. After five (5) years of continuous service in the District, the Board may consider a request for a one (1) year leave of absence, which will be renewable solely at the superintendent's discretion. Requests for such leave, without pay, will be considered on the following bases:

- a. the requested leave period is one (1) academic year**
- b. written notice of at least three (3) teaching months is given**

2. Upon return to the District, the employee shall be

assigned:

- a. to the same or comparable position in the school commensurate with the teacher's qualifications and/or experience**
- b. if no such position is available, to a comparable position in the District.**
- 3. A teacher shall only be allowed leave under this provision once every five (5) years.**
- 4. The request for leave pursuant to G.28.1. shall not unreasonably be denied.**
- 5. Teachers may request a short term personal leave of absence without pay.**

Click here for the Collective Agreement



Let me know which one and why for a chance to win a gift card! ~Lauren



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