



Nova Scotia Teachers Union



Kings Local

## **ANNUAL REPORTS EXECUTIVE POSITIONS**

<http://kings.nstu.ca/>

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**Year: 2016-2017**

**Executive Role/Title: Vice-President of Professional Development**

**Committee Members: Laura McCulley, Chair; Bev Roy, Stefanie Conway, Theresa Pelley, Elizabeth Frezell, Cathy Burgess and Janice Turnbull**

**Highlights from the year:** This year the committee held 4 meetings and one event. The committee was thrilled to welcome Janice Turnbull to our PD table.

In October, the committee met to discuss our goals and plans for 2016-2017. This year the budget line was increased from \$14 000.00 to \$16 000.00 due to the large increase in applications for funding in previous years. Also at this first meeting, we vetted 15 applications that totaled \$6 999.60 for Professional Development Enhancement Grants. After review of the applications and the PDE guidelines, 13 grants were approved for a total of \$6003.27. The other two grants were denied as they did not meet the criteria. Total reimbursed by January 1st was \$5 183.57.

The annual Professional Development conference was held November 4th and 5<sup>th</sup> in Halifax. This year's theme was "Mind, Body and Balance - Mental Health for Educators" and was very timely and informative. Laura and Elizabeth attended the conference on behalf of our local committee.

At our February meeting, we received 14 grant applications for a total amount of \$6 396.87. After review of the applications and a lot of valuable discussion, 8 grants were approved for a total of \$3 915.48. The remaining grants were denied as they did not meet the criteria for a number of different reasons. Total reimbursed by May 31st was \$3 697.20.

The committee feels that the number of applications this year was affected by the confusion surrounding the suspension of Article 60 money during work to rule.

Due to popular demand it was decided that the PD committee would host a second grant-writing workshop: "Get Your Grant On". The goal was to help members who may not have experience or time to apply for one of our grants. The workshop was held at Horton High School's Community room on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 4-5pm. It was well attended and produced 10 additional grants. 9 were approved for a total of \$3992.70. The other grant was denied as it fell under the umbrella of EIP.

Some examples of Enhancement Grants that were approved this year were Breakout EDU Boxes, iPads/Chromebooks, Alto Xylophone, various forms of alternate seating such as standing desks, wobble chairs, balance balls and hokki stools. We also approved applications for a Vitamix Blender, video & sound equipment, mindfulness supplies, music sound system, infant training manikins, punching bag & gloves, mentor texts, diversity project, life/form food replica and a raindrop swing. Wow...impressive innovative ideas that will directly benefit students in the Kings Local!

**Moving Forward:** The committee met for the final time on June 22, 2017. All of the PDE Guidelines and committee practices were reviewed and the committee discussed and reflected on our ongoing June reflection list. Tentative meeting dates were set for the 2017-18 school year as the committee will see some changes in the fall. Although I am leaving my role as VP of PD and will dearly miss my work with this fabulous committee, I am looking forward to the challenge of becoming your new Kings Local President

From the bottom of my heart, I would like to express my personal gratitude to all of the members of the PD Committee for all of the hours spent discussing, advocating and agonizing over applications. You were fair, consistent and transparent in your sometimes difficult decisions and for that I am truly proud. I want to wish incoming VP of PD, Meagan Bent (soon to be Duncan), all the best in her new role and look forward to hearing about all that she brings to the committee and Executive table. Congrats Meagan!

Many thanks to our school Reps for continuing to help us disseminate important information and keeping members at all of our sites up to date. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as chair and feel privileged to have had the opportunity to serve

my local in this capacity. This committee gives you a glimpse of all of the new ways teachers in our local are enhancing their programs. Last but certainly not least, I want to thank our President, Natalie MacIsaac, for her tireless commitment to our local in one of our most challenging years to date. Natalie always finds the positive in any situation. She leads with her head held high and successfully rallied our local so that we could remain #NSTUnited. We are so fortunate that she has agreed to remain active in our local as Past President and taken on the role of Kings Local Article 60 Representative. Thanks Nat!

I hope everyone enjoys a well deserved break and may grant ideas come to you in time for the fall deadline: October 15th!

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura McCulley