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March 27, 2017

Dear BTPS and CUPE Local 1606 Stakeholders,

RE: BTPS-CUPE Joint Committee

The Buffalo Trail Public Schools Board of Trustees and CUPE Local 1606 are proud to report that the Board-CUPE Joint Committee has once again engaged in positive and productive dialogue over the first several months of the 2016-2017 school year.

The Joint Committee is comprised of members of the BTPS Board of Trustees, CUPE Local, and Central Services Administration that come together to work collaboratively in a solution focused setting in an effort to enhance the experiences of both our CUPE members and students.

This year's Committee included:

CUPE Local

Gail Koroluk – President
Heather Reeve – Vice President
Linda Russnak – Secretary/Treasurer

BTPS Board/Admin

Bernie Huedepohl – Trustee
Benita Fossen - Trustee
Jim King – Trustee
Brad Romanchuk – Assistant Superintendent

The Joint Committee presents an opportunity to strengthen communications between the Board and CUPE Local and further foster a positive working relationship towards our mutual purpose of maximizing learning for all BTPS students.

This school year, the Joint Committee has come together on both December 2nd, 2016 and March 21st, 2017.

The Committee's efforts, this school year, have been focused in a variety of areas:

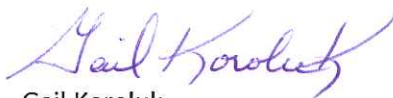
- BTPS's first annual School Based Support Staff Collaborative Learning Day (Feb. 10, 2017)
- Access to other professional learning opportunities
- Staff wellness and access to Employee Family Assistance Program (Homewood Health)
- Scheduling of hours for full-time staff
- Network access for casual support staff

Having contributed to the vision and planning for this year's Support Staff Collaborative Learning Day, the Committee took opportunity to thoroughly review feedback received from this year's 160 participants. The Committee identified several recommendations that will be used to enhance the experience for participants at the 2017 Collaborative Learning Day. The Committee looks forward to ongoing dialogue in this regard as Board and Local work together in support of effective and collaborative learning opportunities for members of the Local.

Accessing supports through the Board's Employee Family Assistance Program (Homewood Health) was another key area of conversation within the Committee. The importance of such supports for all employees was clearly identified. And while access to this support mechanism appears to be growing, the Committee identified that ongoing communication and education about the availability of supports through Homewood Health needs to be a priority so as to support the health and wellness of those who serve our students.

The Committee looks forward to continuing their important work again in the 2017-2018 year, and once again updating our stakeholders as to the positive outcomes achieved through this important work.

On behalf of the BTPS Board-CUPE Joint Committee,



Gail Koroluk
CUPE Local President



Brad Romanchuk
Assistant Superintendent