

April, 2010

No. 334



# RTU-SER Newsletter

## • DELEGATES APPROVE ACTION PLAN

### DELEGATES APPROVE ACTION PLAN

Phase 3 of the QPAT's action plan was **approved by 95% of members at the Special General Assembly on March 17**. They agreed that the government's demands were unacceptable and decided to apply the following pressure tactics:

<b>ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Extending morning recess by 10 minutes</b> every Wednesday in April, by staying in the schoolyard with the children, while ensuring supervision</li><li>• <b>Visibly using the QPAT-issued support materials</b></li><li>• <b>April 7, 14, 21 and 28</b></li></ul>
<b>HIGH SCHOOLS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Extending lunch hour by 10 minutes</b> every Wednesday in April, while ensuring supervision.</li><li>• <b>Visibly using QPAT-issued support materials</b></li><li>• <b>April 7, 14, 21 and 28</b></li></ul>

Other pressure tactics will likely be necessary, depending on how negotiations progress.

## • 2005 DECREE EXPIRED

### 2005 DECREE EXPIRED

The decree imposed by the Liberal government in 2005 expired on March 31. It imposed the pay increases that were applied over the last 6 years (0% - 0% - 2% - 2% - 2% - 2%) and prohibited government employees from taking any collective action that would negatively affect productivity.

## • MARCH 20th DEMONSTRATION IN MONTREAL

### MARCH 20th DEMONSTRATION IN MONTREAL

More than 70,000 people rallied together on March 20 to denounce the government's demands. Over 500 QPAT members took part in this event, which was marked by palpable enthusiasm and a strong sense of solidarity.

**We'd like to thank the 45 representatives from the RTU on hand that day.**

## • MORE CHANGES TO THE EVALUATION PROCESS

### MORE CHANGES TO THE EVALUATION PROCESS

The government has begun **consultations on amendments to the Basic School Regulation**, according to the press. The following is an overview of the items that may change:

1. Emphasize **the evaluation of skills (not only competencies)**;
2. Reduce **the number of competencies for grades 1-6 by nearly half** and limit them to ;  
two (2) per subject at the secondary level;
3. **Remove the requirement to evaluate** cross-curricular competencies;
4. Simplify evaluation situations and **include skill-testing questions**;
5. **Use a standardized report card** throughout Quebec;
6. Provide **one result per subject** on report cards;
7. **Remove the requirement to use competency scales**;
8. **Return to annual instruction** (vs. cycles).

Most of these items have been on the union's list of demands and have contributed to the backlash in recent years. Writers covering the history of Quebec's educational reform will certainly find the government's about-face on these issues to be highly unusual.

• **77 TEACHERS TERMINATED IN RHODE ISLAND**

**77 TEACHERS TERMINATED IN RHODE ISLAND**

On February 23, Central Falls School District in Rhode Island voted to terminate all teachers at the end of the current school year, due to a very low pass rate. The U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, congratulated the school board for its courage! The QPAT wrote to the school board to condemn such shameful, unacceptable actions. Meanwhile, Quebec schools are preparing to sign partnership agreements with school boards to ensure higher graduation rates. Let's hope that our elected officials are not inspired by Rhode Island.

• **FRAMEWORK**

**FRAMEWORK**

Since the Basic School Regulation will most probably be amended, we formally requested that the School Board withdraw its requirement that teachers renew the local evaluation framework. We fail to see the usefulness of continuing to force our teachers to perform such a colossal task when the rules are constantly changing. The following resolution was unanimously approved by the Delegates Council in March:

- *THAT THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES OF RIVERSIDE TEACHERS' UNION RECOMMEND TO SCHOOL TEAMS TO POSTPONE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL STUDENT EVALUATION FRAMEWORK ("THE FRAMEWORK") UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE*

• **MEETING MINUTES SOUGHT**

**MEETING MINUTES SOUGHT**

Please remember to send us your **School Council** or **Special Needs Committee** meeting minutes regularly. We read them all, since it's a good way for us to keep up-to-date on all 25 of our schools. It also enables us to conduct follow-ups with the School Board. Thank you for your cooperation.

• **INTEGRATION OF SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS**

**INTEGRATION OF SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS**

Before a special needs student is integrated into a so-called regular class, the school administration must ensure that the following steps are followed, in accordance with the School Board's policy on the organization of educational services for handicapped students and students with social maladjustments or learning disabilities:

- **Obtain** information from parents on the specific needs of their child;
- **Arrange** a meeting with parents, teachers, an expert from the school board and the special education assistant;
- **Determine** the necessary resources to ensure the child's seamless integration;
- **Place** the child appropriately, in consultation with teachers, the expert from the school board and the special education assistant;
- **Develop** an IEP in cooperation with teachers, parents, special education assistant and the expert from the school board.
- **Introduce** the student to the class into which he/she will be integrated.

• **SENIORITY LIST**

**SENIORITY LIST**

The updated seniority lists were sent to schools in early March and should be posted in the teachers' lounge. If not, please inform your delegate. The updated lists can also be found on our website at

[www.rtu-ser.ca](http://www.rtu-ser.ca); ask your delegate for the access code or call us at 450-465-2523.

**Michel Gagnon**  
President

**www.rtu-ser.ca**