

Our Side of the Table



Local Meeting – June 23, 2011

**Vernon Teachers' Association
Negotiating Team**

Today was our final scheduled bargaining meeting. In contrast to making *minimal* progress at the other meetings to this point, today we made none.

Though management – at the last meeting – suggested leaving the Joint District Health & Safety Committee Language the way it is, today they reneged, wanted it deleted.

Our discussions of Staff Meetings were frustrating. Agreement on management's most recent proposal would mean significant concessions to members and no improvements or clarity as to what staff meetings should be. Would 18 staff meetings per year (plus primary, intermediate, and department meetings) be better or worse for you?

VTA: *"This team has been here and ready at every single meeting. There have been 53 hours spent at this table. We've spent over 50 hours of committee work time preparing, and many more hours on the parts of individuals. We've tabled 47 items; you've tabled 13. We've signed 8; all of them were items you tabled. Not one of our items has been signed-off – that is frustrating.*

"You are probably well aware that on Monday, we're taking a strike vote. The emphasis will be the lack of progress at this table. Our members will speak through that vote. We're willing to negotiate when you are willing to negotiate."

We are determined to make improvements to our working conditions, which are students' learning conditions. However, local trustees directed the Management Team to only bargain items of little consequence. This has overshadowed our efforts to solve local problems. It is a shame that we are not in the same bargaining relationship that many of us experienced 20 years ago when Vernon was a leader in the province.

On Monday, **vote YES to teaching.**

You can send feedback and comments to: vtanegotiatingteam@gmail.com and post your comments to the Facebook group: **"VTA Bargaining Page."**

-your VTA Negotiating Team