

May 2024

Hello fellow CUPE 716 Members,

I hope you are all doing well, and like me, are excited to know that summer will soon be here.

During the Union meeting on May 22, I was nominated to run for a position on the **CUPE 716 Bargaining Committee**, which I gladly accepted.



Some background information about me: I have been with the Richmond School District since 2004, starting as a Noon Hour Supervisor. After three years, I moved into the role of Educational Assistant, and in 2016 I began working in a school office in the position of Senior Administrative Assistant. I then moved into the position of Business Assistant, which I have held for the past six years. Through a variety of positions within the Richmond School District, in both elementary and high schools, I have developed a well-rounded understanding of our District's proceedings.

In addition to my experience in schools, I have familiarity in Labour Relations, having been involved in grievance procedures and developing proposals for bargaining. The rights of employees in the workplace are not new to me, and are something I value deeply.

From Spring 2021 to Fall 2022 I held the position of Administrative Support Shop Steward. I was then nominated for and pleased to obtain the position of Treasurer in two sequential elections, allowing me to be the Union Treasurer since October, 2022.

I was a member of the Bargaining Committee for our 2022-2025 Collective Agreement, where we bargained for our Discretionary Day, the increase in Service Pay, the EA Mentor training allowance, Custodian vacation time during the school year, the Labour Market Adjustment, and improvements in the collective agreement language.

Being involved in our Union at the Shop Steward and Treasurer levels has given me the opportunity to bring forward concerns of members to our Union Executive and Management, and to ensure our local's money is spent within the member approved budget.

I really appreciate and thank you in advance for your support, and hope it will allow me to be part of our next Bargaining Committee.

Louise Henry