

Special CEC to consider talks with Department

ASTI's Central Executive Council (CEC) is to meet on September 11th to consider the ASTI's participation in talks with the Department of Education and Skills on issues relating to the Public Service Agreement.

CEC will consider the following motion:

- (a) *That without prejudice to the ASTI rejection of the Public Service Agreement, we engage in intensive discussions with the Department of Education and Skills over the coming weeks; these discussions to address the following matters:*
- Proposed change in supervision and substitution arrangements;
 - Proposed revised redeployment scheme;
 - Proposed extra hour and contract review.
- (b) *That all current industrial action be suspended pending the outcome of these discussions.*
- (c) *That a meeting of CEC be convened to consider the outcome of these discussions.*
- (d) *That any outcome that emerges from these discussions with the Department be put to a ballot of ASTI members for acceptance or rejection.*

Background

In May, the ASTI balloted members on the outcome of the public service negotiations which took place in Croke Park. While the ASTI rejected the Agreement by 62% to 38%, the 19 public service unions involved in the Croke Park negotiations voted to accept the Agreement by a 2:1 majority. Of the nine unions whose membership rejected the Agreement, the majority are implementing the Agreement and one union is in the process of re-balloting its members on the Agreement. The ASTI and the TUI are the only unions which are continuing with their industrial action.

ASTI Standing Committee reviewed the outcome of the Public Service Agreement in June and reiterated its rejection of the Agreement. Standing Committee also considered an invitation from the Department of Education and Skills to talks about the implementation of the Agreement. Standing Committee decided to attend "exploratory" talks with the Department, without prejudice to the ASTI's rejection of the Agreement. ♦

ASTI Directives

The ASTI Directives to members which operated during the 2009/2010 school year are still in operation. These Directives relate to:

- ♦ Posts of Responsibility;
- ♦ Parent-teacher meetings and staff meetings outside school time;
- ♦ Co-operation with WSE and subject inspections;
- ♦ Class size.

Full details of all the above directives are available at www.asti.ie.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Information on posts of responsibility | 2 |
| Pension entitlements | 3 |
| information seminars for new teachers | 4 |

Posts of responsibility

Review of ASTI

Following a Convention decision, the officers of the ASTI are commencing a review of the structures of the union and will be inviting branches and elected representatives to submit their views on aspects of the union.

In July the Minister for Education and Skills announced an "alleviation" of the moratorium on posts of responsibility. The alleviation is based on the application of a minimum threshold for schools on the number of assistant principal posts. A Circular has been issued to schools detailing the alleviation (Circular 42/10). The ASTI has stated that the alleviation is totally inadequate and does not take into account the complexity of second-level schools, the diversity of the student cohort and the broad range of student needs.

Directive on posts

The ASTI Directive on posts of responsibility is still in place. This Directive states that members should not engage in reviews of posts or change the duties of existing posts to fill vacancies caused by the moratorium. Post of responsibility duties should not be undertaken by non-post holders under any circumstance. The full text of the Directive is available at www.asti.ie.

Advertised posts

ASTI members may apply for posts of responsibility that are advertised. Following appointment to a post, the member should ensure the post allocated is on the existing post schedule and that the assigned post duties are on the existing schedule.

Interview boards

Discussions are underway between the ASTI and the management bodies regarding the constitution of selection and appeal boards.

Adult education

The exclusion of adult education posts from the moratorium on posts of responsibility is the outcome of successful campaigning by the ASTI and National Association of Adult and Community Education Directors (NACED), whose executive includes ASTI members.

The Department of Education and Skills is to examine the position in relation to vacancies for directors of adult education arising after June 1st. School authorities who wish to be considered for such vacancies should notify the Department of Education and Skills by Friday, 17th September.

Further information

Members should refer to Circulars 22/09 and 42/10 which are available at www.asti.ie. ♦

Right: Pictured at a recent Nenagh Branch retirement function are retirees, along with Branch and ASTI representatives. Standing (left to right): Jack Keane, ASTI President; John White, former General Secretary; Danny Grace; Tom Sheehy; Jim Minogue; Beth Cooney; Ger O'Donoghue, Standing Committee; and, Willie Stankard. Seated (left to right): Juju Fahey, Mary Phelan, Bridie Corkery, and Granu Dwyer. Absent from photo: Ann Brennan.



The Department of Education and Skills has advised the ASTI that ASTI members retiring before December 31, 2011 will have their pension and lump sum payment calculated on the 2009 salary scale.

The Government had previously announced that public servants (including teachers) retiring before December 31, 2010 would have their pension entitlements calculated on the 2009 salary scale. As part of the Public Service Agreement (Croke Park Agreement), the Government has agreed to extend this concession until December 2011. A Statutory Instrument has now been signed by the Minister for Finance extending this provision to all public servants including teachers.

Public service pensions have always been seen as deferred earnings by workers. The ASTI will continue to campaign to protect the teachers' pension scheme. ♦

Information meetings for new teachers

All new and recently qualified teachers - including part-time and temporary teachers - should attend an ASTI Know Your Rights information meeting. Twelve meetings will be held during September and all new and recently qualified teachers are invited to attend, including ASTI members and those who have yet to join a union. The meetings will cover types of contracts, rights and entitlements, your pay slip explained, and how new teachers can save money. See page 4 for details of meetings. ♦

ASTI Professional Development Programme

The Role of the Year Head

1 x 2 day course: October 20th and November 3rd

Targeted at teachers who are interested in becoming a Year Head or who have recently been appointed to this post.

Objectives: to provide a comprehensive overview of the work of the Year Head in the Pastoral Care system; to present strategies for working with 'at-risk' students and disciplinary problems, to develop effective communication and administration skills

The Role of the Deputy Principal

1x 2 day course: October 6th and October 13th

Targeted at teachers who are considering applying for the post of Deputy Principal.

Objectives: to provide an overview of the role of Deputy Principal in the school leadership system; to provide an introduction to the specific duties typically attached to the post; to introduce teachers to core skills - timetabling, school discipline, management of effective teaching and learning, school development and planning

All seminars will be held in ASTI Head Office
Please contact Eileen O'Rourke on 01-6040170 or inervice@asti.ie to register for these seminars.

Pakistan floods - donation

The ASTI has donated 5,000 from its development aid fund to aid the relief operation in Pakistan.

ELSTA conference

The English Language Support Teachers' Association (ELSTA) will host a conference on October 2 in Marino Institute of Education. The conference titled: 'Diversity: the Key to Ireland's Future' will be addressed by Mary White TD, Dymphna Devine of UCD and David Little of TCD.

See www.elsta.ie for more information.

Whether you are an ASTI member or have yet to join the ASTI, you are invited to a **Know Your Rights** meeting near you.

ASTI Information Meetings Know Your Rights

CIDs

Part-time Hours

Contracts

Fixed-Term

ASTI Information Meetings for Newly Appointed Teachers will take place from 6.30pm-9.00pm

HAVE ALL YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Come along and be in with a chance of winning an IPOD Nano!

Your pay slip explained

Free one-to-one financial advice

How teachers can save money

| VENUE | DATE |
|--|----------------|
| Central Hotel, Donegal Town | 8th September |
| The Brehon Hotel, Killarney | 9th September |
| The Clarion Airport Hotel, Dublin | 9th September |
| Nuremore Hotel, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan | 9th September |
| Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar | 14th September |
| Silversprings Moran Hotel, Cork | 14th September |
| Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly | 14th September |
| Carlton Hotel, Galway | 14th September |
| Stillorgan Park Hotel, Co. Dublin | 21st September |
| South Court Hotel, Limerick | 21st September |
| Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny | 21st September |
| McWilliam Hotel, Claremorris, Co. Mayo | 21st September |

Tea, coffee & sandwiches will be available at 6pm each evening. For more information please contact Eileen O'Rourke on Tel: (01) 6040170 or Email: asti.library@asti.ie.