

# Teachers' Bulletin

[www.osstfd20.ca](http://www.osstfd20.ca)

905-332-1228

## Graduation rate increases by 13% in six years

### Over 50% of students graduate Ontario Scholars

Source: CBC – Ottawa

The Ontario government announced that 81 per cent of high school students graduated in 2009-10, an increase from 68 per cent six years earlier.

It was reported by CBC (Ottawa) that Mark Langar, the president of Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations, said provincial grades and graduation rates are hollow, having been inflated for years.

"When the Ontario Scholar Program was introduced in the 1960s, five per cent of grade 13 graduates were Ontario scholars," said Langar on Ottawa Morning, referring to the designation given to students with an average of 80 per cent or higher. "Now over 50 per cent of students graduating from grade 12 are Ontario Scholars."

For the full story go to:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/story/2011/03/08/ottawa-ready-not-university.html>

## Teachers-In-Charge (TIC's) Exposed to Personal Fines

The OSSTF Teachers' Bargaining Unit, with the advice of the OSSTF Provincial Office, is recommending that Teachers not volunteer or accept positions as Teachers-In-Charge (TIC's) while administrators are out of the school. In the event a Teacher is fined by the fire department, police department or the Ministry of Labour, as a result of acting as a Teacher in Charge, the Halton District School Board confirmed on March 29 that they **will not pay** the Teacher's fine.

The Burlington and Oakville Fire Departments revealed in meetings this year at the District Office that when a Teacher accepts the TIC as the supervisor of the school, they are at that moment acting as the owner of the building, and will subject by the law to charges and fines. They cautioned the District Office that Halton educators have been fined by the fire department, in one case \$5,000.

Violations of the Ontario Fire Code can result in a fine of up to \$50,000.

## Noteworthy Dates on the Critical Path

Teachers should note the following items and upcoming dates of importance from the Board's critical path:

- **April 11:** Meeting with individual principals to identify surplus Teachers and vacancies. Union representatives will attend.
- **April 15:** Executive Officer notifies, in writing, each Teacher to be declared surplus to their school.
- **April 15:** Internal Ad #1
- **April 20:** Surplus Teachers return preference form to Human Resources, copy to Principal and the Union.
- **April 27:** Meeting with Principals to place remaining surplus staff, voluntary transfers, and exchanges. Union will attend.
- **April 28:** Part-time vacancies advertised in a separate Top Up Advertisement.

## OSSTF Risk Management Committee Raises Issues

The Teachers' Bargaining Unit's new Risk Management Committee had its first meeting at the District Office March 31st. The following issues were identified as concerns:

- a. admission of students without OSRs
- b. the removal of information from OSRs
- c. alerting of staff to potential problems - students with safety plans and behavioural plans
- d. sharing of information - how this should be done to protect the privacy of all involved
- e. blurring the professional lines of teachers and students - very good discussion around the implications of ministry initiative (knowing your learner) but how much we should share
- f. harassment and stalking of teachers
- g. physical intervention - CAS implications of physical involvement
- h. working alone - Gary Allan site in particular and problems related to working with high risk students
- i. Toronto trends are now in Peel and heading our way - preparing for the change of school climates
- j. protocol and procedures - how well are we trained?

The next meeting date is May 12, 4 - 6:30 at the District Office.

### Don't Forget...

**District 20 Assembly, Tuesday April 26th**

**Teachers' Assembly, Tuesday May 10th**

Galaxy Club, Oakville

See your Branch President for details!

### MATERNITY/PARENTING WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY April 20, 2011, 4:00 TO 6:00

*SNACKS PROVIDED*

OSSTF DISTRICT 20 OFFICE  
3410 SOUTH SERVICE ROAD  
BURLINGTON

To register for this workshop, CHATT or call Lorie Wiersma, (905) 332-1228.

## AMPA: New Provincial Executive

John Watson, Jim Young, Steve Spisak, Marilyn Jakubos, Stephen Henstock, Brad Yhard, Tom Butterworth, Eugeni Nikolov, John Lynch, Randy Marinangeli, Cindy Gage, Victor Disyak and Brad Fisher attended the Provincial Assembly from March 11-14 at the Sheraton Downtown Toronto. Provincial Office restructuring, 2 more in-house lawyers and the provincial budget were approved. The Provincial Council restructuring was defeated.

The new Provincial Executive is as follows:

President: Ken Coran  
Vice Presidents: Paul Elliott, Harvey Bishof  
Treasurer: Earl Burt  
Executive Officers: Leslie Wolfe, Scott Marshall  
Cindy Dube

### Assigning Teacher without AQ ?

## Mutual Agreement Needed

**According to** Regulation 298, Section 19, the assignment of Teachers to subjects where they do not hold the Additional Qualification (AQ) can only be done with the mutual agreement of the administration and the Teacher.

Consider the following examples:

- a. A Biology Teacher being asked to teach 12U Chemistry without the AQ.
- b. A Phys. Ed. Teacher being asked to teach Civics and Careers without the AQ's.
- c. A History Teacher being asked to teach the Native Studies course without the AQ.
- d. A French Immersion Teacher being asked to teach Grade 9 Geography without the AQ.
- e. A Math Teacher being asked to teach Grade 9 English without the AQ.

The Teacher may accept or choose to decline the assignment offered by the administration if they are not comfortable with it.

Technically, the Board needs mutual consent from all Teachers to assign them Civics as it is a stand-a-lone course not belonging to any teachable.

## OSSTF District 20 Teachers

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