

Province-Wide Bargaining?

OSSTF Calls Vote

The OSSTF provincial executive has called for a province-wide vote of the membership to ratify the use of provincial bargaining.

The Provincial Executive has endorsed province-wide bargaining, similar to what took place in 2008, as a good strategy to protect the interests of the membership given the current economic storm that seems to be brewing. Local bargaining units were left to negotiate non-monetary issues like workload provisions.

The vote on provincial bargaining is to be completed by Branch Presidents by December 9th.

The formation of a perfect economic storm is demonstrated by the:

- Economic instability in the European Economic Union which now threatens world financial stability.
- American debt, which grows unchecked, and a fragile U.S. economy.
- Economic uncertainty that has led the Ontario government to predict a provincial revenue shortfall of \$780 million.
- Total Ontario debt of \$16 billion accumulated by all three parties while in government.
- Attacks on public-sector worker pay and pension envy.

There is speculation that the government will bring in a budget that will limit government spending to 1% across the board. Healthcare, which has been growing at a rate of 7.4%, will be limited to 3%. Because of the size of the Healthcare budget, this will necessitate massive government cuts to other departments.

Education may be allowed to increase by 1%, but this will not cover inflation, currently sitting at 2.9%. The boards will be squeezed for money, thereby making it difficult for local bargaining units to negotiate monetary items.



Crisis Awareness Learning Modules Workshop

The Crisis Awareness Learning Modules (CALM) workshop organized by Janet Scott, TBU Educational Services Officer, took place in November at the OSSTF District Office.

Halton Board Imposes Attendance Management

Unions Voice Concerns

HDSB is imposing its Attendance Management system in the new year. Employees exceeding 9 non-culpable absences in a rolling year (summers are excluded) will enter the program for coaching.

Teachers are still entitled to 20 sick days per year. What has changed is that HDSB is now insisting on its right to monitor and ask for medical notes to be sent to Employee Health Services.

The Halton Union Coalition, including OSSTF, has been quite critical of the process used in developing this program and has had many of the original clauses removed or revised.

While the employer has a legal right to have such a program, the OSSTF remains unconvinced that this program is necessary or well designed.

Incident Form on Website

Control/click for form



Myth in Education

Myth: "Anyone can be assigned to teach Grade 9"

There is an outdated view in the board that any Teacher can be required to teach general studies subjects that they are not qualified for, especially at the grade 9 and 10 levels.

Reality Check: Regulation 298 states that a teacher may teach outside his or her areas of qualification only through the mutual agreement of the Teacher and the administration. For example, a Teacher qualified in Biology and Physics cannot be compelled to teach grade 9 applied English. A History and Geography teacher cannot be compelled to teach Careers or Civics.

Collective Bargaining Committee Approved by TBU Council

The Teachers' Bargaining Unit Council approved the addition of four members-at-large to the Collective Bargaining Committee.

Teachers will be represented at the next round of negotiations by:

- Jim Young, Chief Negotiator
- Brad Fisher, President
- Anne Macdougall, IRHS, Council Liaison
- Steve Spisak, BCHS, Executive Liaison
- Kelly McCarthy, RBHS
- Jeff North, MMR
- Mark Schmidt, NHS
- Helene Rochefort, APHS

The CBC had its first meeting on Wednesday November 30, 2011 to lay the groundwork for bargaining. The current contract expires August 31, 2012.

Maternity/Parenting Workshop

Monday January 16th 2012

4:00 PM

OSSTF District 20 Office

RSVP Lorie Wiersma, Executive Assistant,

OSSTF District 20 Office

905-332-1228

Yes... that holiday feeling!

The countdown for your Christmas shopping, vacations, and family get-togethers continues.

This fall's highlights at District Office include:

- Health and Safety Committee training school Health and Safety Reps.
- Teachers Helping Teachers Final 30 Initiative saw 36 projects in 15 schools approved.
- New-To-Teaching Workshops initiative in Science, Math, English and Canada and World Studies.
- Superintendent of Program attending Council to hear concerns about A&E implementation.
- Branch President Orientation and Training Worship.
- Collective Bargaining Committee activated.
- OSSTF sponsored maternity workshop.
- Crisis Awareness Learning Module Workshop.

As always, the Christmas Holidays bring with them the anticipation of relaxation, time for families and a respite from the challenges of everyday life. Enjoy your holidays and all the best in the new year!

Best Wishes!

Brad Fisher

OTPP Pension Workshop Thursday February 9 2012

6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

M.M. Robinson Theatre

RSVP Lorie Wiersma, Executive Assistant,

OSSTF District 20 Office

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