

Teachers'

# Bulletin

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Brad Fisher, OSSTF District 20 TBU President, presented a cheque for \$5,000 to Colleen Mulholland, President and CEO of the Burlington Community Foundation, for the Flood Relief Campaign. TBU Executive and Council approved the support of the Flood Campaign to assist the community after the August 4<sup>th</sup> storm left over 3,300 homes flooded and caused over \$90 million in insured claims. The relief fund is now at \$900,000, to be matched at a 1:2 ratio by the province.

**Halton builds for the future!**

## Provincial Executive approves Halton OSSTF office purchase

The Provincial Executive has approved the purchase of an office at 980 Fraser Drive in Burlington put forward by the Teachers' Bargaining Unit (TBU) Council. District 20 Halton is the only District in the Greater Toronto Area that is still leasing and the OSSTF's real estate lawyer believes it is the only one left in Southern Ontario that does not own its own office space.

The purchase of office space was raised at the TBU Executive and Council in the fall of 2013 and was then brought to the District

OSSTF Office Purchase – see page 2



Santa was the honoured guest for over 120 children at the OSSTF District 20 Third Annual Children's Christmas Party on December 12<sup>th</sup> at Lil' Monkeys. Shown with Santa are Jove, Ginger Major (RBHS), Janet Scott (TBU Educational Services Officer), and Elizabeth Almeida (APHS).



Janet Scott, TBU Educational Services Officer and organizer of the Children's Christmas Party, is shown with the generous donations of non-perishable food that OSSTF members contributed to the Partnership West Food Bank.

## **OSSTF Office Purchase - from page 1**

Executive for discussion with the three other bargaining units in December 2013.

This September the TBU Executive was made aware that the current building had been sold and that a new realtor was handling the account.

The lease on the current office expires at the end of November 2015. There have been indications that renovations by the new owner may be accompanied by significant lease increases. Cost projections indicate that the office purchase will reduce costs, and at the very least stabilize the office space costs at their current levels.

The TBU Finance Committee was tasked with an examination of the reserves, including a possible down payment on a building, at the September Council.

TBU Council gave the TBU Executive the approval to look at the purchase of office space as an alternative to leasing at the October Council. A search of the Burlington area revealed the Fraser Drive office complex as meeting the space, by-law and budget needs of the Bargaining Unit.

At the December TBU Council meeting a motion from the Finance Committee to move forward with the purchase and seek Provincial Executive's approval was debated and passed. TBU Executive subsequently relayed the purchase proposal and the necessary paperwork to the Provincial Executive where it was approved at their December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The purchase of office space by a bargaining unit is done only with Provincial Executive approval. It must pass the scrutiny of the Associate General Secretary Jim Spray with regards to financial viability and still must pass the scrutiny of the OSSTF real estate lawyer. The office will be held in trust by OSSTF Holdings for the bargaining unit and insured by OSSTF provincial. OSSTF provincial will be the lender. No financial institution is involved. All equity realized on any future sale stays with the bargaining unit.

## **Central Bargaining Brief in January**

### **Collective Bargaining Update**

The first major step in the new bargaining process delineated in the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act has been completed. On December 9, a memorandum of settlement was signed by OSSTF, the Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA), and the Government of Ontario, identifying the contractual issues to be discussed at the central bargaining table.

OSSTF is now preparing a central bargaining brief. On January 14, local presidents and chief negotiators will be meeting in Toronto to provide input on the draft version of the brief. The final version will be presented to the same group for approval on January 22.

Once the central brief is approved and we have a better sense of the issues that fall to the local table, local bargaining units will be in a position to finalize their own bargaining briefs. At that point, bargaining may begin at both the central and local tables.

On December 10, the District Office sent an all-member electronic mailing that included Collective Bargaining Bulletin # 15 and the provincial Memorandum of Settlement that identifies the contractual items to be bargained centrally. As evident in the Memorandum, the list of central table issues is long.

Nevertheless, the local Collective Bargaining Committee will be preparing its brief, based on input provided by members during the last round of bargaining and over the past two years, and will be entering local bargaining with the firm intention of improving the provisions of our contract in those areas available to us for negotiation.

### **OSSTF/FEESO District 20 Teachers**

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