

Teachers'

Bulletin

www.osstfd20.ca

905-332-1228

Childrens' Christmas Party Fantastic!



The 1st Annual District 20 Children's Christmas Party was a huge success with over 160 attendees. From the left: Steve Spisak, Speaker; Janet Scott, Educational Services Officer; John Watson, Health and Benefits Officer; Santa; Brad Fisher, President; Kelly McCarthy, Vice-President; Doug Thompson, Communications Coordinator; and Cindy Gage, Vice-President. Special thanks go to Janet Scott for organizing the event and to Cassandra Ward, Nelson, for being Santa's Photographer. **For Pictures:**

<http://s1129.beta.photobucket.com/user/casandraward/library/OSSTF%20Christmas>

OFL Rally - Saturday January 26 Liberal Leadership Convention

The OFL Rally will start at 1:00 p.m. at Allen Gardens in Toronto and be followed by a march to Maple Leaf Gardens.

ETFO Halton and OSSTF District 20 (Halton) buses will be leaving the ETFO Halton Office, Voortman Building, 4475 North Service Road, Burlington at 9:30am and will be departing from Toronto at 3:15pm.

Please follow this link to register:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dC1jcEY0MVVrQWJqaVhtTWZON05xbmc6MQ>

It's Up to the Membership!
"voluntary or extracurricular activities WILL NOT resume."

To: Halton Secondary Teachers

With the imposition of OECTA terms on the OSSTF membership, OSSTF's immediate strategy is to keep the pressure on until after the Liberal Leadership Convention, forcing the Premier-Elect to focus on fixing this mess.

The ability of the union to maintain this pressure will now be determined by the membership. The personal decisions you make will impact on your colleagues at the school, board, and provincial level. The strength of any union is the resolve of its membership. Are you ready to heed the call?

With the government's imposition of the OECTA Deal on the OSSTF membership, we are no longer in a legal strike position. The OSSTF cannot legally dictate a job action. The language used in last week's Bargaining Bulletin is as far as the Provincial Executive can go. At the District level, all we can do is reiterate the language that was issued in the Bargaining Bulletin. It reads:

"Phase two of OSSTF/FEESO's Strategic Action Plan shared with members on December 3, made it clear that if the Minister through Bill 115 orders that the contractual or Education Act requirements be fulfilled (i.e, legal strike is ended), voluntary or extracurricular activities WILL NOT resume."

We know the personal withdrawal from voluntary and extra-curricular activities is hard to do, but the OSSTF membership needs to keep this pressure up past the Liberal Leadership Convention to influence the new Liberal leadership.

The OSSTF has and will continue to pressure the government. Already we have had:

1. The resignation of the Premier after a charged meeting of public unions that involved OSSTF
2. Changes made to the OECTA deal that is being imposed on OSSTF members
3. Recognition that Bill 115 has to be repealed
4. Liberal leadership candidates calling for change

Show Resolve -see page 2

Teachers Must Show Resolve—from page 1

5. McGuinty and Broten have been making calls to OSSTF through the holidays and as recently as last week, to find "a pathway through this."

In February, the OSSTF Leadership will reassess the willingness of the new premier to start out fixing the problems Broten and McGuinty created.

As you are aware, this government has clearly stated that they are going after the certification system and our grids by 2014. This is clearly stated in the imposed terms. This will be done at the detriment of your earnings. They have already killed off the Retirement Gratuity for many (roughly \$47,000 on retirement) and destroyed the sick day banks.

The Liberal Government wants to re-examine and de-index our pensions, the Conservatives want to move to defined contributions retirement packages and dismantle pensions. Remember that the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan is set up by legislation. It can be changed.

If we do not stick together, teachers will become doormats for the next government. We have only one and a half years until we are facing the second wave of this attack.

The decisions we make now will undoubtedly impact the rest of our careers.

We thank you all for your solidarity to this point. The OSSTF membership must continue to show resolve in the opposition to this attack on our democratic rights.

Brad Fisher, President
Teachers' Bargaining Unit
OSSTF District 20

Teacher's Retirement Workshop

Thursday February 21, 2013

6:30 pm to 9:30 pm
M.M. Robinson Theatre

RRSP – Lorie Wiersma
905 332 1228
Wiersmal@osstfd20.ca

Maternity/Parenting Workshop

Thursday February 28th, 2013

4:00 pm to 5:15 pm

OSSTF District 20 Office

RRSP – Lorie Wiersma
905 332 1228

Wiersmal@osstfd20.ca

Important to Track Deductions from Your Sick Leave

Now that teachers are receiving only ten fully paid sick days per school year, and now that the Board's Attendance Management Program is operating, it is very important for teachers to track deductions from their sick leave.

Teachers can verify the accuracy of sick-leave deductions by checking the *Absences* folder in their ESS account. If an over-deduction has occurred--for example, if a full day (five hours) has been deducted for a part-day absence--the error should be brought to the attention of the school business manager as soon as possible.

Branch Presidents have detailed information on how absences are recorded in HARRI. If you have questions or concerns about the absence-reporting process, see your Branch President.

OSSTF District 20 Teachers

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