

Teachers Credit Union Matches Teacher Helping Teacher Funds

Teachers Credit Union has matched the \$5,000 put in the budget for September 2011 by the OSSTF District 20 for the Teacher Helping Teacher Program. This will mean \$10,000 will be allocated to provide Teachers with release time for self-directed collaborative planning and mentoring in the fall.

This was a new initiative of the Executive this year that focused on providing Teachers with self-directed release time. OSSTF District 20 sponsored one time, half day releases for 2-3 teachers per request to spend time on Teacher Mentoring and Collaborative Planning.

This year OSSTF District 20 approved 11 proposals in 9 schools.

Stay tuned for more information in the fall.



OSSTF Ratifies

Pension Proposal Endorsed

Toronto-Ken Coran, OSSTF President

As a result of the OSSTF/FEESO majority vote to endorse the OTF-Government proposal, all the OSSTF/FEESO Governors supported the proposal during an emergency conference call on Friday evening, June 10th. The OTF Governors ratified the proposal during that special conference call meeting.

All affected OSSTF Districts reported their pension voting data, and the majority voted to endorse the above proposal.

The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP) has reported a projected \$17.2B funding shortfall.

The proposal to file this year is in the best interests of plan members and will mitigate the impact on pension benefits of an even larger projected shortfall for a required filing in 2012. To address the 2011 projected funding shortfall, the Partners, (OTF and the Government of Ontario), and OTPP Management are proposing the following amendments to the plan:

- A contribution rate increase of 1.1% to be phased in with increments of 0.4%, 0.35% and 0.35% respectively, in each of the next three years.
- Invoking Conditional Inflation Protection (CIP) at 40% for contributors who retire after 2009.

Based on this proposal for filing, and in the absence of future changes to the Plan, these pensioners will receive 60% of the annual cost-of-living (CPI) adjustment on the portion of their pensions for credited service earned after 2009. The portion of their pensions for credited service earned before 2010 will remain fully adjusted to inflation.

EC Drury Teacher Presented Inclusive Educator's Award

The Inclusive Educator's Award is presented annually at the TBU Assembly to the Halton Secondary School educator who has made a significant contribution to creating an inclusive school climate. This year's award winner is Sarah Robertson, a Teacher at EC Drury.

Sarah's first initiative is centred on the special needs students in the north end of the Halton Board. Sarah designed and implemented the Energy Challenge Day for students in the Life Skills and Centre programs to allow these students a chance to socialize and participate in a student lead activity day specific to their needs.

The second initiative that Sarah founded is the Strength Within Conferences for teen girls in Halton and surrounding boards. The last conference was held in 2010 over 2 days and brought together over 800 participants, 50 speakers and 60 student and staff volunteers. This initiative has been recognized in the province of Ontario through a Trillium Grant which lead to the extension of it into a not for profit organization and the development of an online learning site.

Sarah has also been awarded the Robinson Travel Fellowship by the provincial OSSTF office. The award was presented earlier in May at her school by Brad Fisher, President of OSSTF District 20.

Noteworthy Dates on the Critical Path

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

June 1 – August 15

- **Internal Ads**
Continue as needed for any new full time vacancies. Vacancies created as a result of a transfer of a Teacher will be considered an external posting.
- **External Ads**
Ads will be posted on Wednesday as needed – Internal and External candidates may apply and be considered concurrently.

Contract Negotiations on the Horizon!

The stage is slowly being set for the resumption of the collective bargaining process in anticipation of the expiry of our current collective agreement on August 31, 2012.

Two "positioning" moves made by the provincial government during the current school year are worth noting. In 2010, the government convened a series of consultations with public-sector unions to propose a two-year wage freeze after the expiry of current collective agreements. Unsurprisingly, no agreement was reached; however, the government achieved its purpose of putting the concept on the table. The proposal will, in all likelihood, be revived after the upcoming provincial election. More recently, in its budget the provincial government announced a 10% pay cut spread over two years for senior executives in the public service (including directors of education). This move is clearly designed to defuse union objections that wage restraints never apply to management.

Locally, a contingent from the TBU attended the recent OSSTF Collective Bargaining Conference in Toronto on April 1-2. The theme of the conference was "Empowering Local Teams." Jim Young, Jeff North, Ann Macdougall, Brad Yhard, and Steven Spisak attended a variety of interesting and useful workshops, all focused on issues that will be important in the next round of negotiations.

The process of putting together the TBU Collective Bargaining Committee will begin this coming autumn. The process will be communicated to all teachers through Branch Presidents. The committee will be charged with preparing the brief for the new contract and engaging in negotiations with the board.

News in Brief!

Teacher Merit Pay Ineffective... Fosters Competition, Not Collaboration

"In a three-year, \$10 million study released last fall, Vanderbilt University researchers found no significant difference in performance between students who were taught by middle school teachers eligible for cash bonuses and those who weren't."

To read the full story go to:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/five-myths-about-americas-schools/2011/05/09/AFunW27G_story.html

B.C. Supreme Court Rules Teachers' Bargaining Rights Constitutional

"A British Columbia judge has greeted the province's new premier, Christy Clark, with a stinging determination that legislation she introduced as education minister in 2002 and 2004, taking away the right of teachers to bargain key employment issues through their unions, is a breach of the guarantee of freedom of association in s.2(d) of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*."

To read the full story go to:

<http://www.lancasterhouse.com/>

Hudak would fire hundreds to fund health care, tax cuts

"A Progressive Conservative government would fire hundreds of civil servants to find the cash for tax cuts and health care, party leader Tim Hudak says."

To read the full story go to:

<http://www.thestar.com/news/ontario/article/997016--hudak-would-fire-hundreds-to-fund-health-care-tax-cuts?bn=1>

OSSTF District 20 Teachers

3410 South Service Road, Burlington L7N 3T2

Brad Fisher, President
Jim Young, Chief Negotiator
John Watson, Health and Benefits Officer
Lorie Wiersma, Executive Assistant

Phone: (905) 332-1228

Fax: (905) 335-9220

www.osstfd20.ca