

EQAO Squanders Resources Contradicts Modern Practice

OSSTF Education Watch – June 2012

EQAO standardized testing is NOT an effective use of financial resources by the government.

OSSTF Education Watch reports that the practice of standardized testing goes against modern, more progressive teaching methods of assessment and evaluation.

Canada has among the highest literacy and numeracy rates in the world. Study after study over the past twenty years indicates that literacy rates in our country have steadily improved and are now very close to 100 percent. Targeting government resources in areas such as critical thinking, problem solving, and numeracy are a better use of public funds.

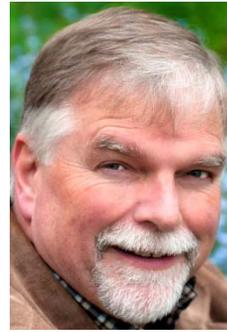
Since 2007-2008, OSSLT results province wide have shown a success rate of between 83-85 percent. In 2007, the Ontario government set a graduation rate target of 85 percent by the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

Given the trend of EQAO test results over the past five years, it is apparent that they do not serve their intended purpose of improving student outcomes.

OSSTF EQAO RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Stop province-wide standardized testing at all grade levels in Ontario.
- Dissolve the Education Quality and Accountability Office.
- Enhance student success in the areas of literacy and numeracy by adding more education workers into our schools.
- Remove all references to all EQAO test results from government resources.

Have A Great Summer!



*Brad Fisher
TBU President*

Wow... it's that time of year when all the loose ends of missing assignments, summatives to collect, exams to mark, phone calls to make, and report card comments to struggle over come together for this last day of the school year.

It's a time to reflect, to say good-bye, and to welcome new staff into the school family. For some of you it means a new path in your career as you move to a new school, an exciting and rejuvenating experience. For most, it means packing up the classroom until next year, saying goodbyes, and finally being able to drop the yoke of the daily demands of the classroom for the long awaited FREEDOM that summer brings.

Whatever your plans, the District Office would like to thank you for all the efforts you have made on behalf of your students, and wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.

General Meeting Packed September Strike Vote

The All-Members Meeting on June 13th saw 500 members pack the CAW Hall to hear the state of the negotiations between the province and the OSSTF.

Brad Fisher, TBU President, stated in his introduction of the keynote speaker that, given the current government demands, the question for the membership "was not whether they could afford to act, but whether they could afford not to."

Earl Burt, OSSTF Treasurer, outlined the governments' position, that all the OSSTF bargaining units are under provincial takeover and that they are moving toward strike votes in August and September.

All members were reminded to make sure that they have given their personal email addresses to their Branch President so they can be contacted over the summer and in September.

Retirements

Thanks For Your Dedication!

Over 30 members' letters of retirement have come in to date.

I know that it must be bittersweet for many of you who have fond memories of what has been a very rewarding career, for it is mixed with the anticipation and excitement of the freedom to pursue new experiences and challenges.

To all of the retirees, thanks for all you have done for our students in Halton, and best wishes for the future.

The following OSSTF members are retiring this year:

Anstett, Lynda	Marinangeli, Randy
Arends, Helene	Marshall, Kathleen
Austin, Glenn	Mason, Maryanne
Axtmann, Norbert	Massicotte, Jeanette
Bokor, Henry	Matthews, Sheena
Bowering, Richard	Page, Karen
Campbell, Beverley	Pritchard, Helen
Caussy, Devianee	Rich, Irvin
Coulas, Cecelia	Seeliger, Virginia
Davidson, Nancy	Simpson, Robyn
Deruchie, Diane	Start, Marian
Dreimanis, Erland	Uloth, Barbara
Filson, Luisa	Chisholm, Moira
Fudurich, Patricia	Baratto, Mary
Jansons, Constance	Faulds, Marcelle
Laidlaw, David	Olma, Rick
Lethbridge, Heather	Sora, Greg
	Stacey, Robert

Henry Bokor

Henry started his career in 1973. After 39 years of teaching, he is alive, well, and fully functioning. In his own words, "It has been a great run. I've enjoyed almost every minute of it. No regrets, no changes." Henry is especially proud of and thankful for his family – wife Karen, and his three children Lindsey, Carley, and Jamie. He is also appreciative of the many fine students he has taught, coached, and

mentored. Henry has been an attentive, energetic teacher who loves a lively discussion to bring out the best in his students! In his new career, "Hank" hopes to improve his jump shot and build on his expertise as a "fishin' musician."

Marg Camani

Marg started her teaching career with the Durham Board of Education in Oshawa in 1980. An ad in the Globe and Mail for a History and French Immersion position at Milton District High School was promptly answered where Marg found herself teaching for 27 years. Acton High

School was also Marg's home for 4 enjoyable years where she was Head of French.

In addition to loving the classroom experience, Marg has been involved in many facets of school life – coaching volleyball and cross-country running, staff advisor for Student Parliament and organizing trips to Europe for her students.

Marg's passion for history, French and travel has led her to many countries over the years – Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Croatia, Great Britain, France etc.

A highlight of her teaching career was the International Seminar for Educators she participated in last summer at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

Teaching subjects she loved and working with young students and great colleagues have made her many years in this profession ones to treasure.

She and her husband Bryan plan to continue travelling and hiking "the four corners of the world", starting with China this fall.

Heather Lethbridge

Heather's career has been diverse and filled with rich opportunities. She started teaching for the Waterloo District School Board and then joined HDSB in 1986. She has taught students all across the continuum – elementary to Adult education.

She spent the majority of her career divided between General Brock High School and

Oakville Trafalgar High School. She taught all levels of secondary English, as well as, spending many happy years as a teacher-librarian.

Heather was also the Executive Producer for Student Television for 5 years.

Now that her time to retire has arrived she is excited to see how the next chapter unfolds. She will continue to read, learn, travel and most importantly spend oodles of time with her growing family and friends.

Maryanne Mason

Maryanne is celebrating her golden anniversary! She has completed 50 years in education, both as a student and as a teacher. Maryanne's thirst for knowledge and love of teaching brought her to Oakville Trafalgar High School, where she has remained for 32 years.

While History has always been Maryanne's passion, she has shared her energy and knowledge by teaching a wide range of courses from Family Studies and Computer courses to Civics and Careers.

Maryanne received the prestigious ACE award for her innovative Data Processing course, which allowed students to produce, with pride, the OTHS newspaper and newsletter, as well as to create programs for both an OTHS sponsored rugby tournament and the OTHS music nights.

Her co-curricular commitments included numerous committees and coaching a variety of sports teams, including initiating OT's first skate team, last year.

With her love of travel, her students and Maryanne visited a plethora of places, including France and Belgium. A highlight of her international involvement was the twinning of OTHS with Murasakino High School in Kyoto, Japan.

Golf, reading, travelling and curling are only part of the list that will benefit from Maryanne's energetic spirit as she spends more time with family and friends.

She leaves the Halton Board with many golden memories and is appreciative of the unique opportunity of having worked with so many engaging students and dedicated colleagues in OT's welcoming and supportive community.

Jeanette Massicotte

After 34 years of teaching and 11 schools, Jeanette has decided that it is time to move on with the next stage of her life. She began teaching French Core in a junior high school in 1976 with the Surrey School Board in B.C. for 3 years, and then participated in a teacher exchange with Quebec for the next 3 years where she taught English as a Second Language at both the elementary and secondary levels.

She and her husband then decided to move to Burlington where she accepted a job in Halton teaching French Immersion and French Core at Pineview and Martin St. Public Schools in Milton. She then taught grades 3, 4 and 5 French Immersion at Clarksdale P.S. until, after 6 years in the elementary panel, she was able to get back into the secondary panel teaching at E.C. Drury. There she taught French Immersion and French Core for 9 ½ years, eventually becoming a department head. A job came up closer to home at M.M. Robinson so she worked there for 2 ½ years and then finally the last 11 years have been at Syl Apps School.

She has always enjoyed working with teenagers and will definitely miss that aspect of her job. As well, she has worked with phenomenal staffs in every school and will miss the camaraderie although she maintains close friendships with many colleagues from the various schools.

Besides keeping busy with their family (three children and two grandchildren), Jeanette and Albert have a long list of things to do and people to see.

She would like to thank each staff and the Halton District School Board for all of their support over the years.

Virginia Seeliger

Virginia Seeliger began her teaching career in 1968. In high school she was captain of the Army Cadets and a cheerleader. After graduating from the University of Western Ontario in 1967, she continued cheering for students throughout her teaching career which began in Chatham Secondary School, continued to Queen Elizabeth Park H.S. and has culminated at Oakville Trafalgar High School.

In fact, she has passed on her passion for teaching to her daughter Heather Michlick who taught at O.T. and now teaches at Nelson.

Over the years, Mrs. Seeliger has taught math as well as English. Not only is she mathematical and literary, but she is also very musical. Music has always been incorporated into her classes. Her students have appreciated her warm and nurturing approach to teaching and students call her 'Mama Seeliger'.

Virginia has also worked hard to instill a strong sense of discipline in her students, who are well aware of her mantra (as worn proudly on a button) 'the chickens come home to roost'. Mrs. Seeliger is now packing her bags and beginning a new journey that includes travel plans. To celebrate her next step, the English department presented her with a suitcase filled with treasures for her trip and some memorabilia to commemorate her years of teaching.

We will miss her rich academic wisdom, her high expectations of students, and Mrs. Wright will personally miss her teaching buddy and friend of 20 years. Bob Dylan once commented on the journey to a new stage of life. He said he didn't know where the road would lead, but he followed it anyway, "it was wide open." Ginny, we wish you all the best as you travel your new road.

Jane Uloth



Jane has been teaching for the Halton District School Board for 23 years. She began her teaching career at White Oaks Secondary School and then moved to Gary Allan, Oakville Trafalgar, Lester B. Pearson, Aldershot High School and then returned to

Lester B. Pearson. She has taught Mathematics, Science, and Adult Education.

Jane has demonstrated her exceptional leadership in her role as Department Head of Mathematics, Science and Moderns at Pearson for many years.

She is a passionate, committed and enthusiastic educator dedicating her time and

energy to her students. She has been an integral part of the Lester B. Pearson family as a staff advisor for many sports teams, organizing ticket sales for the annual musical production, mentoring students for math competitions, running the World Vision 30-hour Famine, and a key member of the awards committee for Commencement.

Jane wishes to express that:

"it has been a pleasure to work with such enthusiastic, motivated, and inspiring teachers currently and over the past years. But most importantly, I have never tired of sharing the classroom with the wonderful students who year after year were the reason that I have always loved my job."

We wish you all the best in retirement, Jane. Congratulations!!!

Staffing Process Continues

Staffing for 2012-13 has been a long, complicated, and challenging process. In early April, the Board declared over 150 teachers surplus to their schools. Of that number, 32 teachers still remain redundant to the Board's needs for September. The process is not over. OSSTF will continue to work with the Board throughout the summer in the effort to place as many of these teachers as possible in teaching positions by the start of the new school year.

Membership Notice

All Teachers are reminded to provide their Branch President with a personal email address.

The District Office will be using these addresses to send important information regarding bargaining and the Strike Vote on September 6th and 7th.

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