



Remembering the Sacrifices

Brad Fisher, President, Kelly McCarthy, Vice-President, and Past Vice-President Kim Darby represented the Teachers' Bargaining Unit at the Burlington City Hall Remembrance Day Service. Kelly McCarthy and Kim Darby are shown laying the wreath at the cenotaph.

Halton Bargaining Deadlock

Strike Sanctions Remain!!!

Over the past two weeks, a number of teacher bargaining units have reached tentative contract deals, including York, Hamilton, Thames Valley, Niagara, Durham, Kawartha Pine Ridge, Thunder Bay and Simcoe. York, and Niagara have since rejected. Upper Grand has accepted.

The difficulty in all local negotiations has been the struggle to reach agreement on contract provisions that meet OSSTF members' needs while remaining "substantively identical" to the provisions imposed by Bill 115 and the OEFTA MoU.

The Halton Secondary Negotiating Team, chaired by Executive Officer Leslie Wolfe, met with the board on Monday November 26 to see if a deal could be reached using the above-noted agreements as a reference point.

After 13 hours of negotiations, bargaining reached an impasse late Monday night.

No date has been set for the continuation of bargaining.

Ministry Rejects Local Tentative Agreements

Negotiations with school boards suspended

(Toronto)- The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) has suspended all negotiations with school boards until further notice. This action comes after the Ministry of Education refused to give approval to a number of locally bargained tentative agreements, deeming them not "substantively identical," and on the heels of the rejection of tentative agreements by members in York and Niagara at ratification votes on Tuesday.

All Bargaining Unit leaders have been called to a special meeting on Monday, December 3 at which time next actions specific to collective bargaining and the Bill 115 Fight Back Campaign will be outlined.

The ratification vote for the District 21, Hamilton-Wentworth Teacher Bargaining Unit will proceed on Friday, November 30. All other scheduled ratification votes are delayed until after Monday's meeting with local leaders.

Ken Coran, President of OSSTF/FEESO stated that "when OEFTA signed their Memorandum with the government in July, they established a pattern of accepting significant concessions. In September, the Liberals and Conservatives passed Bill 115, which threatens to impose this MoU or something substantively identical upon us. In spite of these constraints, OSSTF/FEESO attempted to bargain deals that protect members."

"When Premier McGuinty prorogued the Legislature, he made it impossible to have any further political dialogue on this issue. With Bill 115, this government has failed the education workers and citizens of this province and has only succeeded in creating chaos, discontent and an environment of disrespect toward teachers and educational support staff workers in Ontario," concluded Coran.

No further statements will be made by Provincial Office or local OSSTF/FEESO leaders until after the meeting on Monday.

OSSTF'S Tentative Deals Membership Concerns...

Concerns about participating in negotiation talks with the Boards exist in the general membership. They are as follows:

1. Are the OSSTF deals the same as OECTA's?

Many members are understandably concerned that since Bill 115 requires any deal achieved by OSSTF to be 'substantively identical' to the OECTA deal, that OSSTF deals will do little to protect members from the OECTA MOU.

The deals that OSSTF is shaping are not the same as the OECTA deal, and are designed to provide more protection for our members than OECTA. However, unlike OECTA, it is up to the membership to determine whether they are adequate in a ratification vote. Two bargaining units have rejected the deals in ratification votes.

2. Do the deals harm the Bill 115 court challenge?

Members are also concerned that if we achieve agreements under Bill 115, our ability to challenge the Bill both in the courts and in the court of public opinion i.e. the political realm, is ended.

Our court challenge proceeds unimpeded by achieving deals. The court challenge is based on the facts at the time the case was filed, and not what has happened subsequently.

3. Are we giving up the fight by settling?

OSSTF is committed to continuing the fight against Bill 115 – a set of laws that can only be changed through strategic provincial political action and that cannot be changed at the bargaining table with boards of education.

OSSTF was trying to mitigate the damage to the members' rights in a very difficult and uncertain political climate and protect the members from the OECTA deal.

4. Why not force the issue and stay on strike?

We can do that until Dec. 31, 2012. The government is poised to impose the OECTA deal on us as of December 31. The strike action would end. In this case as well OSSTF would continue the fight against Bill 115 in the courts and the provincial political arena.

District 20 Members Recognized

Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence



Carmen Gassi, Certificate of Excellence

White Oaks Secondary School

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/pmate-ppmee.nsf/eng/wzo1931.html>

Vanessa Pick, Certificate of Achievement

T.A. Blakelock High School

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/pmate-ppmee.nsf/eng/wzo1936.html>



The OSSTF District 20 CPAC Committee organized the Oakville Rally to protest Bill 115. The Rally took place outside the offices of Liberal MPP Kevin Flynn in Oakville.

Maternity/Parenting Workshop

Monday, December 3, 2012

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

OSSTF D 20 Office

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