

September



COVID Style

New Teaching Experiences for September

- a) Students not wanting to sneeze in a mask
- b) Virtual Students asking to go to the Bathroom
- c) Brightspace Crash
- d) Extra-large gowns
- e) New Requirements/schedules every day
- f) Taping a 'teacher zone' even though teachers walk around
- g) Boomerang and no garbage (finally becoming environmentally friendly)
- h) Student friends dropping into your Virtual class
- i) Bathroom breaks for teachers
- j) Hand sanitizer supervisions
- k) Finding metre sticks to measure desks
- l) Extra mask tracking
- m) 'Pee' logs and seating plan uploads
- n) Outside lunches and watching the students congregate at the mall
- o) Figuring out CTRL +D unmutes you in Google Meet
- p) Where can students' snack beside the classroom?
- q) Noisy parrot (not just dogs barking)
- r) Watching the COVID counter and checking if your school is listed
- s) Teaching to circles rather than faces
- t) "It goes over the nose" instructions

Please send me your funny stories at Ginger.Major@d20.osstf.ca because we all need to laugh through our exhaustions.

OSSTF DISTRICT 20



September Newsletter, 2020

Dear Members

Please check your personal email for important updates concerning how your union is trying to help you navigate these difficult times.

This additional newsletter will try and summarize initiatives and opportunities for continued involvement.

We are the union!

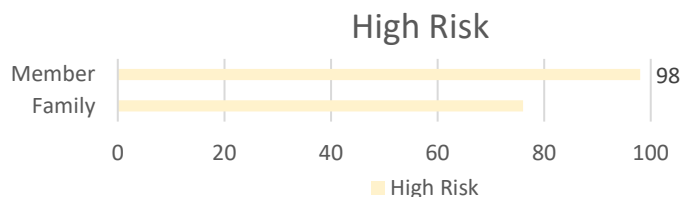
SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- a) The union is working on supporting our at-risk members who are currently teaching from their home schools.
- b) Staffing the Virtual school took volunteers to minimize a full repeat of the staffing process and used qualifications to determine sections leaving many members teaching out of their comfort zone
- c) Supervision requirements and supply lesson are being monitored due to workload concerns
- d) Please Vote for the local contract using your Provincial OSSTF logon (similar to the Central Contract) on Sept. 29th
- e) The union is still working through changes regarding illness (code1) and quarantine (code 42) and the expectations for each of these situations.
- f) Technical equipment for teaching online varies from school to school
- g) Synchronous timing and final 30 expectations from the Ministry are still pending
- h) Two new committees have been set up for members to expand participation
 - a. BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of Colour)
 - b. LGBTQ+2(Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer plus Two Spirit)
- i) Committee membership was approved at council and you should be hearing from the executive liaison soon to get started
- j) Please wear an **Orange Shirt** on Wednesday, September 30th to honour our relationship with the Indigenous in Canada and our past injustices

WORKING FROM HOME

Imaginary Poll (Great tool for online teaching) and coming soon to Halton!

Should teachers who are immune compromised or have family members who are high risk be able to teach from home?



Results indicate that teachers want to protect their members that are in high risk categories but the 'optics' for the public are a concern.

The Board's Plan does indicate that those who work at the Board Office can work from home for their safety.

Upcoming Dates

In 630 days (Doug Ford's last day) we could get a major Internet upgrade in the schools. Ontario could follow Germany's example of recognizing that a technical overhaul is needed to provide education in the 21st century.

September 30th
Orange Shirt Day



Next Executive Meeting
Tuesday, October 6th

Next Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 20th

OCTOBER Women's History Month, Islamic History Month, and Latin American Heritage Month

- 01 International Day of Older Persons
- 04 National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- 07 World Day for Decent Work
- 04-10 Mental Illness Awareness Week
- 10 World Mental Health Day
- 11 International Day of the Girl Child
- 11 National Coming Out Day
- 15 Spirit Day—Wear Purple to Fight Bullying
- 16 World Food Day

Committees

The first meeting for the LGBTQ2+ meeting will be held next week virtually. Please check your email for the link.

Just over half of the 2SLGBTQ+ workers surveyed were not fully out at work and two thirds of workers experienced some type of harassment or discrimination in their current job.

WORK, INCLUSION AND 2SLGBTQ+ PEOPLE IN SUDBURY AND WINDSOR, 2020



PROVINCIAL OFFICE UPDATES

Our D20 liaison from the Provincial executive, Dave Warda, shared updates with your local Branch Representatives at our local meeting last week. Once a month we are able to share local school concerns and issues and have this representative also take this information forward on your behalf.

Provincial Executive

OSSTF/FEESO has a Provincial Executive consisting of seven voting and four non-voting members. The voting members are elected for a two-year term at a Provincial Assembly.

Voting members of the Provincial Executive include:

- **Harvey Bischof**, President (Chief Executive Officer)
- **Paul Caccamo**, Vice President
- **Karen Littlewood**, Vice President
- **Martha Hradowy**, Executive Officer
- **Malini Leahy**, Executive Officer
- **Dave Warda**, Executive Officer
- **Earl Burt**, Treasurer

The non-voting members of the Provincial Executive include:

- **Pierre Côté**, General Secretary
- **Domenic Bellissimo**, Associate General Secretary
- **Brad Bennett**, Associate General Secretary
- **Jim Spray**, Associate General Secretary (Chief Financial Officer)

Highlights

- Teacher and education worker unions taking legal action as Ford government fails to meet health and safety obligations
- The Ministry put strong reliance on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as the response to concerns that were raised by the unions in the areas of class size and physical distancing, cohorts, ventilation and busing.
- The government rushed through legislation (Bill 197) that can expand the scope of the Ontario Educational Communications Authority (TVO/TFO) to include provision of on-line courses and to work with third parties to provide distance learning.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our local D20 member, Eric Keune, will be representing us on a Provincial advisory group.

Teachers please try to be observant during these tough times as our words and action matter. You may not even be aware of 'micro-aggressions' but these comments can make staff and students feel unwelcome.

Let's create the work culture that we want for future generations!



Eric Keune @ErickKeune · 19h

Very excited to have been appointed to the OSSTF Provincial Equity Advisory Work Group for a one (1) year term. Looking forward to making some valuable contributions and as always I will put your best forward and get this Union shifting @OSSTFD20TEACHER



Who to contact if you ever need assistance?



OSSTF District 20

980 Fraser Drive, Unit 211
Burlington, Ontario, L7L 5P5
(905) 332-1228



OSSTF District 20 updates can now be found on the District Website, Twitter, Facebook or Instagram.



If you have any concern in your workplace, please let your local branch representative know and they can help guide you through the process.



We have been supporting members in the Province for over 100 years.

Full Release

President

Cindy Gage

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Branch Representatives

[Abbey Park](#)

[Acton](#)

[Aldershot](#)

[Burlington Central](#)

[Craig Kielburger](#) -

[Dr. Frank J. Hayden](#)

[Garth Webb](#)

[Gary Allan](#)

[Georgetown](#)

ELearning

[Iroquois Ridge](#)

[Milton](#) -

[MMR](#)

[Nelson](#)

[New St./Itinerant](#)

[OTHS](#)

[Syl Aps](#)

[TAB](#)

Virtual School

[WOSS](#)

John Maras/Janet Scott

Daryl LeBlanc

Ramiel Nassara

Angelo Mihalios/Steve Spisak

Scott Nicholson

Jennifer Plens/Kristen McCoy (Co-BPs)

Jennifer Patterson

Jennifer Hicks

Eugeni Nikolov/Kyle Stewart (Co-BPs)

(Home school or executive member)

James Caldwell, April Valera (Co-PBs)

Jamie Newman/Rod Whate

Rory Papin/Alex Skene

Lisa Ashenhurst

Nicole Jarvis

Rob Sargent

Sarah Jane Black

Judy Wedeles, Jolene Schmidt (ALT)

(Home school or executive member)

S. Marciniak/N. Bhabha (Co-BPs), B. Hussain (ALT)