

## **VOTE APRIL BRANDER FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Hello fellow District 10 members. My name is April Brander and I am running for the position of Executive Officer. I'd like to take the next few paragraphs to introduce myself, outline my previous OSSTF experience, and to share why I am seeking your vote on May 9 at our A.M.D.A.

For the past 15 years, I have taught in the LKDSB, formerly at SCITS and now at Great Lakes Secondary School. For the majority of those years, I have also been the Curriculum Leader of the English and Drama departments. I am a married mother of three busy children, and an active member on the boards of their minor sports organizations.

I have been a proud and active member of OSSTF for my entire teaching career, having held a position on my branch executive in every year that I have taught. Most recently I have taken on the role of Branch Vice-President and now President. At the branch level, my focus has always been on fostering strong relations between members. I have organized countless events over the years, achieving great camaraderie among the teachers on staff. Solidarity in difficult times begins with strong communication and working relationships during our everyday interactions. Similarly at the branch level, I have worked to help members understand our collective agreement and to know their duties as well as their rights as employees. I have assisted staff by mediating points of disagreement between teachers and administrators, and have mentored junior members in particular in this area.

At the District and Provincial levels, my focus has been on communication and political action. As a delegate to numerous AMDAs and AMPAs, I have endeavoured to become an informed member of OSSTF, someone who knows the challenges we face locally and provincially in our schools. In recent years, our right to fair collective bargaining has been under attack. I led a branch delegation to protest Bill 274 in Toronto along with other members of our district, and also worked to engage members in locally staged protests. As we approach another provincial election, it is certain we will be faced with new challenges that may threaten the integrity of our public education system.

At our Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly which I attended in March, Andrea Horwath and Kathleen Wynne both made promises to our membership to address our need for safe working conditions in schools, for adequate special education funding and support, and for school buildings that are healthy and modern learning spaces. Locally, we continue to face the pressures of declining enrollment and school closures. All of these things have a very real impact on the day to day working conditions of our membership. I am asking for your vote on May 9 so that I can be your advocate and representative on the District Executive with the hope that I can help make a positive contribution in District 10.

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