

APRIL 2, 2014



OSSTF/FEESO
District 10

DISTRICT COUNCIL

FEDERATION OFFICER'S REPORT

1. Grievances

Denial of partial top-up for members on partial sick leave – resolved satisfactorily for affected members.
Improper declaration of surplus – proceeding to arbitration.

2. 2014-2015 School Year Calendar

The Board has consulted with the District (along with other stakeholders) and has approved a regular school calendar for 2014-2015 in accordance with the Regulation consisting of 194 instructional days of which 6 days have been designated as PA Days and 10 as Exam days for secondary schools. Important dates in the 2014-2015 school calendar are:

<u>First day of classes:</u>	Tuesday, September 2, 2014
<u>Thanksgiving:</u>	Monday, October 13, 2014
<u>Holidays:</u>	Monday, December 22, 2014 – Friday, January 2, 2015
<u>Family Day:</u>	Monday, February 16, 2015
<u>March Break:</u>	Monday, March 16, 2015 – Friday, March 20, 2015
<u>Good Friday/Easter Monday:</u>	April 3, 2015/April 6, 2015
<u>Victoria Day:</u>	Monday, May 18, 2015
<u>Examination dates:</u>	January 23-29, 2015 and June 19-25, 2015
<u>PA Days (6):</u>	Sept. 19, 2014; Oct. 24, 2014; Nov. 21, 2014; Jan. 30, 2015; June 8, 2015; and June 26, 2015

3. Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

The Lambton Kent District School Board in conjunction with Family Counseling Centre and Family Services Kent has their website available including online surveys on health and wellness issues. The centre will provide workshops, for a fee, that deal with issues such as Conflict Management, Dealing with Difficult People, Stress Management, Stressed Children, Anger Only Makes Things Worse and Healthy Living, and more.

To enter the EAP website for LKDSB, go to www.myfseap.com

The groupname is: **toLKDSB** and the password is: **health**

4. Collective Bargaining / Negotiations

Our contract expires on August 31, 2014. Last October, the provincial Liberal minority government introduced Bill 122, the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, which is designed to ensure and formalize some form of provincial bargaining. To date, this Bill is still in committee hearings in the legislature and has not passed final reading. With the prospect of provincial bargaining, the membership was surveyed about priorities for the upcoming round of bargaining. A survey on a provincial benefit plan was also conducted. However, passage of Bill 122 is not assured and the prospect of a provincial election, possibly as early as June, looms large and will hinge on the upcoming provincial budget. Stay tuned. As always, the District Executive remains committed to keeping our membership informed of bargaining developments. Please ensure that your Branch President has your correct non-board email address in order to receive bargaining updates.

Please continue to contact me (or Barb) at the District Office if you have any questions or concerns.

Hugh Garrett, Federation Officer

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release: March 27, 2014

Austerity agenda continues with education funding

(Toronto) – Today, the Minister of Education released the Grants for Student Needs (GSNs), the funding for all school boards in Ontario.

The government stated that the GSNs provide stable funding for school boards and include an increase in funding. The reality is that the GSNs contain shifted funding and not new funding. There is no additional funding for front line services and some boards may see a decrease in their funding for next year.

The funding in the GSNs announced today also does not provide funding for Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) members still on a salary grid to move up on that grid until the 97th work day for teachers or the ½ work year mark for support staff.

Regardless of the funding, OSSTF/FEESO fully expects school boards to respect the end of the agreed upon two-year restraint period and have salary grids move as they should on September 1, 2014.

Paul Elliott, president of OSSTF/FEESO stated, “It is difficult to understand why, despite assurances from the government that it has moved away from McGuinty’s austerity agenda, the government has decided to extend the restraint period beyond the current collective agreement. OSSTF/FEESO members had significant concessions imposed upon them under Bill 115 which they may never recover from in their careers. It is not acceptable that education workers are once again bearing the brunt of the austerity agenda to help the government balance its books.”

Elliott concluded, “The extension of this restraint period only serves to undermine the work and dedication of all of our front line workers to build a world class education system.”

OSSTF/FEESO, founded in 1919, has 60,000 members across Ontario. They include public high school teachers, occasional teachers, educational assistants, continuing education teachers and instructors, early childhood educators, psychologists, secretaries, speech-language pathologists, social workers, plant support personnel, university support staff, and many others in education.

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