



COVID-19 UPDATE

The following is an excerpt of this same topic from the President's Report issued last year in January 2021: *"District 10 members continue to provide quality public education programming to students throughout the "pivot" to remote learning [...] in response to concerning increases in COVID-19 in our communities. District 10 members are recognized for their professionalism and flexibility during this period of remote learning, while acknowledging that this work is not without its challenges. The provincial government's ongoing ill-timed announcements, whether it be school closure announcements during the winter break or the expansion of emergency childcare for some [...], demonstrates poor planning and a lack of consideration of frontline educators and the families we serve."*

Now, the second week of January 2022 feels like Groundhog Day. We are still at odds with a provincial government who seemingly values politics over public health decisions as we enter into the pre-June 2022 election period. While the OSSTF, both provincially and locally, continues to advocate for increased health and safety measures for teaching and learning in our schools, members continue to demonstrate their perseverance in delivering the best programming possible for students in spite of all the extraneous challenges they face. You are truly commended and recognized for your invaluable contributions to our local school communities.

As the COVID-19 landscape continues to evolve, so do ongoing local conversations with the employer and local Public Health. Wherever possible, we try to be proactive for the benefit of members. In reality, conversations in many situations continue to be reactive to unexpected and poorly planned government announcements and changes and we navigate and adjust quickly, as needed. Members with health and safety concerns are reminded about their right to refuse unsafe work without fear of reprisal under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, as well as the options available to them when utilizing the "Health and Safety Concern Resolution Flow Chart" (available on the LKDSB Portal under the H&S homepage).

Regardless of the topic, members are always encouraged to reach out to the District Office with any questions, concerns, or issues—we are here to help.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS (IN HONOUR OF MARION DRYSDALE)

The Student Achievement Awards in Honour of Marion Drysdale were a great success again this year. This year's theme, "Our Moment in Time", resulted in many high caliber entries. Appreciation is extended again to all of the students who participated, as well as their sponsoring teachers for encouraging and supporting them. Selected entries have continued to the Regional and Provincial levels for adjudication. Best of luck to all of those who have moved on to the next level!

CHANGES TO EMPLOYMENT STATUS

With the end of semester one upon us, the annual spring staffing process quickly follows in semester two. Members interested in requesting an increase or decrease to their teaching assignment FTE (full time equivalency) and/or who are interested in a transfer to another work location should notify the Board by applying through the appropriate Apply to Education posting, when released. Members considering changing their FTE are strongly advised to contact the District Office for advice. Any teacher requesting a transfer to a new school location is also encouraged to apply to postings to which they are qualified as they occur.

OTPP PENSIONER RE-EMPLOYMENT

All members have received information from the OTF (Ontario Teachers' Federation), via the District 10 Office, regarding a recent and temporary extension to the "50 day re-employment rule" for retired teachers working in education. Due to staffing constraints caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, OTF and the Ontario government have agreed to increase the total to 95 days until June 30, 2022. From the statement released last week: *"While OTF does not expect that many retirees are interested in working in the current environment, this change may extend the number of days that some retirees choose to work."*

RETIREMENT

If you plan to retire during the 2021-2022 school year, it is important to let the employer and the District 10 Office know as soon as possible. There is also an option to terminate LTD coverage and the associated premium costs in some cases. District 10 has a package of retirement information posted on our website here: <http://www.osstfd10.ca/pub.htm> Formally notifying the Board of retirement prior to March 31, 2022 may prevent some of our less senior members from being declared surplus or redundant.

DISTRICT ELECTIONS

2022 is an election year at the AMDA (Annual Meeting of District Assembly), scheduled to be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2022. All elected positions on District Executive are for a two-year term. Article 6 of the Constitution outlines the District Organization:

- "6.1 There shall be a District Executive consisting of
 - 6.1.1 Voting Members as follows:
 - 6.1.1.1 President;
 - 6.1.1.2 two (2) Vice-Presidents;
 - 6.1.1.3 Treasurer;
 - 6.1.1.4 two (2) Executive Officers;..."

Nomination forms will be available early March 2022.

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