

**WELCOME BACK**

I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and are returning to work ready to tackle the challenges of the last few weeks of the semester.

NEGOTIATIONS PRIORITY SURVEY

Provincial Office has developed an electronic survey as a means of gathering input from members about what is important and what should be considered as Negotiations priorities at the bargaining table.

We encourage all OSSTF members to complete the applicable survey(s). Information and log in instructions can be found on our website www.osstfd10.ca

The surveys will be available to members electronically from the OSSTF/FEESO provincial website (www.osstf.ca) from 5:00 pm January 13, 2014 until 5:00 pm January 31, 2014.

TEACHER TRANSFER REQUESTS

Beginning this year, all transfer requests will be done electronically. Any teacher requesting to transfer to a new school location or to change part-time or full-time status should notify Human Resources by applying through Posting # 3114 by March 31, 2014. The requests will be considered by Principals and Senior Administration during the 2014-2015 staffing process.

Any teacher requesting to transfer to a new school location is also encouraged to apply to postings as they occur, to which they are qualified.

RETIREMENT

There are two retirement information sessions being hosted by OTIP and Educators Financial Group. In Sarnia it will be held at the Holiday Inn on February 4, 2014 and in Chatham on February 5 at the Chatham Kent Convention Centre. Register early by email jdagg@otip.com to confirm your spot.

If you plan to retire sometime during the 2013-2014 school year, it is prudent to let the Board and OSSTF know as soon as possible so that there will be enough time to make appropriate decisions regarding pension, gratuity and post teaching benefit plans. District 10 will provide a package of information upon request. Notifying the Board prior to March 31, 2014 may prevent some of our younger members from being declared surplus.

APPLICATION TO PROVINCIAL STANDING COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

The application for Provincial Standing Committees and Councils for 2014-2015 is now available on the OSSTF/FEESO website at www.osstf.on.ca/provincial-council-application.

The applications must be in on time in order to be considered. The deadline is **March 1, 2014**. Applications received after that time will be considered late and will only be considered for appointment if there are insufficient on-time applications for a specific committee/council.

ERIP

To date, eight retirement notices have been received by the Board. Thursday, January 16 is the last day to qualify for the Early Retirement Incentive Plan. One resignation has also been received.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Every year there seems to be confusion about what teachers should do if inclement weather delays or prevents them from attending school. The obligation on the part of the teacher is to contact the school to say they will be late or absent for the day because of the weather. Board Regulations state that “staff employed by the Lambton Kent District School Board are expected to use reasonable diligence when traveling to their place of employment during periods of inclement weather”. In the case of fog, the expectation is that employees would report to their work site when conditions improve.

AMDA, 2014

The Annual Meeting of District Assembly will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at the Baldoon Golf Course in Wallaceburg. Contact your Branch President if you would like to be a Delegate at the AMDA, 2014. As an AMDA Delegate you are part of the decision making body which governs Federation activities.

Barb Young, President
OSSTF District 10
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January 15, 2014