



## WELCOME BACK

On behalf of the District Office, I welcome you to the 2020-2021 Federation year alongside Executive Assistant, Carolyn Caldwell, and Federation Officer, Dave Parkes. This has been a return to school unlike any other, as members continue to demonstrate professionalism, compassion, and resilience in leading, learning, and teaching during a global pandemic. As I begin another term in the role of District President, I continue to consider where we've come from as I advocate for where we're going on behalf of the District 10 membership. In my first President's Report, I referred to challenges facing educators in Ontario and our commitment to working together to overcome them. Two years later, solidarity remains essential within public education as we collectively navigate responses to the pandemic this school year. But, as we continue to dedicate ourselves to our profession, protecting and enhancing public education, we must also remember to take care of ourselves and families, too. You have gone above and beyond to make September 2020 the best it can be for your students and I am continually proud and honoured to work with the District 10 membership.

## TEACHERS ALP

The Teachers ALP website has been made available to D10 members in the past, as a tool to offer support and suggestions for completing Annual Learning Plans. Members should be advised that this resource is being discontinued and will soon become unavailable for member access.

## STAFFING

The District Office recognizes significant staffing changes that have occurred outside of the typical timelines due to COVID-19. First, all redundant teachers have been fully recalled and there are no members currently placed in the supernumerary pool. Second, the introduction of Ministry of Education's PPM164 ("Requirements for Remote Learning") on August 13, resulted in the creation of a new secondary school locally, the Virtual Learn at Home Secondary School (VLHSS) physically located inside of LKCS in Dresden. We continue to monitor the staffing of this school, and its implications on staffing at other secondary school sites across the District. Third, we continue to closely monitor class sizes as the provincial 23:1 funding model is implemented, as there are local implications subsequent to central ratification.

## CERTIFICATION RATING STATEMENTS

All new members are reminded to apply for a QECO Certification Rating Statement to be paid according to their qualifications and experience during a long term occasional (LTO) or permanent position. You must notify the Board that you have made an application to receive any applicable retroactive pay. Members are advised to inform the Board's HR Department in writing once they have submitted their application and then forward the QECO Certification Rating Statement to the Board when it is received. **The annual deadline to inform the Board to receive any applicable retroactive pay is June 15.**

An update regarding the transfer from OSSTF to QECO Certification was recently provided to all members through D/BU #35, available through *myOSSTF*. In summary:

- "Effective May 21, 2020, school boards recognize the Qualifications Evaluation Council of Ontario (QECO) as the provider of new qualification rating statements. Notwithstanding, existing OSSTF/FEESO Certification Rating Statements will continue to be recognized in Ontario public school boards, unless a QECO statement has been provided."

- "...(T)here is only one current QECO evaluation for general education teachers, regardless of grade level, and one chart for technological education teachers. Regardless of when an OSSTF/FEESO member received a QECO rating, it remains valid and does not need to be updated, unless a member is looking to move to a higher category or receive any applicable advanced degree allowance."

- "Please be aware that if a member submitted a QECO evaluation in the past for elementary that is higher than their current OSSTF/FEESO certification rating on file with secondary, HR may not be aware that you are entitled to be paid at a higher category. Members who previously had submitted a higher QECO rating for elementary teaching purposes are responsible for informing HR that this document is on file."

- "OSSTF/FEESO's Website directs members to QECO's contact information for questions, information and online application forms. If you need to be re-evaluated by QECO, please DO NOT re-send transcripts if you already were evaluated previously by OSSTF/FEESO Certification or by QECO."

## **RETIREMENT**

Those considering retirement within the next five years should review the OSSTF District 10 website for more information about upcoming Provincial OSSTF Retirement Workshops being held virtually in October and November. Locally, we will not be holding an in-person workshop and these virtual options replace our annual Wallaceburg offering. Staff from OSSTF Provincial Office and from Educator's Financial Group will be there to present and answer questions related to retirement at the Ontario Teachers Pension Plan. Please register online if you plan to attend.

*Yours in solidarity,*

Jennifer Kumpf, President  
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