

Report from the April Meeting of Provincial Council - April 25, 2014

1. **President's Report**

- Importance of working to make sure that the Conservatives don't win the next election. We are in contact with the other education affiliates.
- OSSTF/FEESO will continue to support Working Families Coalition
- We will also be supporting Project Ontario

2. **2014-2015 Grants for Student Needs (PC#75-6, page 6)**

Despite the government's claim of a 3.14% increase in funding, there is no additional funding for front line services and some boards may see a decrease. It appears that the grid movement delay imposed under Bill 115, will continue. The Provincial Executive has informed the government that the lack of funding for grid movement is unacceptable, and 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.

3. **Proclamation of Annual Children and Youth in Care Day**

May 14 has been declared Children and Youth in Care Day to raise awareness, reduce stigma and recognize children and youth in the care of the province. It provides an annual opportunity for the province to recommit to the well-being of children and youth in and from care.

4. **Ontario College of Teachers Information Governing Council Meeting - Update, 2014 (PC#75A-27, page 7)**

- Bill Kirkwood, previously a public appointee on the Council has been appointed as the Chair of the [Public Interest Committee](#) for a three-year term.
- The Council has flagged certain elements in Bill103 that vary from the intent of their recommendations to the Ministry.
- The College will continue its [Public Awareness Campaign](#) "to gain a first-hand impression of the various communication products in use by the College and to measure the extent to which the public and member awareness of the College and understanding of its mandate and work has increased."
- The Chair reported that by the end of January, 14,412 emails had been received from OSSTF, ETFO and OECTA combined re: the fee increase. There was no motion to rescind the fee increase. The College agreed to a tripartite meeting with representatives of the Minister, the OTF, and the College to repair the relationship between the College and OTF/affiliates.

5. **OMERS SPONSORS CORPORATION (PC#75A-27, page 7)**

- Sandra Sahli has been appointed as OSSTF/FEESO's representative to the OMERS Sponsors Corporation.
- The annual Specified Plan Change process begins in March. Plan change proposals will not be published until after May 14. Explanatory materials will be posted with the proposals, including a comprehensive explanation of any changes being proposed and how they might impact stakeholders. The steps to the process are:
 - Step 1: Concept & Evaluation**
 - Step 2: Stakeholder Requests for Plan Changes**
 - Step 3: SC Members Table/Amend Formal Proposals**
 - Step 4: Diligence/Proponents Amend**
 - Step 5: SC Discussions/Decisions**
- The Spring Information Meeting was held Thursday April 3. OMERS continues to have one clear and overriding goal – to keep the pension promise to current and future retirees – and thus it focuses on earning reliable returns that exceed the Plan's long-term funding requirements.
- In 2013, OMERS posted an overall 6.5% return on its investments and its net assets grew \$4.3 billion. OMERS asset mix is now 57% public and 43% private, with a target asset mix of 53% public and 47% private. In 2013, OMERS private market portfolio returned 15.5% and its public market portfolio returned 0.5%. In 2013, OMERS Capital Markets put the last piece of its investment strategy in place to earn more predictable and stable long-term returns.
- Over the last five years, OMERS earned an average annualized return of 8.4%. The 7.6% ten-year return and 8.4% five-year return both exceed the Plan's long-term 7.0% long-term funding requirement to keep the pension promise.
- Additional Voluntary Contributions provide a retirement savings and investment opportunity for OMERS members in addition to the regular OMERS pension plan. AVCs are similar to registered retirement savings arrangements and enable OMERS members to participate in the returns of the OMERS Fund. This year AVC accounts increased by the 6.0% net OMERS fund return.

6. **University Issues Work Group Meeting April 7, 2014 – Update (PC#75A – 31, page 13)**

The University Issues Work Group is reviewing OSSTF/FEESO policies to determine any needs. Issues identified that require consideration include: Pensions, Massively Open Online Courses (MOOC's), Standardized Testing and Performance Based Funding, International Students, and the Program Prioritization and Strategic Mandate Agreements which may pose the most risk for members.

7. Pay Equity Training PC#77-4, page 1)

A three phase training plan for Support Staff Bargaining Unit Presidents and Pay Equity Officer is being organized. This training is considered mandatory for all presidents of support staff bargaining units, regardless of experience and expertise.

- Module 1, *Pay Equity - The Basics*, will focus on the enhanced role for bargaining unit presidents. The updated *Pay Equity Guide for Bargaining Units* will be presented. It will take place June 5, 2014.
- Module 2, - *Pay Equity - Resources, Roles and Responsibilities*, is scheduled for a half day on Wednesday, August 13, 2014 prior to Summer Leadership.
- Module 3, *Pay Equity - Simulations*, will be completed at Summer Leadership.

8. Motions

BIRT Provincial Council direct the Provincial Executive to investigate the possibility of OSSTF/FEESO to be an Additional Qualification (AQ) provider with a report back to September Provincial Council.

CARRIED

BIRT the Provincial Executive investigate the possibility of a province wide fight back lobbying campaign to allow members to express their displeasure in the lack of funding for September grid movement in the 2014-2015 Grants for Student Needs. The campaign would be made available to all members prior to the end of the 2013-2014 school year and would be directed at MPP's.

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CARRIED

BIRT Provincial Council encourage members of OSSTF/FEESO to remove their children/wards from any EQAO testing that is not a requirement for graduation.

REFERRED

BIRT OSSTF/FEESO study the impact of technology on educational workers, with an interim report to January 2015 Provincial Council and final report to AMPA 2015. This study will consider the ways in which the introduction of technologies currently and projected affect the following:

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- educators' working conditions
 - the number of jobs available in education for different job classes
 - the allocation of funding within education
 - students' educational opportunities

Furthermore, this study will include a long-term strategic plan for addressing the introduction of technologies into the classroom – through lobbying, negotiating, and other actions – to mitigate any negative effects and support positive effects while emphasizing the value of education workers in learning.

CARRIED

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