

REP NOTES - October 2011



FALL GENERAL MEETING

The November Reps Council meeting (November 14) will also be the Fall General meeting of Wellington OECTA. The meeting will be open to all members and will include regular reps business as well as several items for the general membership (budget, bylaws and procedures etc.) It is important that all reps attend and encourage other members to do so as well.

Note: the date in the last Rep Notes was incorrect.

OECTA BUDGET

We are beginning a detailed review of our budget (revenues and expenditures). The budget committee will be completing its job by late October and a draft budget will be approved by the executive at its meeting on November 1. This will be forwarded to the general meeting to be held November 14 (see above). The audit for last year is also underway and this will be part of the budget considerations once it is received. Individual or groups seeking funds to be included in this year's budget should submit their requests as soon as possible.

JOINT STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Joint Staffing Committee met on September 28. We received and reviewed the staffing allocations for all schools in Wellington Catholic. Other items on the agenda included elementary schedules (bell times, supervision and planning time), and secondary lunch supervision.

SUPERVISION & PLANNING TIME ISSUES

Elementary Supervision & Planning Time Schedules

A considerable amount of time has been spent over the past several weeks working with senior admin to rectify issues with some schools' planning time and supervision schedules. Most major problems have been corrected. There are still minor problems to correct at a few schools. It is imperative that any concerns with regards to teacher receiving their contractual entitlement be brought to our attention.

USE OF ELEMENTARY PLANNING TIME

Planning time in the elementary panel is teacher-owned and directed. It is inappropriate for an administrator or anyone else to direct that a meeting or in-servicing be held during a teacher's planning period unless such is requested or initiated by the teacher. If such meetings are held it is expected that this time will be made up within a reasonable timeframe. The Board clearly understands this and has promised to remind site admin of this.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Tom Doyle, our new Provincial Collective Bargaining Staff person visited today with us as we begin preparations for the new round of collective bargaining.

There are also a series of regional workshops coming up in November.

The Unit Executive has established the structure of our local committee and team and appointed the executive members who will serve on the committee. The committee will consist of a balance of executive members and general members, elementary, secondary and occasional teachers.

We are seeking volunteers to serve on this committee. The executive will make choices based on having balanced representation of experience, panel, specific teaching assignment, classroom/ non-classroom teachers etc. We would encourage any interested members to forward his/her name to Jim at the unit office.

PENSION/ RETIREMENT WORKSHOP

Wellington's retirement workshop was well-attended and by all reports well-received. 45 people attended the workshop held on Saturday October 15th. Mary Lachapelle, provincial staff officer presented the four-hour workshop to a packed house at the unit office.

BOARD'S ANNUAL RETIREMENT & SERVICE RECOGNITION DINNER

The Board's Annual Retirement and Service Recognition event will take place on Wednesday November 16th at the Italian Canadian Club. Some changes have been made to the format this year.

ELEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORT COMMENT BANK

Provincial OECTA's comment bank for the elementary progress reports can be found on the provincial website www.oecta.on.ca

UNIT WEB SITE

We are currently working with our web developer to make some improvement to our local website.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Yes. It's that time of year. We will soon be in the season where issues around inclement weather will emerge. So be prepared.

The Board policy is very clear – “an employee at his or her discretion may decide that the journey to school or workplace presents unreasonable risk.” Under the existing policy, there are options available in the event of serious weather problems. By now you should have a plan in place with your Principal in the event of serious weather situation.

Some suggestions –

- Don't assume that because the school buses are not running that you don't have to go to work – this determination is made on a higher standard and very early in the morning – conditions may be significantly different by the time you are travelling to work.
- The board's policy states that if public transportation is running you probably should be going to work even by using alternate transportation arrangements.
- Obviously there are different circumstances and conditions that would apply to county schools
- If weather clears up or roads become more passable, you should make the effort to get to work
- You must inform your administrator of your intentions to not come in, or to be late

BEGINNING TEACHER CONFERENCE

OECTA's annual conference for beginning teachers will be held on **February 23-25, 2012** at Sheraton on the Falls Hotel in Niagara Falls. The Conference is open to all OECTA members in their first five years of teaching. This annual event provides information, professional development and training that members need in their first years of teaching in order to succeed and flourish. Each bargaining unit is allocated a certain number of Conference delegates on a per capita basis. In addition to provincially-sponsored delegates, Wellington will also sponsor additional local delegates. An outline of the process will be in Wellington Works and will be posted to reps Conference. All questions should be directed to Heather Frimeth.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

We have reviewed and revised the application criteria for the joint PD Funds. The Joint PD Fund was re-established after several years absence and is funded using funds made available to the Board as a result of the Provincial Framework agreement and funding from the unit budget. The thresholds for major vs. minor PD opportunities to reflect more realistic cost of workshops and conferences teachers are interested in attending. We have also clarified a number of other items which have emerged.

As part of our web improvements, noted above, we are also developing a fillable pdf form to be posted on the website which will make electronic application much easier.

APPROPRIATE USE OF BOARD EMAIL AND TECHNOLOGY

In August the Board passed a revised policy on the Appropriate Use of Information Technologies.

At the last reps meeting we noted that OECTA had a number of concerns about the new policy. The Board has reviewed the policy and is implementing a number of changes to the Policy. The changes still need to get final approval but the modifications appear to be address our concerns.

The offending section regarding personal devices has been modified or removed. Also, the Board will no longer require teachers to sign a form as was previously proposed. Only new hires will be required to sign a form as part of their hiring package. For all others, the form will not be necessary. However, every 90 days or so, when you log into the board's network, there will be a check-box where you will asked to acknowledge that you are aware and consent to follow the Board's Acceptable Use Policy.

It is extremely important for members to know that the network is monitored by software which can detect and “flag” unusual activity e.g. inappropriate websites, use of bit torrents, excessive use of bandwidth

PROVINCIAL MEETINGS

Presidents Council November 3-4

Occasional Teacher Workshop November 1-2

Regional Collective Bargaining Seminar-

GTA – Nov 8 & 9

Southwest – Nov 17 & 18

LOCAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

OCTOBER 25 – Applause Breakfast

OCTOBER 27-29 – When Faith meets Pedagogy

NOVEMBER 1 – Executive

NOVEMBER 14 – Reps Council and Fall General Meeting

NOVEMBER 16 – Board Recognition

NOVEMBER 17 – Meeting with Secondary Principals and Vice Principals