

REP NOTES - October 2013

FALL GENERAL MEETING OECTA Office Mon. Nov. 25 at 4:30

The November Reps Council meeting (Mon. Nov. 25) 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: Any proposed changes to our Local OECTA Unit AGM/Elections must be approved now to be in effect in May.

OECTA BUDGET

We will be beginning a detailed review of our budget (revenues and expenditures). The budget committee will be completing its job by early November and a draft budget will be approved by the executive at its meeting on November 18th. This will be forwarded to the general meeting to be held November 25th (see above). The audit for last year is also underway and this will be part of the budget considerations once it is received. Individuals 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 Oct. 8th. We received and reviewed the staffing allocations for all schools in Wellington Catholic. We were informed every surplus teacher from the end of last year has now been assigned a permanent position. Items on the agenda included- elementary schedules (supervision and planning time), a proposal to discuss the Balanced Day at two additional sites and posting procedures.

In addition we were informed the Board could not meet their timeline to inform teachers of the number of sick days they have left from last year or the number they have used this year due to technology problems. They are working on this to gather the information and have it available for teachers.

SUPERVISION & PLANNING TIME ISSUES

Elementary Supervision & Planning Time Schedules

The supervision and planning time schedules should have all been handed in to the OECTA Office. If your schedules change through the year please send us the new version. It is important that a copy remain at the Office so we can refer to it if a member calls. We need to remind every member they all are entitled to 240 minutes (pro-rated if part time) of planning and not more than 80 minutes of supervision.

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. All teachers are reminded of the need for caution if asked to send meeting announcements out on behalf of their administrator that have not been discussed with all intended teachers affected.

DECEMBER 20TH UNPAID DAY

The Friday December 20th Unpaid Day will be deducted in one pay period. It will not be spread out over the month or several months. Rep Council voted to gather and collect signatures on a petition to ask the Board to reconsider. The petition will be handed in later this week to the Board Office.

NOVEMBER RETIREMENT INCENTIVE AND UNPAID DAYS

The Release Officers met with the Board Financial Reconciliation Committee last week. Details of how the MoU 2 Early Retirement Incentive and how our VLAP days affect the Friday March 7th Unpaid Day were discussed. At the present time according to the information we have to date received March 7th remains an Unpaid Day. This will not be confirmed until at the end of November. The Early Retirement Incentive Program was released last week. Any teacher thinking of this should call the OECTA Office for advice.

PENSION/ RETIREMENT WORKSHOP

Wellington's retirement workshop was well-attended and by all reports well-received. Over 40 people attended the workshop held on Saturday October 19th. Mary Lachapelle, a provincial staff officer presented the four-hour workshop. We would like to thank Mr. Drone for allowing us to use Bishop MacDonell and Ms. Conway and her staff for their hospitality. **Waiver forms for LTD are available through the OECTA Office.**

UNIT WEB SITE www.oectawellington.ca

We are currently updating our local website on a regular basis. At times, we update on an almost daily basis as we add and remove events from the home page. You can find links, Rep Notes, Wellington Works our monthly newsletter, our monthly calendar and all our events. ***If you have an idea for the website we would love to hear from you!***

SMARTFIND

There have been some phone calls to the office regarding Smartfind. OECTA is concerned that everyone is being called fairly. We were informed of a 'glitch' the first week and that has been corrected. OECTA was informed that the call outs would be adjusted to make sure everyone has a fair and equal opportunity. OECTA wants to hear from all members if they have concerns on how to input their absences or receive their calls for jobs. The system forces OTs wanting work to be accessible by their phones almost constantly between the hours after school and early morning. We have been informed that to maximize your call out opportunities you should be available for all locations and accept all job call outs.

SCHOOL KEYS AND BOOKLETS FOR OTs

Every school should have the required keys available for each OT when they arrive for a Supply job. This is a Health and Safety issue for each OT and also a safety concern for the students in their care if lock downs and other emergencies occur. There should also be a booklet at each school for the OT to have for the day that includes routines, safety plans and other important items. If you are at a school and these are not available please let the OECTA Office know (Tim, Mark, Nancy, David and Heather).

BEGINNING TEACHER CONFERENCE

OECTA's annual conference for beginning teachers will be held on **February 21-22, 2014** at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North in Richmond Hill. Theme: BULLYING: Stepping up to the Challenge. 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 based on their size. In addition to provincially-sponsored delegates, Wellington will also sponsor additional local delegates. An outline of the process will be in Wellington Works as soon as details are available and will be posted to the reps Conference. All questions should be directed to Heather Frimeth. We expect information from Provincial on the process in December.

NEW PROVINCIAL OECTA LTD PLAN AND OTIP

In June most OECTA Units became part of the Provincial wide LTD plan run by OTIP. We have had several opportunities to discuss the new changes and how they will affect our members. The first is an Early Intervention call from the OECTA Office and then if the member allows a follow up from an OTIP representative to confidentially discuss your situation. Members are also encouraged to check out our website for information on ***Care Path*** and ***Feeling Better Now***.

PROVINCIAL OECTA and COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Last week Queen's Park moved ahead with more plans for province wide collective bargaining. Provincial OECTA is examining the exact proposals. We will begin our local bargaining procedures as normal. This will involve the call for a new Negotiation Committee as we move into December. The Executive will also begin to make plans to gather member input and concerns. It is extremely frustrating to begin this process when the current contract remains unpublished in a corrected and final form. This is due in part to the way the MoU was rolled out, the Board's disagreement to actually place the MoU directly into the contract and ongoing Provincial issues.

PROVINCIAL MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 6 - Pre-Council	Mark and David
NOVEMBER 7-8 Presidents Council	Mark, David and Heather
NOVEMBER 30 Regional H and S Seminar	Mark, David, Heather, Tim and Laurence.
DECEMBER 2 – 3 Collective Bargaining Workshop	Mark, David, Heather and Tim

LOCAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

NOVEMBER 4 – Executive
NOVEMBER 14 – TIC Inservice 12:30 OECTA Office
NOVEMBER 16 – OECTA Niagara Tour
NOVEMBER 18 – Executive Pre-Fall General Meeting Prep
NOVEMBER 19 – Theology on Tap at the Albion 7:00 p.m.
NOVEMBER 25 – Reps Council and Fall General Meeting