

REP NOTES - January 2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FALL GENERAL MEETING

The November Reps Council meeting was also the Fall General meeting of Wellington OECTA. The meeting passed several important changes to the Election process for our Local. We will return to two year terms for the Vice Presidents. They will be elected every even year and the President and Treasurer will be elected in odd years. The Election Chair and Nominations Committee were formally recognized in our bylaws. The process for our elections will be decided in the next few months but voting will be staggered over a few days. Electronic, site based and more advance poll options are all to be considered by the Nominations Committee.

OECTA BUDGET

The budget was passed at the Fall General Meeting. As you know we had considerable short fall mainly due to PD expenditures. We have addressed those concerns and passed a balanced budget. The finance committee will meet this month to examine and monitor our progress. See below for PD report.

JOINT PD COMMITTEE

The Joint OECTA – Board PD Committee met in December to examine how the PD funds will be dispensed for the rest of this year. We have already expended most of the money for PD that we receive from the Board Joint PD fund. The Board has agreed to send us the reimbursement to make up that money. The Committee agreed to focus on the 'Reading For the Love Of It' and OAME Conferences in the new year. With this in mind we hope to send 10 members to each of these conferences. This will take up most of the balance of our Joint PD funds. This fund is being depleted by \$40,000 each year and we have about two more school years left.

JOINT STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Joint Staffing Committee will meet on January 20th. There are several issues that we will discuss. There are a few cases of surplus that we are monitoring. How will retirements in January be handled according to the MoU and local past practice. We need to begin discussions on our posting and transfers process in the upcoming months. We have to resolve planning and supervision issues in the Elementary panel. Further discussion regarding the changes that have occurred in the Secondary panel, with Exam days and the Instructional Exam Review Day, that were announced last May on the Board calendar.

USE OF ELEMENTARY PLANNING TIME and ADDITIONAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

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 out meeting announcements on behalf of their administrator. All teachers who are affected by this meeting need to be consulted first.

MARCH 7TH UNPAID DAY VLAP AND ERIP

The Release Officers met with the Board Financial Reconciliation Committee last month and will meet again on the 20th of this month. ERIP and VLAP incentives have not according to the Board generated enough savings to generate a paid PD day on Friday March 7th. We refused to sign off on the date last month but the decision must be made by Monday Jan. 20th. It is the Board's opinion that the savings will not be found and that March 7th will remain an unpaid day.

UNIT WEBSITE www.oectawellington.ca

The Unit local website continues to be updated. There are calendars for our upcoming months, announcements, PD information and all our contact information. In addition our current bylaws are also all on the website. We update the website on a regular basis. Our monthly newsletter, Wellington Works and our Rep Notes are all posted promptly on the site. Why not make your Wellington OECTA website your homepage! Your ideas help generate changes so keep them coming.

INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WORKSHOP

Wellington took advantage of a free OECTA workshop last week on building inclusive schools. A Provincial presenter spent three hours with our members and other Wellington community members. The discussion continued for over an hour after the speaker concluded!

SMARTFIND

OECTA is concerned that everyone is not being called fairly. OECTA has just received the data and will meet with the Board to discuss any members treated unfairly. We have been informed, to maximize your call out opportunities, you should be available for all locations and accept all job call outs. If you have any concerns don't hesitate to contact Tim, Mark or Nancy.

BEGINNING TEACHERS 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.** We are allocated three delegates from Provincial and in recognition of Wellington's high rate of response Provincial allowed us an additional four delegates to be locally sponsored. Congratulations to Joanna Conversano, Jeff Zamin, Jessica Kenneman, Mareilla Rozzi, Jennifer Gazzola Melanie Drummond and Karen Salens who will represent Wellington. We hope they enjoy the workshops, lectures, and speakers especially 'Mr. D' Gerry Dee.

OCCASIONAL TEACHER MEETINGS

There will be three meetings for OT's this month. The OTBU Executive and the OT Committee have several items to discuss and share with our members. The first meeting will be for newer teachers on Wednesday Jan. 22nd and the second meeting will be for more experienced and retired teachers on Thursday Jan. 23rd. Finally all those on a LTO contract can attend on Thursday Jan. 30th. In addition to the meeting information presented we will present each member with a hard copy of your 2012-2014 contracts. (Which expire on Aug. 31st 2014)

PROVINCIAL OECTA and COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

We continue to watch developments at Queen's Park. The latest legislation would change bargaining into a two tiered system with the Gov't, the Trustees and OECTA bargaining all provincial items and whatever is left being local. However, we won't know if this legislation will pass or if the Gov't will survive the until the spring. So locally we need to be ready to negotiate and as you know we began discussing issues with members in November and December with Open Mic Sessions. Our Collective Bargaining Committee will prepare a survey for members to fill out which will be released in the next month or so.

CONTRACT BOOKLETS

Provincial OECTA has printed our 2012-2014 contracts. The ongoing disagreements has meant these booklets were not printed until now. The first news is the contract is really only a collection of all the documents related to our contract from 2012, the new local changes made in 2012, the MoU of July 2012 and the so called enhancements of MoU 2013. The result is a document of 146 pages. However, legally for ongoing bargaining purposes it was required to release these documents as we prepare to move forward. Your Reps will be sending them out to you. OT contract booklets will be released at the OT Meetings this month. They will also be available directly from the OECTA Office.

PROVINCIAL MEETINGS

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| FEBRUARY 5 | Pre-Council | Mark and David |
| FEBRUARY 6-7 | Presidents Council | Mark, David and Heather |
| FEBRUARY 12-13 | Special Council | Mark and David |
| FEBRUARY 19-20 | Political Action Seminar | Bernard, Jeff, Mark, David, Heather and Tim |
| FEBRUARY 21-22 | Beginning Teachers Conference | |

LOCAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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| JANUARY 13TH | REPS COUNCIL AND EXEC | |
| JANUARY 14TH | OT Committee Meeting | |
| JANUARY 17TH | ELEMENTARY PD DAY | |
| JANUARY 20TH | JOINT STAFFING | |
| JANUARY 22ND | OT MEETING (new members) | at the OECTA Office from 4-5 |
| JANUARY 23RD | EXAMS START | |
| JANUARY 23RD | OT MEETING (experienced) | at the OECTA Office from 4-5 |
| JANUARY 30TH | LTO MEETING | at the OECTA Office from 4-5 |
| JANUARY 31ST | SECONDARY PD DAY | |
| FEBRUARY 4TH | THEOLOGY ON TAP | at the Albion 7:00 |
| FEBRUARY 10TH | EXEC MEETING | |
| FEBRUARY 17TH | FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY | |
| FEBRUARY 24TH | REPS COUNCIL AND EXEC | |
| FEBRUARY 26TH | ANTI-BULLYING DAY | |