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OSSTF/FEESO Support Staff and Teacher/Occasional Teacher Bargaining

OSSTF/FEESO bargaining strategies are designed to best achieve our goals and be flexible enough to account for the negotiating climate of the day. This current round of negotiations is no different. We are using the strategies necessary to achieve the best collective agreements possible for our members. At this time, it involves two different approaches – one for support staff and one for teachers/occasional teachers. The Provincial Executive made the decisions on how to proceed after extensive consultation with Sector Councils, Provincial Council, Collective Bargaining Committee, Ad Hoc Advisory Workgroups and the Protective Services Department.

As many members may be aware, the teacher federations, OECTA and AEFO, and the majority of unions representing support staff have signed provincial framework agreements with the government. OSSTF/FEESO will continue to proceed in a manner that maximizes all options available that will ensure we have the ability to negotiate fair collective agreements that address the local priorities of our bargaining units.

Please Note: The **only** official update regarding provincial discussion table meetings is issued by the Provincial Executive. Anything else you hear is rumour and speculation. The media has highlighted the salary and benefits provisions contained in the provincial framework agreements reached to date and speculated about how other bargaining will proceed. OSSTF/FEESO does not bargain in the press and will continue to update members through our usual avenues of communication.

The current situation as of September 5, 2008:

Teacher/Occasional Teacher Bargaining

Previous updates reported that OSSTF/FEESO representatives did initially attend Provincial Discussion Tables for teachers/occasional teachers. These discussions included representatives from the Ministry of Education and the Ontario Public School Boards' Association. In the spring, a decision was made to actively bargain at the local level. Local negotiations are ongoing. The extent varies from school board to school board. The Minister of Education, Kathleen Wynne, has reaffirmed her commitment to local bargaining and has directed school boards to schedule meetings for meaningful negotiations immediately. OSSTF/FEESO is monitoring the success of the local negotiations and will review their status at the end of September. OSSTF/FEESO will continue to proceed in a direction that maximizes the options available to achieve successful contracts for its members.

Support Staff Bargaining

A letter to all support staff members was sent July 2, 2008, summarizing the last meeting between the government, school board and OSSTF/FEESO representatives at the provincial discussion tables on June 25 and 26. Extensive lobbying has occurred over the summer months dealing with important issues that have been identified by the membership. The next meeting of the provincial discussion table for support staff will occur on September 11 and 12.

PLEASE POST OR COPY TO OSSTF MEMBERS

