

# News @ 25



Ottawa-Carleton  
District 25  
Teachers' Bargaining Unit

Update from the Office: 729-7211

December 2007

## **From Your President:**

Kerry Houlahan  
khoulahan@osstf25.on.ca

## **A&E Workgroup**

Assessment and evaluation and the OCDSB's revised A&E policy and procedures have been topics of discussion at our Teachers' Council meetings this fall. An A&E workgroup consisting of 7 teachers and me has been formed to investigate the implications of the Ministry's/Board's A&E policy. The workgroup is to report back to the February Teachers' Council meeting. The workgroup consists of: Cathy Bailey (Gloucester), Rachel Collishaw (Glebe), Jane Conn (Osgoode), Alana Cote (Curriculum Services), Sean Goforth (Brookfield), David Plouffe (A.Y. Jackson), and Kevin Spence (Adult).

## **Family Day**

The new provincial statutory holiday "Family Day" will be Monday, February 18 2008. The government will be proposing a one-time amendment to the Education Act which will allow for 193 school days in 2007-08. Stay tuned for how this new statutory holiday will affect teachers in the future given that the Education Act requires 194 school days.



## **AMPA (Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly)**

AMPA, OSSTF's annual general meeting, takes place March 8-10 2008. Elections for our unit's delegates and alternates were held at the November Teachers' Council meeting; our delegation includes:

### Delegates

Kim Appel  
Julia Bilenkis  
Carol Cockburn  
Rachel Collishaw  
Evan Cooper  
Louise Derry  
Kerri Ferguson  
Danielle Guertin  
Bob Hayes  
Al Hempel

Kerry Houlahan  
Stephanie Kirkey  
Dan Maxwell  
Graham Satterthwaite  
Sherry Semeniuk  
Janice Wong

### Alternates

Mike Kadoura  
Colleen Pierce-Price  
Kevin Spence

## **From Your Chief Negotiator:**

Kerri Ferguson  
kferguson@osstf25.on.ca

## **Negotiations Perspectives**

### Provincially:

OSSTF strongly believes that local bargaining best serves its members. As in the last round of teacher bargaining, this provincial government would like to be involved in provincial talks with a view to settling agreements with no disruption to the system. In the last round, this kind of a provincial

table seemed necessary as legislation had to be changed in order for us to negotiate our workload back to 6/8. In this round, it is not clear that a central table would be of benefit. The other teacher unions are more than willing to meet at a provincial table and this is of concern for OSSTF. These provincial discussions will begin in January. I am a member of the OSSTF AD HOC Advisory Workgroup made up of 14 presidents and chief negotiators from around the province. This workgroup will be advising on OSSTF's level of involvement at a provincial table.

Our By-laws mandate a vote of all members should OSSTF enter into provincial bargaining.

#### Locally:

Thank you to the many groups who made presentations to the Negotiating Team in November. Further thanks to CBC reps who ran the negotiations priority surveys in the schools and sites. The information gathered will be used by the Collective Bargaining Committee to create our negotiating brief which will be finalized in the New Year. Negotiations will begin in the spring.

#### Support Staff in Ottawa-Carleton:

Please be aware that negotiations for the 4 support staff bargaining units in our board has moved to conciliation. These members have been getting updates from their union leaders on the status of negotiations. As we are all members of OSSTF, please be supportive of the situation with which they are currently dealing.



#### **From Your Membership Services Officer:**

Louise Derry  
lderry@osstf25.on.ca

#### **Scholarships and Awards**

OSSTF offers various scholarships for members who want to do educational research, pursue their studies full-time at a university, or are interested in doing a field project related to educational practices, issues or concerns related to staff development. Application forms and detailed information are available at [www.osstf.on.ca/services](http://www.osstf.on.ca/services). The deadline for applications is January 31, 2008.

#### **OSSTF Membership Cards**

Personalized OSSTF membership cards and/or the 2007-2008 renewal stickers were sent to all members at the beginning of December. This card is also your Edvantage card which entitles you to many discount programs, including Goodlife Fitness centres.

#### **Meet the deadline to get your \$\$\$\$\$!**

Send a copy of your OSSTF updated certification rating statement and the accompanying letter to the Board by December 31 2007 to get retroactive pay to September.

#### **Benefit Enrolment Upgrading**

Benefit enrolment information sheets have been sent out recently to teachers who are currently enrolled for single benefits. If you want to change to family coverage, now is the time.

SINSE - single dental for secondary teachers  
FAMSE - family dental for secondary teachers  
SPSINSE - semi-private single health for secondary teachers  
SPFAMSE - semi-private for family health for secondary teachers

#### **Happy Holidays- Enjoy the break.**