

News @ 25



Ottawa-Carleton
District 25
Teachers' Bargaining Unit

Update from the Office: 729-7211

March 2007

From Your President:

Kerry Houlahan
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We are so proud!!

Congratulations to the TBU's very own **Susan Rab** who was elected at AMPA to the position of Executive Officer on OSSTF's Provincial Executive!

Congratulations are also in order to **Jack Jones**, a D25 PSSU member, who was re-elected as Vice-President!

OCDSB Budget

Over the course of five Board meetings between February 27 and March 6, trustees considered cuts and/or changes to programs that would directly affect teacher staffing. In the end, a total of 85.67 FTE positions have been reduced at a savings of \$6.9 million. The impact at the secondary level is 8 FTE positions. Although we are not hit hard this year, we need to be aware that programs that were targeted and saved this year will likely be targeted again next year as we anticipate a difficult budget process over the next few years.

The \$6.9 million savings reduced the Board's shortfall to just over \$20 million. The big question is, of course, where will the Board find the additional savings to balance its budget? We need to be supportive of our colleagues in other bargaining units who are facing potential cuts.

At the request of trustees, the Ministry has provided a Special Assistance Team to review, consult and report on budget options to assist in balancing the budget. The team, comprised of Brian Cain and Joan Green, began the process the week of March 12. As part of the consultation process, the team is meeting with federation presidents. They plan on making their recommendations to trustees by the end of April.

Electronic Pay Stubs

The Board is moving to an electronic version of the pay stub we currently receive. The electronic version contains the same information as the paper version. Teachers can expect the change to occur by the end of the 06/07 school year. Please watch for a letter from the Board explaining how and when this change will occur.

Teacher Pension Plan Survey

Teachers are reminded that the TPP survey of a random sampling of teachers, conducted by Pollara, will occur between April 10 and May 2 2007.



From Your Chief Negotiator:

Kerri Ferguson
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From Your Membership Services Officer:

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Staffing for 2007/2008

As we move into April, the staffing process for teaching positions for next year begins. Principals will be receiving the enrolment projections for their schools/sites and will be starting the complicated process to staff their programs. Teachers received the staffing timelines earlier in the new year and it outlines various important dates: leave requests due by March 1, retirement notifications are due by April 15, and posting of vacancy lists beginning May 4.

This year, the posting and applying for vacancies will be done electronically. Teachers will receive information on how to set up an account which allows them to view and apply for internal positions. This new system is easy to use and should have significantly less problems than the previous method of using fax machines.

New PD Funds Available

As a result of the surplus funds in the Teacher Development Account, there are more PD opportunities for our members over the next few years. The funds available to individuals for conferences has increased and there is new funding available for anyone who would like to organize a PD activity for a group of people. Information and application forms are available from Branch Presidents and on the website.



Retiring this June?

Join us at the District office for the OSSTF teachers' retirement workshop on March 29 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Call 729-7211 to register.

Available Services

Consider applying for your pension online at **iAccess Web**, the secure members-only section of the Ontario Teachers Pension Plan website. To log into the website, go to www.otpp.com and click "Member Sign-in". It's easy!

When cancer is diagnosed... or reoccurs... Teachers and their family members can get help through CAREpath, a new service offered through our LTD insurance. Canadian oncologists and nurses, who will assist teachers and their families with coping effectively with this diagnosis, lead the confidential CAREpath program. For more information, please call the district office, or to speak with a CAREpath nurse, call 1-800-290-5106.

What's new at Certification?

Resolutions proposed for certification changes were carried at AMPA and become effective July 01 2007. Among the major changes, additional qualification courses will count as university courses, Group 1 to 4 charts will be streamlined to facilitate the progress from one category to the next, and a Master's degrees or PhD will now be accepted for moving to Group 4. More information will be sent to all teachers. Teachers are encouraged to have their certification files re-evaluated after July 01 2007 if they think the changes may be to their advantage.