

News @ 25



Ottawa-Carleton
District 25
Teachers' Bargaining Unit

Update from the Office: 729-7211

May 2007

From Your President:

Kerry Houlahan
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OCDSB Budget

The budget process continues...As you are already aware, the cuts and/or changes to programs that directly affect teacher staffing were passed by trustees in early March. The current funding shortfall is \$15.8 million and the 2007- 2008 budget which is part of a multi-year plan (available on the OCDSB website) proposes a further \$7.3 million in reductions in areas that may not directly affect teacher staffing but which will certainly have an effect on the job we do as teachers. The proposed reductions affect Educational Assistants, Education Support Professionals (office administration, technicians, etc...), school supplies budgets, transportation, facilities, central administration and home instruction. Debate will continue at Budget meetings over the next few weeks with a view to an approved budget by May 30. Stay tuned...

OSSTF Provincial Office has produced a print advertisement that will run in The Citizen on May 16 and 18. The ad highlights the cuts in the OCDSB and the need for changes to education funding.

Special Assistance Team

Shortly after the release of the 2007-08 budget, the Ministry of Education's Special Assistance Team released its report which includes 27

recommendations. An electronic copy of the report has been sent to Branch Presidents; it is also available on the Board's website.

TPA Process

The OCDSB's changeover date for the revised TPA process for experienced teachers is May 1 2007. If you have any questions about the revised process or the transition from the former TPA process to the new one, please give me a call.

Reminder: An experienced teacher who receives an unsatisfactory rating or a new teacher who receives a rating of Development Needed should be contacting me.

AGM

The Teacher Bargaining Unit's Annual General Meeting takes place Wednesday, May 23 at 4:30 at The Hellenic Centre on Prince of Wales Drive. The proposed budget, on-time nominations and on-time motions for amendments to the constitution are available on the Teachers' page of the District website at www.osstf25.on.ca.

Come join your colleagues to meet your executive and discuss relevant issues.

Hope to see you there!



From Your Chief Negotiator:

Kerri Ferguson
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Check Your Pay Stub

It is surprising how many teachers rarely, if ever, look at their pay stubs. Errors in pay do occasionally occur and depending on when the error is discovered, significant amounts of money may be lost. Errors will only be corrected in the school year in which they are discovered. This is, therefore, a good time for everyone to take a close look at his or her last pay stub. Compare your salary to the collective agreement to ensure that you have been placed in the correct category and grid placement. Check for any allowances for which you are entitled as they are identified separately on the left of the stub. Errors are most likely to occur when teachers are returning from a leave, changing their contract status, or upgrading.

Your last pay stub is available electronically and future stubs will only be sent electronically. If you have not already done so, log on to review your last pay on-line and take the time to check for any errors.

From Your Membership Services Officer:

Louise Derry
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What should you consider when choosing a health plan at retirement?

Is the provincial health coverage enough? What is extended health care? What is included? How much does it cost? Is there a waiting period? Will I need a dental plan? Do I need travel insurance?

To help you make the right choice, consult the 2007 Active Retired Members (ARM) guide at www.otip.com, the Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO) health information at www.rto-ero.org and the Retired Teachers Insurance Plan (RTIP) at www.otip.com.

Online comparisons of the three plans and related costs are also available on the district website, Teachers' FAQ, and on the OSSTF Teachers' folder on Beam.

What is WSIB?

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board is an employer-funded system of compensation that pays 85% of the net average earnings to employees who are injured at work. What should you do if you are injured? Report the injury immediately in writing to the principal indicating the date, time, nature of accident and witnesses. Seek medical information and tell the doctor that this is a work-related injury so that Form 8 (physician's first report) is forwarded to WSIB. The employer should fill out Form 7 (employer's report of disease), and you must complete Form 6 (worker's report of injury) immediately. Contact me so that I can assist you through the process.

Did you remember...

...to send certification Form #3 requesting that OSSTF Certification Department give you written approval before pursuing a course for upgrading?

Think about volunteering.

Have you ever considered getting more involved with OSSTF? Every school or site has representative positions that need to be filled. No prior knowledge or skills are needed, simply a willingness to learn and participate. Contact

your branch president or our office for more information on the opportunities for sharing your skills with us.

