

TSU Weekly Wrap UP – September 13, 2019

By Pete McKay

The school year seems to have opened smoothly with no major concerns arising within schools. (Major being a relative term.) Not to say that anyone was not busy!

Bargaining – Things continue behind closed doors and OECTA will update us as they are able. This was also conveyed to new Reps on Monday (see below) by our liaison from the Provincial Office, John Pecsénye. The recent email from OECTA helps to clarify what is happening in relation to other Unions. The fact that something is happening out loud does not mean it is of any more value than that which is happening quietly. And while we wait for the next step in the process, this article from CBC, on Thursday, is a good reminder of some of the issues we've had with the Ford government since it began its attack on education:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-education-timeline-1.5279683>

Staffing – A few schools are still trying to finalize master schedules now that they have been able to fully assess the impact of the Ford Cuts to Education, as well as receive information regarding summer school course completions and other requests from students (and parents). If you do have concerns, as always, please call us at the office.

Association Reps – Monday saw our meeting room fairly filled with new Reps and Assistant Reps. The annual day of training went very well (from the presenters' perspective). The 20 people in attendance were a great class, keen to know the information and ask questions, although they were hurting a little by the end of the day with the information overload. Thank you to all those, new and...experienced Reps, who have volunteered to be the first face of the Association for the members.

LSSAC Elections – All schools should now have the new LSSAC in place, following elections this week, ready to take over on Monday. Elections occurred in a few schools through electronic voting, three of them today (Friday). We will debrief on how these worked and look to the possibility of full implementation for future Rep and LSSAC elections.

Arbitrations – All three Release Officers were busy this week attending Arbitrations. The significant Orders that were issued by Arbitrator Parmar over the past couple of years continue to require clarity for some. In the meantime, we do continue to benefit from a knowledgeable and dedicated contingent of Designated Worker Members and a robust Health and Safety Committee. Further dates are schedule in October, after which we hope to be able to provide further updates.

In addition, an important email was sent out this week regarding historic mileage claims and an Order that was issued in 2017. Again, it is vitally important that all members have activated their accounts with USI in order to be fully up to date on information coming from the TSU office. We aim to be able to communicate with everyone without being reliant on the Board email. This may become all the more necessary as bargaining progresses (or doesn't).

Sick Leave and Accommodations – TSU continues to fight for the return to work of some of our members who had been kept out of school because of Board demands. In addition, quite a few of those who returned from summer holidays to find communications regarding deadlines

that the Board had imposed, did not receive pay last week and might not this week, either, some of those incorrectly. We hope to have the salary issue resolved for these members fairly smoothly, however, that may depend on the cooperation of the Board.