

## **TSU Weekly Wrap Up – November 8, 2019**

By Pete McKay-TSU 1<sup>st</sup> VP

What a week! Finally found time to write up the Wrap Up.

**Bargaining** – Always going to be the big story while we deal with this government. And the importance of it was clear at the Strike Vote Rally on Wednesday night. There was overwhelming support from the crowd for a **Yes** in this upcoming Strike Vote, demonstrating their understanding of the issues and the need. With that kind of support from the membership, the OECTA Bargaining team will have what it needs to show the government that we will not back down in the face of its destructive Cuts to Education.

You may have seen in the news that the education affiliates are banding together in their fight against the Ford government in an attempt to undo some of the damage it has done. Court filings against Bill 124, capping public sector salaries, will be going ahead due to its interference in a fair bargaining process.

The emails from OECTA continued as well this week, with information about the Strike Vote process as well as the issues that are at stake. The individual PIN was also provided to members. If you don't have this or want more information, please check the Provincial website at <http://www.catholicteachers.ca/> where everything you need can be found.

News from the other Affiliates indicates that OSSTF could be in a position for job action as of November 18 and ETFO is as of November 25. If the government is unwilling to cooperate and bargain fairly with OECTA, we may find ourselves in the same position in early December. Remember, this does not mean that there will necessarily be a work stoppage at any time, nor that anything else will occur then.

**On November 12 and 13, vote YES!**

**Human Rights** – At a long and arduous meeting at the Board on Thursday night, the debate over Human Rights Code language in the Code of Conduct continued, again! This time, and with the support of the Archdiocese, the motion to include it was passed. Hopefully, those who did not favour the inclusion of the language will now move on to supporting the inclusion of all people in the TCDSB Community.

**Cardinal's Dinner** – And speaking of Catholic Community, the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Cardinal's Dinner was held on Tuesday night, with approximately 1,600 people in attendance. The event promotes the taking care of the vulnerable amongst us by highlighting the need that exists and raising funds to do so.

**Data Review Day** – Also on Tuesday, this other annual event took place. The energy, cooperation and collaboration between Association Reps and their administrators was highly evident. HR SO Adrian Della Mora highlighted the need to do the right thing and do the thing right, as we ensured that we were getting the staffing of our schools done properly. The task is all the more important as we deal with Ford's Cuts to Education in making sure that people are properly placed and that students have the correct, qualified, teachers supporting them. This year saw a revamping of the process and the manner of collecting and recording the data, which helped everything work out smoothly and efficiently. Huge thanks to Darrin Sciberras for the development of the tools, as well as Sheila Gatensby and Sally Tellis, the other members of SSSSAC. Thanks, also, to Sandra Mudryj and the St. Basil's Community for hosting us, and to

Director Rory McGuckin who attended with senior management to show their support for the tremendous work our LSSAC does throughout the school year.

**OECTA Council of Presidents** – The Fall Council took place on Thursday and Friday, with the three release officers juggling being in attendance with other issues that had to be dealt with simultaneously and urgently. The big item from the event is the passing of the budget, which raised much debate and a good result. In addition, we had presentations from the President, Liz Stuart and the General Secretary, former TSU member David Church. Both, obviously, had much to say about the bargaining situation and the need for a very strong mandate from the membership in the Strike Vote this upcoming week. Befits plans and LTD plans were also discussed with updates on the health of both. Unfortunately, adjustments were needed to be made to the OT Benefits plan to allow it to remain financially sustainable.

On the Thursday night, OECTA bid farewell to Marshall Jarvis the now retired past General Secretary and former Provincial President. Great speeches were given by a number of people who took their well deserved opportunity to roast Marshall one last time. Some toughing remembrances were also included, though, along with thank to his family for the support that they have given him so that he could serve us over the past 4 decades.

**Miscellanea** – The week also saw the Release Officers attempt to deal with the normal onslaught of calls, emails, facilitation meetings(!), staffing changes, etc., as well as couple of extraordinary items, while also participating in the above. All in all, a very productive and exhausting week.

Have a great weekend and be sure to **VOTE YES!** On November 12 and 13.