

TSU Weekly Wrap Up – November 29, 2019

By Pete McKay-TSU 1st VP

Lots of people doing lots of things!

Bargaining – And the beat goes on! As announced by OECTA there are a number of additional bargaining days scheduled, taking the team through December 11. Hopefully, this will produce some results.

In the meantime, Minister Lecce continues to make things up. While OSSTF is striking for one day on December 4, they are willing to remain at the table. Lecce said they weren't there but we saw otherwise on twitter. And when he was called out for his lie, Lecce ran away.

OFL – The Ontario Federation of Labour held its conference this week, Sunday through Friday. A number of TSU members from the Political Action and Labour Liaison Committees were given the opportunity to attend on various days to represent OECTA.



Of particular note, amongst the other business, was the presentation to **TSU Member Michelle Blais** of the OFL Solidarity and Pride Award. Michelle has been a tireless advocate for some of our most vulnerable members for many years, here at TSU. She was also instrumental in establishing the LGBTQ Work Group at OECTA and moving the ball forward provincially. Many Units around the province turn to Michelle for advice on how to support their LGBTQ+ members. An extremely well deserved award! Congratulations and thank you from all of us at TSU, Michelle.

Committees – A very busy week in the office with a number of local and Joint Committees meeting on various days. Jt. Tech, Staffing (SSSSAC) and PD all met, as did the local UAGM, Safe Schools and Grievance Committees. Thank you to all those who took the time to provide essential services to our members.

TSU Emails- REPEAT- As we near possible job action, it becomes all the more important to have an active TSU email account. Once you activate it, you can have the emails redirected to another personal email account. **OTs** should also note that the duplication of emails that we have been issuing will be phased out. In early December, the sending to Board email will cease. Further notice of this will be provided to ensure everyone is aware and is connected.

NEW - On occasion, we may need to conduct surveys, which will also require the use of the TSU email. This is a feature that we could not do with Board email and now intend to use to help canvas members, generally or in specific schools. We want your voice to be heard, so please activate your TSU email as soon as possible

Board Meeting – Another Thursday Night Extravaganza this week. The new Chair of the Board and Vice-Chair were selected. Joe Martino and Angela Kennedy will now be filling those roles. Congratulations to them and we hope to work well with them.

The selection of Chairs for various other committees also took place. Some eye brows have been raised (including mine) over the domination of those roles by the four individuals who so staunchly opposed the inclusion of Human Rights language in the Board Code of Conduct. Certainly something to stay tuned to.

School Visits – We had the opportunity to visit some schools this week for various reasons. Whether we are there to assist members with conflicts or other difficulties, or to have conversations with large groups about their issues and interests, it is a pleasure to be out there. If any members, individually or collectively, would like us to come and talk to them in their school, please let us know and we will do what we can to accommodate that. And thank you for having us.