TSU Weekly Wrap Up – January 17, 2020

By Pete McKay-TSU 1st VP

Hit the ground running last week, got bounced around on it this week!

Job Action – No sooner did we begin the Administrative Job Action on Monday but OECTA gave notice of a Full Withdrawal of Services for this coming Tuesday; the first in over 20 years. The Provincial Strike Implementation Committee (PSIC) held an already scheduled meeting on Monday to plan for such an eventuality.
Since then we've seen almost daily updates/changes to those plans as a result of conversations with OECTA or TECT, with whom we had a Joint PSIC meeting on Tuesday. In the meantime, Information Pickets were held at all schools on Monday and Thursday with mostly favourable response from parents and the public, it has been reported. It should be noted that our second day of information picketing was moved up from Friday due to a PD day in the elementary panel. The rest of the province held it on Friday, as you might have noticed on twitter and the likes. Also on Thursday, a Joint TSU/TECT Picket Captains Meeting was held, with further updates from OECTA provided there.
On Friday, we were contacted by OECTA regarding circumstances in Toronto and, as the media capital of the country, as well as the political capital of the province, we had to make some further changes to the plans! (Expect to see media and politicians.) Hopefully, what is now in place will remain as planned. But, as Gillian said on Thursday, everyone worries about the wedding plans being perfect, but on the day, everyone enjoys themselves regardless. Do check your TSU emails for ongoing updates, just in case.

This week's Lecce's Lies: well it was maybe more a week of obfuscation and refusal to answer questions than direct lies. But while he wouldn't provide any evidence to support mandatory e-learning, he did admit to the Catholic Trustees that research shows that small classes are better for learning. No kidding?!

TSU Emails – 2000 activated email accounts! Thank you. Please note that Reps have been asked not to forward emails that are sent to them or any that are sent to all at tsuoecta.ca. In some cases, the info they have is only needed for them but more generally, we need you to go to your emails and get the info straight from the horse's mouth (yes mouth), rather than the Reps having to be responsible and there being the chance of broken telephone. They have enough to do, anyway.

Director's Liaison - On Friday, the Release Officers attended a productive Director's Liaison Meeting, where we discussed such topics as violence in the workplace, investigations, OTs, social media vulnerabilities, and school relocation.
The last topic has caused quite a stir in the communities affected, although final decisions have not been made, yet. Loretto Abbey and Dante are looking forward to upgrades to their schools but may have to endure some (no so?) short term pain while they happen. And Fraser Norfinsh may be caught in the web, as well.
Social media vulnerabilities for teachers continue to be a concern for us and the Board is now picking up on that and developing guidelines to help teachers be aware and safe from the unexpected negative impacts some experience.
The Board recognizes that the OT CA must be adhered to in the schools, regardless of what an administrator might think of it. OTs are asked to call the office if there is any question about whether the CA is being exercised properly.
In other areas, we continue to make progress with the Board, although slowly at times.

Varia – Yes there was still other stuff happening this week! The usual rounds of emails and phone calls on the usual subjects, with a deluge of others on the job action. If anyone hasn't been able to get back to you on something, please try, again.
And the Executive met on Wednesday and dealt with, amongst other things, some of the details for the AGM in March, in particular delegate selections. Notifications of those will be going out shortly.
And if that's not all, it's certainly enough for now.