

TSU Weekly Wrap Up – January 24, 2020

By Pete McKay-TSU 1st VP

Job Action – A successful strike on Tuesday! Lots of positive comments, great comradery, and fantastic pics sent to us and shared through twitter. A slide show of as many of the pics as I could gather is now available for your viewing pleasure on the website at <https://tsuoecta.org/member-section/> and <https://tsuoecta.org/photo-gallery/>.

And our Social Media Maven, Veronica Tuzi created a video that you can view on the TSU Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TSUoecta/videos/2493551847527855/>.

At the afternoon picket in front of the Ministry of Education, CBC interviewed Newman teacher Sheila Gatensby for a story on that night's news. Sheila represented us extremely well, as you can see and hear at this link: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1220124441952366592>.

And if I can figure out how to do it, I'll download them and then upload them onto the website, too.

We have received some very good feedback from members and picket captains since Tuesday, which we will review in conjunction with new guidelines from OECTA and our own observations, to bring you an even better strike experience next time around...presuming there is a next time.

While the Administrative Job Action does continue until an agreement is reached, we continue to receive questions about what can and can't be done. Some of the minutiae are now being got down to in the field, particularly at the CEC. If you have questions, please continue to ask so we can provide clarity and have everyone on the same page.

This week's Lecce's Lies: "I have always believed that the right approach is to negotiate at the table..." he told the Toronto Star. And yet, so much of what the Unions are attempting to bargain at the table has already been legislated or dictated by the government. So, not true!

TSU Emails – It appears from a few of the calls this week that maybe some people are not reading all of their TSU emails. In order for things to run smoothly, particularly job actions, it is important to keep up to date on the relevant information.

UAGM/Nominations and Elections – The committee met on Monday to continue planning for this year's UAGM, not surprisingly, as well as to work on the development of Election Guidelines. There seems to be a sense that we might need to find a larger facility for this year's meeting for some reason, which is being explored. Some really good work is expected to reveal its fruits over the course of the year.

SSSAC – One of the few joint committees that is allowed to meet under the terms of the Administrative Job Action did so on Thursday. The future, temporary, locations of a few schools has been a hot topic since the Board discussed them last week. Loretto Abbey, Dante Alighieri and Msgr. Fraser-Norfinch are all slated to move to accommodate a number of repairs and updates to some buildings. TSU raised concerns over the suitability of some of the suggestions, particularly where it might have an impact on programming for students and thus on teachers. And, of course, the effect on staffing is a large concern due to the potential drop in students who may not want to make the adjustments. As there have been no decisions made, yet, there are no definite answers for us or the Board to provide. What does happen is, ultimately, in the Board's hands, however, we will continue to monitor the situation and advocate in the best interests of our teachers.

Arbitration – The Parmar saga continued this week with Gillian providing testimony on the stand. But don't ask her anything because the Arbitrator has ordered her not to talk about it with anyone...it's killing her! We expect to have further clarification from Arbitrator Parmar in the very near future with regards to the provision of certain documents. This will, hopefully, help in our ongoing attempts to ensure that your health and safety is being dealt with in a proactive manner and not just reactively.

And lastly, the usual stuff was also happening in the office. People still have regular issues that they need answers about: Mat leaves, Sick Leaves, meetings with parents, administrators, UPB, ELP, MoU, SE. The normal fun.

Enjoy your weekend as you prepare for the joys of exam week.