

TSU Weekly Wrap Up – January 31, 2020

By Pete McKay-TSU 1st VP

Job Action – A nice quiet week on the strike front, NOT! We weren't out but the PSIC and the Picket Captains have been very busy preparing for this coming Tuesday. We'll be on strike, again, in case you haven't heard. An almost complete overhaul took place, as you know, particularly in terms of shifts, times and locations. We emphasized with the Picket Captains on Wednesday the need for picket lines to keep moving. Being that picketing is a new thing for the vast majority of members, it seemed they weren't aware that they shouldn't be standing around in bunches (or that while a crowd can warm you up, moving does it more). This was the most repeated observation from the field after January 21. So, keep moving, keep warm.

Thank you for your patience as we fine tune the details for Tuesday. Continue to check your TSU emails daily for up to the minute news and changes. Hopefully there won't be any more after today.

And you received an email, today, with the Special Strike Edition of TS*YOU containing pictures and comments from you on the picket line. Here's a link to it on the TSU website, because you just can't get enough of it: <https://tsuoecta.org/newsletter/> Great job by Veronica Tuzi, again.

We heard that there will be bargaining on Monday between OECTA and the government, as there has been with ETFO. Whether much will come of it remains to be seen but I wouldn't be holding my breath for a Monday night deal. Be ready for Tuesday.

This week's Lecce's Lies: A big response on the social medias this week to a Lecce statement about the loss of extra-curricular activities. No one withdrew them, they are still happening!

And for those who would like a recap, here's an amusing (or cringe worthy) video that you might want to look at, from a month ago, highlighting 11 Lecce Lies up to that point.

https://www.reddit.com/r/ontario/comments/e8c62b/11_lies_factchecking_the_misinformation_education/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x

TSU Emails – Did I mention that you can get up to the minute info on your TSU emails? If not, I have now.

Arbitration – Three more Arbitration dates this week, one of which was adjourned at the last minute, meaning I has time to bombard you on Friday with all kinds of emails. Varying degrees of resolution were achieved regarding disputed mileage claims historic and current. And we are closer to ending a disagreement over the model of a particular school. Details of that to be shared when we do resolve it.

OTs – A big day on Wednesday as approximately 35 OTs participated in PD day presented by and at TSU. A look at "A Day in the Life of an OT" was presented to assist OTs in managing all the ...stuff... they have to contend with as they jump from place to place and figure out how to fit in to schools and the Board. Thanks to Joanne Maher, Angela Tersigni, Katherine Gainor and Juliana Conforti for all their work in putting this together and assisting OTs.

Celebration – We had a chance on Tuesday to celebrate with Fiorella Borean as she heads off into retirement. Fiorella served the Board and our teachers for over 40 years. She was very patient and helpful in ensuring that teachers were properly placed and our schools staffed

Council of Presidents – Gillian and Angela attended the winter Council on Thursday and Friday. From what I hear, much of it was in private so Gillian couldn't tell us much. The AGM resolutions were reviewed, though, and are all set for March.

School Relocation – A "consultation" meeting was held at the Abbey on Thursday night. Various groups of people had varying concerns, as you might expect. Senior staff will now have to take back what they heard and make recommendations, based on that and all sorts of other research they have, to the Board in February. It's a very difficult time for a community when they feel they might be pulled apart, however, bricks and mortar do not a community make, it's the people. And considering the strong tradition that the Abbey has, it will no doubt hold together as it bounces over the bumps in the road, until it is all back together and settled in, again.

Dante is going through similar disruption and will have its consultation meeting on February 10, with a report to Board in March.

And I think that's probably enough for this week. My apologies if there are more than the usual number of mistakes but my brain is fried as I finish this just before 6 on a Friday evening. Time for sleep.

Enjoy your weekend.