

TSU Weekly Wrap Up – February 7, 2020

By Pete McKay-TSU 1st VP

Job Action – A successful day on Tuesday with combined pickets throughout the city. The release officers managed to get around to a number of sites. Thank you for the warm receptions in the cold weather. And there were some great shots of our dedicated and enthusiastic members on twitter and the like. As soon as we have a chance, we will pull them together.

And why haven't we had a chance to do that, yet? Well the new edict arrived from on high, as you know, and we've been working on what the Enhanced Administrative Job Action (EAJA-for those who thrive on acronyms) should look like. There is a Dos and Don'ts list that we have compiled, which will be sent out to you once OECTA gives it the thumbs up. Hopefully it covers all your questions but, realistically, someone will find something that no one else has asked about. Please keep asking (after you've read it and can't find the answer) so that we can be sure we are all on the same page.

The big question: how can we not do on-calls isn't that a violation of the CA? despite what some of your Principals might have said, no, it isn't. The language in the CA is that we "may" have on-calls and supervision. So we're not having them...at this point.

This week's Lecce's Lies: This one's a beauty!! Regardless of what anyone thinks of Reg 274, it is not "essentially a demand by the teachers' Unions that 100% of the hiring of your child [s teachers] is premised on their Seniority in the Unions not on their qualifications...." For some reason, a short while after he tweeted out this nonsense, the tweet disappeared. But some of us have the recording! 😊

TSU Committees – Legislation met on Wednesday to review the Resolutions to the OECTA AGM in March, as well as a couple of other matters. The recommended dispositions will be provided to the Executive to review at its meeting on Tuesday. And all this will then be reviewed at the Pre-AGM meeting on March 4.

Speaking of the AGM, the Delegation list was sent out to you earlier today, so you can see who will be representing you and voting on your behalf at the AGM.

Political Action also met this week to plan some...political action. We were provided information about the OFL Rally outside the Ontario PC Policy Convention in Niagara Falls on February 22. Our intention is to have as many TSU members attend as are able. Bus transportation is being arranged. If you are interested, please let Melissa Arduini know by Wednesday and asap so that arrangements can be made: MelissaArduini@tsuoecta.org. They committee will be sending out further information very shortly.

Earned Leave Plan – we've had a few calls about the ELP and the absence of days on your pay stubs. While the question over the allocation of days was resolved, "the system has not been updated. This is currently in the process of being configured," is the response from the Board to our questions. In addition, "once this [is] completed in the system, a revised statement will be issued on ESS to teachers." In the meantime, if you wish to review or use your ELP days, please contact Margherita Di Fonzo at the Board who will look after you. Her extension is 2322.

Sick leave – The sick leave portfolio continues to overflow. This week alone (4 days) Angela had 13 meetings regarding Returns to Work Accommodations, Ergonomic assessments and reviews of medical documentation. All this on top of the regular questions about the processes and organization of the materials coming in. The posting for the Health and Wellness Office Assistant was prepared this week and should be posted in short order.

Corona Virus – A lot of noise in the media about this, much of it not very helpful. Unfortunately, this seems to fuel people's fears rather than reassure them. TSU has been in conversation with the Board to ensure that all that can be done in our schools is being done. Details of that were include in an email from Gillian that was sent out this week. We have also been involved in conversations in schools, particularly those where students are arriving from the most affected areas for semester 2.

As with all forms of the flu, everyone is advised to follow the washing, coughing and sneezing protocols that we are used to and are encouraged by Public Health. This in itself will help protect us and those around us.

School Relocation – Further discussion was had, this morning, with the Loretto Abbey staff. Gillian attended that to listen to the input from the teachers and join in their conversations with Senior Staff. Follow up with the staff will occur and Gillian will depute on their behalf at the February 20 meeting at the Board.

In the meantime, the public consultation meeting for Dante is happening on February 10. Similar consultation to that held at the Abbey with staff is expected to follow.

Continue to monitor your TSU email for updated information and clarification on all things Job Action.

Have a great weekend!