

TSU Weekly Wrap Up – May 1, 2020

By Pete McKay-TSU 1st VP

Does working at home make everyone else seem far away?

Distance Learning – While some of the difficulties continue, most people seem to be fairly well settled into the current situation, even if not necessarily enjoying it. Significantly fewer calls and emails on the topic this week. I'll take that as a good sign.

The issue of video-conferencing still exists and TSU continues to advise the Board against this in order to protect teachers from the negative possibilities. We do still, though, continue to consult with the Board on the broader communication expectations, although nothing significant has come out of that from the Board, yet.

Bargaining – At the Executive meeting on Monday the bargaining team and chief negotiator were selected. We have a group of strong veterans returning from past rounds as well as one rookie ready to learn how it's done, hopefully. The Team consists of Sheila Gatensby, Sally Tellis, Gillian Vivona, Paul Di Prospero, Darrin Sciberras and myself. And the chief negotiator for this round is yours truly. The Team welcomes any input you'd like to provide as we move toward the development of the Initial Proposal.

Staffing – The transfer process is underway with interviews being conducted this week and next for the open positions. Once that has concluded, LSSAC will be monitoring any changes in the schools and preparing for new postings that may need to be developed. Next round starts May 10.

UAGM & Elections – Nominations closed on Thursday and you should have received communications, today, from the Committee with the list of candidates. The Committee also met this week to continue to work out how to get things done for the UAGM. Going to be interesting dealing with the current situation and making it work. One note, again, to let your colleagues know about: all the election information, will be provided on the TSU Website and email (including your PIN). It is important that anyone who wishes to participate activate their account to see all the information that's there.

Legislation Committee – As Resolutions for the UAGM were also due on Thursday, Legislation met to review the submissions. Approximately a dozen and a half came in. Some were fairly straight forward while, as happens every year, a number of others had some things to be dealt with. These will be ready for publishing at least a week before the UAGM, and sent out to you all on.

Other than that, the usual goings on around the "office" this week. Phone calls, emails, grievances and grievance reviews, return to work and accommodations, investigations, and so forth.

Have a great weekend and I hope that you're able to keep in touch with people and they don't feel "so far away".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObzXL0p7t1E>