

## TSU Weekly Wrap Up – May 15, 2020

By Pete McKay-TSU 1<sup>st</sup> VP

Things seemed to slow down a wee bit this week but we certainly weren't taking it easy.

**Distance Learning** – Not sure whether the conversations with the Board are more serious or the latest Lecce gaff. Let's start with the Board, who are very clear that synchronous learning and video-conferencing are not synonymous. That means they are not the same, they are different. And you do not need to use video-conferencing when connecting with anyone. If you want to have synchronously learning or communication (i.e. you and the students involved at the same time) you can use other means, methods, modalities. Please review the email from OECTA with further warnings about this.

And we have to give a huge round of applause for the Minister of ~~self-promotion~~ Education for demonstrating some of the teachers' concerns about video-conferencing by posting a picture of himself, 8 other adults and a class full of students with their full names, school name and a whole lot of other identifiers. Exposing the students is the first red flag. Having that many adults in a class is the second. There are concerns that if you have 30 students on the video-conference you also have 30 parents on it, too. That would never happen at school and shouldn't happen now. So, thanks Stevie!

**UAGM & Elections** – The committee met this past Monday, again. Information continues to come from them to keep you informed. Please check your TSU emails. The candidates recorded their speeches this week, in case there are any glitches with the feeds on May 21, during the UAGM. Tune in for that, with more details to follow.

**Parental/Maternity Workshop** – Another workshop was held this week, with the usual successes. Thanks, as always, to Veronica and Angela for a great job with that.

**Strike Pay** – If there is anyone left out there who has not received their strike pay from OECTA, please call them to see what's going on. It seems that a batch of cheques were sent out a couple of weeks ago but the mail might be slow right now, or they don't have the correct address. Either way, they'll be happy to look after you.

Other than that? Angela was kept busy with sick leave matters, thankfully some were to do with people returning to work. The safe schools team did some prep work for upcoming meetings with the Board. I had a grievance review meeting with the Board and an investigation meeting by Zoom, a first. And of course there was the usual array of phone calls and emails dealt with.

Looking at the long weekend, a number of us will be at the OECTA AGM on Saturday, which should be an interesting(?) experience. And whether you've got plans to "check the plumbing" at your cottage, or just enjoy the extra day, I hope you get the chance to slow down and take it easy. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pE9p4A3IExs>

Have a good one and stay safe.