

TSU Weekly Wrap Up – May 22, 2020

By Pete McKay-TSU 1st VP

Was it a short week? The calendar says so but....

Distance Learning – Teachers continue to do great work in looking after their students as best they can under very difficult circumstances. Unfortunately, Lecce won't say that but it is definitely true! What he did say this week, though is that schools remain closed for the rest of the year. So, at least we have that level of stability for the next five weeks. The collaborative conversations continued with the Board over where things are going. A number of items remain up in the air, such as report cards and retrieval of personal items from schools, and the Board is working on how these are to be done. The health and safety of TSU members was stressed by us at the table and the Board seems respectful of that concern. In terms of summer learning, we sit and wait for more details from the Ministry. (It's not 5pm on a Friday, yet.) The Board does, however, have its summer school plans laid out, and students will have an opportunity to take courses in two different "terms", through e-learning. The next big question is what happens in September? Having lost my crystal ball, I don't know. There is nothing definite in place but as things unfold we will continue to be at the table pushing all your concerns with the Board.

UAGM & Elections – First of all, a huge thanks and congratulations to the UAGMNE Committee under the leadership of the Chair, Jennifer D'Addario, for pulling off the meeting on Thursday. Six months of planning suddenly had to be rethought and a new plan pulled together in two months. Very well done!

You should soon be able to view the speeches and questions from the UAGM on Thursday night. Have a look, wade through the politics, and make a rational, informed decision on May 28. A motion was put forward by the UAGMNE committee, at the meeting, to have all the resolutions dealt with at a future date. This helps to ensure that there can be proper debate on the issues and that no one will be at a disadvantage because of technology. The date of the meeting will be contingent upon the path the Corona Virus takes. They'll monitor things and get back to us all in the fall, most likely.

In the meantime, check your TSU emails for all the election news you need, including your PIN.

OECTA AGM – We managed to get through the business that was on the much abbreviated agenda, last Saturday. Another very strange situation to be in, not seeing the other 600 or so delegates with whom we were meeting. As a result of the emergency motions passed, the resolutions from this year are to be heard at the 2021 AGM.

Joint meetings – A number of meetings with the Board were held this week. An Article 9 meeting, which covers all things OT took place. One of the topics now is that of redeployment. There are obvious concerns for people in helping out with the COVID crisis and we talked about their health and safety if they decide to get involved, as well as that of others in the schools in September, presuming we're there. An Agreement is being worked out between the Board and the Association as to how any redeployment could occur. Details of that will be forthcoming. Additionally, Safe Schools and SSSAC met. There aren't too many 'difficulties with student violence or the like at this point in time, as you would imagine, but how they are conducting themselves online continues to be raised. And on Friday afternoon, during the best weather of the year, so far, we were inside discussing staffing issues(!). As we get closer to the end of the year, we would expect to see significantly more retirements than we do, currently. Hopefully, those on the surplus list will all have somewhere to be placed next Friday. Not trying to push anyone, don't go until you're ready!

Apart from that, a couple of investigation meetings, returns to work, calls and emails with OECTA and many others. Hope your week was as productive.

Have a great weekend and stay safe.