

TSU Weekly Wrap Up – June 19, 2020

By Pete McKay-TSU 1st VP

It's the time of year when many of us are running on adrenaline. The pressure of finishing the report cards and getting to that finish line keeps us moving. Almost there!

Distance Learning – Everyone continues with the process (even if not quite sure what's happening exactly) and doing a fantastic job all around. In conversation with the Board, they expressed their delight over how well you have done succeeding in this. Neither they nor we have had the level of support or direction that we might have wanted from the Ministry and yet you did what you knew had to be done, in whatever way you could. This period of time will be well remembered as an example of the true professionalism of our teachers.

Hold the presses! Lecce and Ford have just announced that they don't know what will happen in September but Boards are to prepare for it. Three different scenarios, each of which most of us have been speculating about for a couple of months, were revealed, today.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/covid-19-coronavirus-ontario-june-19-school-plan-lecce-1.5618769>

Local Bargaining – You should have seen by now, the LCBC Survey that has been released. We strongly encourage you to complete this when you have a chance. And part of that encouragement will be reminders between now and the middle of July. It's important for your voice to be heard and included as best possible in the development of the Initial Proposal.

Staffing – Most of you should have had your departmental discussions and are fairly sure of what sections you are teaching next year. If not, connect with your department members about it, and please ensure that those on leave are included in the development of their timetables. Thanks to the Reps and LSSACs who are being bombarded with questions from their colleagues and the office and are doing a great job of holding you all together. They have a very difficult job in ensuring that things are done properly (even if you don't get all you want). More changes may be happening as Round Three wraps up and Round Four starts on Tuesday, so they will still be at it for a bit.

Executive – We did review and approve the Terms of Administration for the MCTLTD plan at our meeting on Monday, as promised. No changes in the way in which members will be served by the LTD Office, just some adjustments to the Organizational Structure and some legal dotting of "T" s and crossing of "I" s. On Thursday the New Exec met and reviewed Committee Applications as always happens at this time of year. A number of decisions were made, some others deferred, and we will, hopefully, wrap up the process soon. If you forgot to submit your application, there might be an opportunity to slot you in to a committee that has some space if you get it in very soon.

Association Reps – The elections for all the Reps have been concluded. Thank you to all who put their names forward. We look forward to getting together with you in September, hopefully in person, seeing the new faces and welcoming back the...returning faces.

Committees – SSSAC met on Wednesday in what is usually a wrap up meeting for the year. Of course, we still have a lot of hypotheticals to consider for September, (as noted above) and really don't know where we will be. There is a very strong likelihood of needing to meet, in some form, over the summer as the situation develops.

Director's Liaison – We met with the Director this morning to address a number of systemic issues. The primary one being what's to happen in September and a variety of logistics connected with that: textbooks, musical instruments, tech, and budgets Glad Lecce cleared it all up for us this afternoon. Oh, wait, he didn't. Nonetheless, the Board is doing what it can to try and figure out the various pieces and pulling together the Business and Academic sides to see what the possibilities could be. There will definitely need to be ongoing communication between TSU and the Board over the summer. - We also discussed the new Social Media document that the Board has developed. Some of you have heard about it from your admin and we can look forward to more details in the fall. Members are, again, advised to be very, very careful on social media. The OCT considers us teachers 24/7 and everything we do is scrutinized. - And Mental Health is of great concern right now, for teachers as well as students. As you pour your all into tackling the situation, you are being drained. Apparently, the government will be putting money into mental health, which will hopefully help the students. We hope that will help reduce some of the pressure on teachers. Remember that there is the Employee and Family Assistance Plan (EFAP) that you can access for yourself. And, you are strongly encouraged to do whatever you need to over the summer to decompress, so that you are able to function effectively in September.

And all the usual stuff happened in the office this week, too.

Big day Sunday for all the fathers in the crowd! For all those who fill that role for so many, we wish you all the best, not just this weekend but in all your endeavours.

And for all who could use an adrenaline boost, this'll do it!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGhJKiMR4XY>

Have a good weekend!