

TSU Weekly Wrap Up – December 13, 2019

By Pete McKay-TSU 1st VP

Another good one!

Bargaining – As you know from OECTA, there were a couple more bargaining days this week. How much bargaining actually happened, is another issue. However, the Association is willing to continue negotiations if the government wants to come to the table and try to work something out. Meantime, there will be a Special Council of Presidents on January 7. I wonder what is so special that a meeting has to be called on the second day back? But I won't speculate on what it might be about.... Just be ready!

And speaking of being ready, Picket Captains and Assistants are being lined up ready for anything that might happen. It's great to see the number of schools that have let us know who the assistant PC will be that have, also, given us a list of 3 or 4 other people who want to help out. We know there is support out there (97.1!) for whatever we need to do to support publicly funded education. Thank you!

The other connected piece of news this week is the court challenge by OECTA and the other teacher affiliates against Bill 124. This is launched, not because compensation is the only issue for us at bargaining, as Lecce would have you believe, but because we believe it is unconstitutional, interfering in the collective bargaining process protected in the Charter.

This week's Lecce's Lies update: move over Lee Majors, make room for Stephen Lecce, the \$7-billion-dollar man!

Paid Parking – The OLRB struck down the TCDSB plan for paid parking on Monday! There are some legal details associated with it, of course. The technical finding was along the lines of, this topic would have to be part of central bargaining and can't be raised locally without a central agreement to do so. And as OECTA indicated, there's no way that's going to happen! But don't let this stop you from being environmentally responsible and cycling to work.

Executive – This month's meeting occurred on Tuesday. A lot of healthy debate on a number of topics, including the Social Media Policy, MCTLTD Terms of Reference, LCBA Committee, and AGM. Details will be provided through the Reps, in January, once the minutes have been approved.

Arbitration- With some collaborative problem solving we had a successful day with the lawyers on Wednesday, coming to agreement on 3 matters. That was followed with a meeting with the Board lawyer the next day, where we had more very positive dialogue resulting in agreement on a few more matters, avoiding arbitration, and moving us forward on others.

Association Reps Meeting - Also happening on Wednesday, and with a very positive energy in the room. Extensive discussion occurred around the bargaining and job action issues, as well as a number of other topics. Great questions from the Reps who are bringing all your concerns forward for clarification. For more detail on these, please see the email sent out earlier Friday with Gillian's Notes.

TSU Emails – As was said in a couple of emails on Friday, it is becoming critical that each of you activate the TSU email created for you. With the increasing likelihood of job action, we want to be sure that you directly receive up to date information on what is happening.

-A big thank you to the Reps for the job they are doing in encouraging everyone to "get on it" as one of them put it to the members in his school.

-For the OTs, it was decided to delay the ending of contact through Board emails to give you the chance over the break to carry out the activation. As of **January 7**, we will be sending emails to you only through your tsuoecta.ca account. If you want to have those emails forwarded to another personal email address (not the Board!) you can set that up through the settings icon in the email.

Article 9 Meeting – We met with the Board on Thursday to discuss OT topics. Professional Development days have been arranged for January 29 and March 25. Look out for the information on those, shortly. On-calls were also discussed and we re-emphasized that OTs are expected to be doing the duties of the absent teacher, they are not to be used for everything the admin can think of, and certainly not excessive on-call coverages.

Other than that – the usual array of meetings with teachers and administrators and Superintendents, conflict resolution and facilitation meetings, and a multitude of calls with CA and, especially, job action questions. And we wouldn't have it any other way...except for the conflict stuff, we want people to get along. Please.

Have a great last weekend before the break!