

TSU Weekly Wrap Up – October 23, 2020

By Pete McKay-TSU President

A whole lot of little bits this week kept people busy.

Staffing – The parent survey closed on Monday and the virtual school will be increasing by approximately 1500 students. The corollary of that is the day school will be declining by 1500 students. Reorganization of schedules for students and teachers will need to occur and teachers will be moved from day schools to virtual school. Details on the process will come from the Board, hopefully, next week.

Bargaining – We have sent the Board notice that we are ready to negotiate and have asked for dates. We are waiting for dates to be provided.

Budget and Finance – The Executive has approved the draft budget, which was emailed to you all yesterday. And we hope to see you next Thursday at the meeting.

Executive – A great start to the week with an Exec meeting on Monday. The big piece coming out of that was the review of the budget, as mentioned above.

Arbitration – Yes, still Parmar. Only one more day needed, hopefully. Unfortunately, that won't be until the new year by the looks of things. So no updates on health and safety improvements.

Jt. Tech Committee – A mid-week meeting for the committee and the Board has agreed to some improvements in software availability. Those who are involved in courses that require it will have access to Adobe Suite for home use. Hope that doesn't mean there's an expectation that you be working at home.

OTs – Last Friday an email was sent to all Principals in the system reminding them of the duties of OTs. The important piece in this is that you are not to be overused. Details are in the other attachment to this email.

Anti-Racism Meeting- A solid turn out for the meeting on Tuesday to discuss ways forward for our BIPOC teachers. Some great ideas were shared and will be acted upon in the not too distant future. Plans are in the works for the Human Rights committee to be moving aspects of this forward and other avenues will be explored, too.

Director's Liaison – We had the opportunity to get up close and personal with the new Director, Brendan Browne, on Friday morning. Well, as up close and personal as you can get on Zoom. Some really good dialogue occurred and an understanding of where we stand on some issues was established. We look forward to collaborative discussions as we continue to tackle the difficulties that currently face us, as well as those that arise in the future.

And various return to work, accommodation and investigation meetings were also on the agenda this past week, along with the usual slew of emails and phone calls.

I hope you had a chance to grab a bit of the sun, today, before hunkering down for the weekend. A good opportunity to get cozy with whomever you want to get cozy with is coming up. Enjoy the break and get the rest you need.

Stay safe.