

## TSU Weekly Wrap Up – November 6, 2020

By Pete McKay-TSU President

**Teacher Mental Health** – We continue to hear, and be concerned, about the mental health of all members. It is very important that we look after ourselves and each other. As I said last week, use your weekend and your evenings for recharging and reconnecting with what matters most in your life. Additionally, a variety of supports within the OTIP Benefits plan exist as well as assistance through the Employee and Family Assistance Plan (EFAP). [workhealthlife.com](http://workhealthlife.com) and 1-844-880-9142

**Staffing** – With the hybrid delivery coming in Quad 2, there have been discussions this week about LSSAC meetings. These should be scheduled prior to the beginning of the new quad. Regardless of whether any teachers are expected to be leaving the school, it's important that all the numbers are reviewed to see who is doing the hybrid delivery and who is not, how many students are in classes, whether any adjustments need to be made to the master schedule, etc. We continue to advise against the use of live video and remind you that it is not required, as per PPM 164.

Questions have been raised about the availability of technology to implement the hybrid delivery model. The Board is responsible for providing what you need to do the work. If you feel you cannot get the job done without providing your own technology, we need to know, and so does the Board, so that it can be provided. If what the Board does provide is not up to your standards, unfortunately, you will need to work within the limitations. If the Board and the government are concerned about the legitimacy of what is being delivered they need to support it appropriately. Do not purchase equipment for work.

**TSU Black Teachers** – A reminder went out, yesterday, about the meeting on Monday. If you are a Black TSU member, please let us know that you are attending on Monday so that we can send you the link.

**Committees** – A fair bit of committee activity this week. The Beginning Teachers Committee held an info night on Thursday, which was well attended. Whether you were able to attend or not, if there is anything else you need to know as a beginning teacher, please contact the office. There were also meetings with the Board for the Health and Safety, Safe Schools, and Professional Development joint committees. Reports on those will be provided at the Exec meeting next week.

**OECTA Council of Presidents** – Thursday and Friday saw the COP come together by Zoom to conduct various items of business. Budgeting was reviewed, along with the ELHT. Both are in good shape. Likewise, the Pension Plan, which we heard about in the OTF Report. Despite the economic crisis associated with Covid, and fluctuations in various sectors of the investments, the plan is very well managed and able to weather the storm.

Members are reminded to check on whether your health providers are approved by Manulife before spending the money on them, especially with large procedures such as dental surgery. Warnings were also reiterated about insurance fraud. Remember, this is our plan and if we defraud it we are defrauding ourselves and our colleagues. OECTA will not provide representation in cases of insurance fraud allegations as they are outside the scope of work.

**TSU Website** – We continue to update the information on the website. Notices of events can be found there, along with necessary forms and the, always exciting, executive meeting minutes.

We hope you had a successful week, and a have a relaxing weekend. Lots of vitamin D our there to help recharge. Enjoy it!