

## **TSU Weekly Wrap Up – November 13, 2020**

By Pete McKay-TSU President

**Teacher Mental Health** – This continues to be my primary concern this week. As you have battled so valiantly to make this mess work for you and the students it has taken a toll on many of you. And as many move into a different model again for Quad 2, there is the possibility of more pressure. You might feel too stressed and pressed for time but I would encourage you to reach out. You don't have to off sick to do so. As I said last week, 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. Please call.

**Hybrid Model** - We continue to hear concerns over how the hybrid delivery will occur in Quad 2. I have been asked to reiterate our advice on this. The government direction on online delivery is in PPM 164. This memorandum states that online learning can occur through video, audio or text. "OR" is an important word. If you are feeling pressure (internal or external) to use video, rest assured that you do not have to. Similarly, the suggestion that you turn off the video, if you are not comfortable with it on, and use just audio, is not a requirement. You can use text only, which involves words on a screen. This is easily accomplished through D2L. If you are not using that, providing work and instruction through email or google class/docs would suffice, and then be available to go back and forward between those in front of you and those on the computer.

**LSSAC** – A number of questions about how to conduct these meetings, at this time, have been raised. I sent an email to all Reps, this morning about the topic. No member should be excluded from an LSSAC meeting. If need be, we must provide the opportunity for the meeting to be conducted by phone or Zoom. People are working from home in many cases, some due to accommodations, and are not in the school in the afternoon. We cannot force them to be in the building and expose themselves any more than they already do. We must allow for the full participation and representation of the elected members. While we have not heard of conflict over this with admin, if there is an issue over an LSSAC member participating, please let us know.

Confidentiality concerns can be addressed at the beginning of a meeting and then we must trust that we will all behave in a professional and respectful manner and honour the requirements. You should also be receiving materials 48 hours in advance, by e-copy due to Board Covid restrictions on the handling of papers, which should also be treated confidentially.

**TSU Black Teachers** – The meeting was held on Monday, as advertised, and while I left the group to it, the feedback has been positive. There is a lot of work to be done and we will see this roll out incrementally.

**NTIP** – I had the pleasure of addressing the NTIP participants on Tuesday morning, providing a welcome-to-TSU type message and sharing some thoughts. One of my hopes is that the more experienced amongst us will take these teachers under our wings and ensure that they have an opportunity for a successful start to their careers. Efforts should be made not to give them a dog's breakfast of a timetable or make them feel that they have to take on everything that others don't want to do in order to prove themselves. Starting out can be tough enough at the best of times but perhaps they can take some solace in the fact that after this year, teaching will seem so much easier!

**Miscellaneous** – More committee work this week: H&S and Staffing. Arbitration on Monday, which (re)started dealing with benefits/sick leave issues. And to finish the week off on a high note (insert sarcasm emoji), Executive met Friday. Beyond that, the usual assortment of calls, meetings, emails, etc.

All in all, not much to complain about. Have a great weekend and come back ready to finish off the first quad!