

TSU Weekly Wrap Up – December 4, 2020

By Pete McKay-TSU President

It's beginning to feel a lot like...December.

Teacher Performance Appraisals – Some clarity this week for all. While we talked before about the pause being put on the TPA process by the government, there was, apparently, some confusion in the field as to what was to happen. The Board sent out emails to all teachers and principals, this week, indicating exactly what the pause would look like. Please read that email carefully for your circumstances. It is not the same for experienced permanent teachers as it is for those captured by NTIP, and it is different again for OTs depending on whether you are in daily assignments or LTOs.

Data Review Day – How do you bring 30 Association Reps and 30 administrators together to do the data review? Well, you don't, this year. Luckily, we had revised the process last year, digitizing the forms and instructions. Which meant that this year we had materials ready to be used, but we still needed to figure out access to the right data and some other bits to make it doable, remotely. Thanks to our resident Excel genius, Darrin Sciberras, it was able to happen on Monday, and at short notice.

Teacher Mental Health – I hope the underutilization of the EFAP that the Board is reporting is a reflection of people doing well. But I doubt it is. Realistically, many are too stressed out and have too little time to think about looking for assistance. Perhaps, when you have a chance over the holiday, you will be able to look after yourself better. Remember there are a variety of supports within the OTIP Benefits plan as well as the assistance through the Employee and Family Assistance Plan (EFAP). workhealthlife.com and 1-844-880-9142. Please call.

Joint Committees – Meeting for three of the committees this week, reflecting that some normal stuff is still happening. Tech, Safe Schools and PD all met. We should be hearing from Jt. PD about plans for the LOYOL Day, in the not too distant future.

Director's Liaison – Friday morning we met with the Director and other senior management to discuss system concerns, along with our elementary counterparts. Among other topics, TSU raised issues around OT access to jobs and the barriers created by Covid concerns. Many are very reluctant to enter schools and would like to be able to cover classes in the virtual school. And in keeping OTs safe, we reiterated concerns over availability of PPE. The Board recognized these and will work to ensure access and safety.

We continued, also, to deal with the usual calls, emails, investigation and conflict meetings. If we somehow missed you, please let us know and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Not the most exciting week but a little less excitement is what a lot of us could do with, right about now. Have a wonderful weekend.