

REP NOTES - January 24, 2011

OECTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - March 11-14 Toronto

Plans are underway for the provincial Annual General Meeting to be held March 12 -15 in Toronto. We will be finalizing our 10 voting delegates and two alternates this week and forwarding our list to Provincial next week. AGM raffle tickets are available to those schools that wish to have them. Due back by next Reps meeting (Feb 28).

MEMBER TO MEMBER ISSUES

Reps are asked to remind all OECTA members of appropriate protocols in dealing with “conflicts” with other members. Both the Board’s complaint procedure and OECTA (and other unions) protocols in this regard are essentially the same. Before going to an administrator to “complain” about a colleague, the expectation is that one attempts to address any issue directly with the other person first. A principal, or other person including OECTA reps or executive, receiving such a complaint should direct the person to this very important first step. OECTA, generally does not become involved in “mediating” conflict between two members, at least at the early stages. The working relationship between and among staff members is first and foremost an administrative responsibility and every effort should be made to resolve these types of situations at the site level. In the event that things escalate, the usual practice would be for a Unit Officer to become involved rather than the site rep.

ADMIN MEETINGS

Unit Officers meet on a regular basis with Senior Administrative staff on a variety of issues. Issues which any members may wish us to address should be forwarded to the Unit Office. Some of the hot topics right now include the new report cards; staffing for next year, posting and hiring process; access to computers; professional development, performance appraisal, and numerous individual cases. We meet on a regular basis with the Program Department and Joint PD Committee to discuss issues related to program, and professional development. Through our HR Department meetings and Joint Staffing Committee, we also have opportunity to address many issues related to staffing in Wellington and to discuss occasional teacher statistics and issues.

REPORT CARD “Quiet Periods”

Secondary – There is a long standing practice of the week before exams being considered “dead week” where meetings, after school activities and inter-school sports are restricted. The public Board has a similar practice so there should be few if any inter-school activities occurring at this time. Staff meetings, departmental meetings and other after school events should also not be occurring during this time and into the exam week.

Elementary – The board and OECTA have had an informal agreement for a number of years to make a “best effort” to limit activities during the week between the PD (reporting) Day and the date reports are due to the office. While not an absolute ban, the scheduling of meetings (e.g. staff and divisional meetings), after school workshops, intramurals and school sports should be minimized during this week. Regular activities during the instructional day continue.

All teachers should be focused on the assessment/evaluation of student progress at this time.

YOUNG AUTHORS

Please encourage all members to consider becoming involved in this worthwhile project. Over the years, Wellington has been very successful at the provincial level. School entries are due to the Unit office the week of March 7-11.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

We have been fairly lucky so far. Members are reminded of their responsibilities in this regard. Reps are requested to forward any concerns to the unit office.

REPORT CARD TASK FORCE

The task force has begun its work to review the implementation of the progress and regular report cards at the elementary level. A survey focusing on the progress report will be distributed shortly through staff reps.

The task force will continue to look at the first regular report card due shortly and make recommendations to the Unit Executive around a range of issues.

The task force is made up of Ed McAnany, Linda Artuso-Jacobi, Marg O’Gorman, Jacquie Jansen-Fazzari, Heather Frimeth and Jim Whitechurch.

PD FUNDS

The process and forms for applying for funds from the joint PD fund are on our unit website and also available in the reps conference. By way of clarification, teachers are entitled to apply for one major conference and one minor conference in a three year period. A major conference would be defined as a conference where all costs are between \$600 and \$1200 and a minor would be under \$600. Generally, we would not approve a major and a minor in the same budget year. Additional requests for conferences or workshops under \$100 will be considered separate from the above on their own merits and subject to available funds. Also, the number of people approved for the same conference may be limited by budget allocation.

BEGINNING TEACHERS CONFERENCE

We presently have six delegates (3 provincially sponsored/ 3 locally sponsored) attending the Beginning Teachers Conference, February 24-26. We have been granted additional spots by Provincial OECTA and we have budgeted for three additional delegates.

POLITICAL ACTION

Preparations for the Provincial Election to be held this October are well underway. Provincial OECTA’s Political action strategy is being rolled out and local activity is also beginning. The Wellington OECTA President is meeting Tuesday January 25th with the District Presidents for ETFO and OSSTF to explore possible local joint activities, which may include re-establishing the TRI-PAC (three affiliate Political Action Committee). Contact has been made with the two of three sitting MPPs (Liz Sandals, Guelph; John Wilkinson, Perth-Wellington) whose ridings are within Wellington.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2011-12

We have had some preliminary discussions with Board admin on this item. The school year must be 194 days between September 1 and June 30. In 2011-12, unlike the last two years, there are enough days so that returning before Labour Day is not likely. However, one of the items being closely looked at is the Christmas Break. The Ministry template has Christmas Break beginning on Friday Dec 16th with a return to classes on January 2nd. There appears to be a move across the province to go until December 23rd and return January 9th. This would require approval from the Ministry as it is different from the template. Discussions are currently underway with the other Board and we also have been invited for some input.

PROVINCIAL MEETINGS

Council of Presidents – Feb 2-4 – Jim (W/Th) and Heather (Th/F) and George (Th/F)
Provincial AGM March 11-14

UPCOMING LOCAL MEETINGS

TUESDAY JANUARY 25	TRI-PAC (ETFO, OSSTF and OECTA)
Early February (to be confirmed)	Joint Staffing Committee
WEDNESDAY February 9	Unit Budget Committee
FRIDAY February 10	Program Dept./ Joint PD Committee
MONDAY February 14	Executive Meeting
TUESDAY February 22	Applause Breakfast
MONDAY February 28	Reps Council and Executive