

Report of the Vice President Elementary

Simon Dallimore

I struggled to find an interesting way to start my report for this Unit General Meeting, but, like all things this year, it has been a unique year that has required a lot of flexibility from a lot of people. There are many thank you's that need to be passed on, but the first thank you has to go out to all teachers. You have found ways to adapt to a year that has been full of firsts, and you have found some very inspiring ways to support the students you work with. I really respect and appreciate the professionalism and ingenuity you have shown throughout this entire year.

In preparation for writing my report, I went back through all of my various meeting notes, and several themes jumped out this year. I will attempt to summarize the year and apologize if I have over-looked anything. As always, you are welcome to reach out to me via email or a phone call if you have any questions or concerns.

Fail to Fills

Once again, the issue of fail to fills and missed planning time has been the biggest issue this year. There were a few times this year where the numbers appeared to have dropped compared to last year, however, there were still numerous fail to fill situations. The Board did agree, this year, to set up a schedule for paying back missed planning time. This appeared to help all schools receive some payback of missed planning time. Unfortunately, due to the closure of schools in March, there are still a number of outstanding missed planning times that need to be paid back. Please make sure that everyone checks with their administrators to ensure that the school google doc used to track missed planning time is up to date and accurate. We are still in discussions with the Board on how the remaining missed planning times will be repaid this year.

Violent Incidents and Safe Schools

Violence in the classroom remains an on-going concern. While we have seen an overall increase in the number of safe school and violent incidents reports being completed by teachers, we need to continue to focus on completing these on-line forms for all appropriate incidents. As a reminder, the safe schools forms are to be completed whenever you (or anyone who is employed by the school board) witnesses an event that could lead to a suspension. The form should be seen as a means of documenting and reporting these incidents. It is still the responsibility of the principal to investigate and decide on an appropriate response. These forms need to be completed by anyone who has witnessed the event and they need to be completed regardless of whether or not the administrator is aware of the situation or if a school-specific form of communication (e.g. an orange slip) has been completed. It is a paper trail confirming that staff members have reported a situation that could lead to a suspension.

Violent incident report forms need to be completed whenever a staff member has been the victim of an assault or an attempted assault. This form is even more important now that the Health and Safety clause has been added to our new Provincial Collective Agreement. No one should be showing up to work worried that they might be assaulted during the day. We all have

a right to a safe work environment, and reporting all incidents of assault is an important part of this.

Teacher Professional Discretion

Diagnostic assessment is an important tool for all teachers. All teachers are required to use at least one Board approved diagnostic assessment per student at least once during the school year. However, this does not mean that BLAMs, CASIs, etc have to be applied to all students at the same time during the school year (or multiple times during the school year). You should be able to apply your professional discretion to when and how often these diagnostic assessments are used.

Staffing Projections

A number of locations were impacted this year due to the St. John's Boundary review. A number of teachers at St. John's and Our Lady of Lourdes were made surplus due to the boundary review. We attended the HR meeting at both of these locations to answer any questions about the process. We also attended the HR meeting at the Section 23 school (former St. Agatha) as this location will be closed as the Board did not renew their contract with the organization that runs this school. All teachers from this location were made surplus and were required placement this year.

The first round of direct matches and postings will have been completed by the time we have our Spring General meeting. There were 19 direct matches this year during the first round, which is more than usually occurs during the first round. The second round of required placement matches will occur shortly.

The Board has advised that they anticipate several changes to schools in September due to the current shut down of schools. FDK enrolment for next year is lower than usual for this time of the year. It is assumed that this is due to the current shut down of schools. The Board would prefer to wait until enrolment supports additional classes, which could mean multiple changes in September across all schools as enrolment increases. Overall, the Board is projecting an increase in enrolment for next year based on current numbers, which means several new classes next year.

Collective Bargaining

The Elementary Bargaining Committee has met several times this year and we are prepared to meet with the Board later this month to negotiate the local portion of our Collective Agreement. Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey. The results of the survey helped the committee to formulate our proposal. Please continue to monitor your personal emails for further updates to local bargaining.

Thank you

There are a number of people that I need to thank. I have the privilege of sitting on a number of committees with some incredible people who give up their time after school to come to the OECTA office and join us for our meetings. These committees help to ensure that OECTA continues to run smoothly and provide a number of services for all teachers. Thank you to everyone who has sat on a committee and I look forward to continuing to work with you next year.

I would also like to thank the Strike Committee who worked tirelessly this year to help us organize the different job actions. It took a lot of organization and time to ensure that information flowed to our members and that we were ready for each new action that came up. Thank you!

I have also been very fortunate to work closely with the Elementary Bargaining Unit Executive. Thank you to Heather, Dorothea, Amy and Marilyn for your time and commitment. Your insights and support are always appreciated.

It is also important to thank the other release officers. We all represent different parts of our organization, but I appreciate that we work as a team and support each other throughout the year. Jeannette's work with the provincial bargaining committee kept her out of the office a lot this year, but she was always available to share her knowledge. Ed's passion for OECTA will be missed next year, but I would like to wish him well as he starts a new chapter in his life. Thank you to Patrick for his leadership and his guidance. I appreciate your support and guidance. Finally, I would like to thank Cathy for everything she does around the office. I really appreciate everything you do for me and the unit. Thank you!

I hope that everyone has a good close to this school year, what ever that looks like and I look forward to continuing to serve the unit next year.