

## ***Occasional Teachers' Local Executive Meeting***

***Online***

***Thursday, April 22, 2021***

***4:30 pm***

Present: Kim Finlayson, Gayle VanAltena, Sarah Kyle, Mindy Deichert, Samantha Gowanlock and Mark Reble

Regrets:

**1. Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm**

**2. Reading of the ETFO Equity Statement, ETFO Human Rights Statement and ETFO Land Acknowledgement by Gayle Van Altena.**

**3. Approval of the agenda**

Moved: Mark

Seconded: Mindy

All in Favour: Carried

**4. Approval of the minutes**

Moved: Sarah

Seconded: Mark

All in Favour: Carried

**5. Business arising from the last meeting(s) and/or action items from May Executive meeting:**

- Classroom at a Glance - Sam to do
- High Viz Vests - Mindy can you take this to the next Health and Safety Meeting (have in place for return to in-person learning)
- Kim still has to order ETFO Black Canadian Resource
- Price new laptops

**6. Health and Safety Report, Mindy Deichert**

- FYI Outbreaks are being tied to break rooms and lunchrooms. Please remind members to be cautious when eating. (from Presidents' meeting on March 29)

- Refusing Unsafe Work Checklist with Town Hall Information (In the ETFO e-newsletter)

2020-21 Meeting Dates:

- OTs reminded to visit our website <http://occasionalteachers.com/> and click on “Let us Know” to access forms (Employee Accident/Incident Report) necessary after an incident

**7. PL Chairs’ Report, Kim Finlayson**

- The two equity workshops to be held in April provided in collaboration between the Board and the AMETL have been postponed to the Fall in light of the current political and pandemic climate.

**Upcoming Professional Learning**

- May 5 Climate Change and Social Justice
- Book club on hold

**8. Communications Officer Report, Gayle Van Altena**

- Lots of confusion with Emergency Unqualified Teachers receiving emails through the Elementary Occasional Teachers Google Group. I need to ask which category they fall under before I can answer questions. I have emailed the board office a few times to let them know to send out clarification to Emergency staff
- Solution Idea: Put Emergency Staff acronym in their email name like we do with schools

**9. Grievance Update, Kim Finlayson**

- Health and Safety paid training update

**10. Social Justice and Equity Report, Kim Finlayson, No Report**

**11. Political Action Report, Gayle Van Altena**

- April 6- attended virtually Centre for Labour Management Relations, Arnold Palmer Memorial Lecture featuring Jane McAlvery
  - Unions are the DEFENDERS of Democracy in our Society- bargain for the common good
  - Current political leaders rule by dividing us - neighbour against neighbour, worker against worker etc.

- Neo Liberalism’s strategy is cultivating individualism “ I’m going to pay attention to MY NEEDS and vote accordingly
- Thus unions are more important than ever - STRONG UNIONS = SOCIAL JUSTICE
- KEY TO RESULTS- determine what needs to change, ORGANIZE then MOBILIZE

**12. Goodwill Committee - Sarah Kyle, No Report**

**13. Constitution Committee, Mark Reble**

- Send out proposed changes to the constitution well in advance of the June General Meeting.

**14. Motion to accept committee reports**

Mover: Gayle

Secunder: Mark

All in Favour: Carried

**15. Treasurer’s Report, Mark Reble**

a. Current Balance in our accounts as of Apr 22/21

Chequing	\$ 78 895.11
GICs 1+1	\$ 3439.46
Money Market	\$ 15 695.27
Total Balance of	\$ 98 029.84

- b. See attached treasurer’s report of actual spending in comparison to the budget.
- c. Secretary to sign cheques.
- d. Year End Review (September)
- e. Set Budget Committee Meeting (September)

**16. Collective Bargaining Report, Kim Finlayson**

- Attending the Collective Bargaining Conference on Monday, April 26.
- Board refusing to meet until there is a ruling on Regulation 274.

**17. President’s Updates**

- ★ Labour Management Meeting Updates

- Missed the last meeting before the break, it was announced the evening prior to a morning meeting so couldn't make it work.
- ★ CLC - Registration has been submitted and paid for and subsidy has been approved.
- ★ ETFO Presidents' Meeting March 29th
  - Projected that all educators will have the opportunity to be vaccinated by September.
  - The Provincial Government is proposing Virtual Learning as a permanent option for students K-12 by 2022 or sooner. There will not be funding for it, Boards will have to structure it on their own. No indication as to whether there will be EAs or DECEs and it is being described as "synchronous learning". High school students will have two options - independent or teacher-supported. If independent, the Board will have to pay a fee to TVO for those who choose to attend using the independent option. This is the next step to privatizing education.
    - ETFO will be sending out a fact sheet as to why virtual learning doesn't work; this new format will mean job losses for educators.
    - ETFO will also be preparing templates of letters to send to MPPs, much the same way the new FDK model was opposed when the government was going to remove OCT qualified teachers from FDK classrooms
    - Important for Locals to also send out this information so members receive it and take action
  - Changes to the Elections Act and Finances - a bill is being put in place to restrict unions' ability to purchase political advertising one year prior to an election, while increasing the amount of the maximum party donations to \$10, 000
  - \$800 million less to public education
- ★ See the letter sent to MPP Thompson regarding remote learning concerns.

Thursday, April 1, 2021

Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron Bruce

Dear MPP Thompson,

Educators and families have been doing everything they can to keep students learning during the pandemic. The provincial government should have been focused on making our schools safer, but they failed to invest in smaller classes and refused to provide the necessary leadership during this very difficult year. Surveillance testing has been inadequately and erratically implemented across the province. Like many elements of the pandemic response, it has been downloaded to the local level without adequate support and resources.

Instead of responding to the ongoing third wave of this pandemic, the government has instead chosen to take advantage of the crisis to introduce sweeping changes to the nature of public education. The government is planning to make remote learning permanent so a student could go from Kindergarten to grade 12 without ever setting foot inside a school. Under Ford's plan, a significant portion of remote learning would be run by TVO and TFO, who could hire their own staff and outsource education delivery to for-profit companies.

I am concerned this government is trying to open the floodgates of privatization in Ontario, by siphoning money away from an already underfunded public school system. There will be no school board or elected trustee oversight. That means that the government is setting up an entire parallel system of education in Ontario that will not be accountable.

This plan will also inevitably lead to school closures as the government pushes more students online, creating a snowball effect of fewer opportunities in schools forcing more and more families to opt for remote learning. This is a very real threat in smaller, rural and remote communities.

The government has provided no academic research or analysis to support its underlying claim of the benefits of full-time synchronous remote learning in the elementary grades. This permanent change is being undertaken without educational expertise and without considering any data about Ontario's richly diverse student population, the process of learning or the realities of schools and the communities they serve.

This plan is an experiment in remote learning and one that will continue to deepen the digital and academic divide exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in Ontario.

This past year has highlighted the importance of schools to our communities and the focus should be on supporting consistency and stability for students and educators going forward.

As our local Member of Provincial Parliament, we urge to you speak up against the plan proposed by the government and to engage with our school communities to find the best way to support students and their families.

Yours sincerely,

Kim Finlayson

Teacher Huron Centennial School

President, ETFO AMDSB Occasional Teachers' Local

- ★ Update to the callout times for Smartfind
  - Please note that **effective Friday, April 16, 2021** all evening callout times in Smartfind will change to run from 5:30PM to 9:00PM daily instead of 4:30PM to 9:00PM. The morning callout times will continue to start at 6:00AM.
- ★ Unfilled Jobs - Prior to the return to remote learning, we had unfilled jobs daily. As of April 8th, 145 unqualified persons filled jobs in schools. Since returning to in-person learning after Christmas and prior to returning to remote learning there were 42 days of instruction and 295 unfilled jobs.

## 18. New Business

- Radio Message Request
    - **AVON MAITLAND OCCASIONAL TEACHERS LOCAL CONGRATULATE ALL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ON MAKING IT THROUGH THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES. TO ALL OUR STUDENT GRADUATES - YOU ARE TO BE COMMENDED FOR HAVING REACHED THIS SPECIAL MOMENT IN YOUR EDUCATION, AND ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT CELEBRATE TOGETHER, WE ARE TRULY PROUD OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS.**
    - **A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM AVON MAITLAND OCCASIONAL TEACHERS LOCAL... BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY SUMMER TO ALL OUR GRADUATES AND STUDENTS...STAY HEALTHY, STAY SAFE AND STAY KIND.**
    - Above message to come out at end of June
    - Motion to adjust budget to move from Political Action/Political Relations to pay for the radio message
- Mover: Gayle

Secunder: Sarah  
All in Favour: Passed

- Local Annual Meeting Preparation
  - Set date: June 23, 2021
  - 1:00 PM OT Meeting, 4:30 GM Meeting
  - Combine Year End Meeting with Annual Meeting
  - Mark to send out constitution changes to the membership via the Google Ed. group.
  - Confirm agenda - include: auditors, constitutional changes, and that we need Members at Large (room for 3)
  - If anyone is interested in becoming a Member at Large, email Sam

**19. Next meeting/event dates:**

Representative Council - October, February, May  
Collective Bargaining Conference - March  
General Meeting - October  
May Meeting- Wednesday May 19

Upcoming PL

**20. Adjournment**

To Do:

- Kim: Ask about putting Emergency Staff acronym in their email name like we do with schools
- Sarah: Send Gayle goodwill card information
- Mark: Send out constitution the week before the long weekend in May
- Mark: Budget comparison and up to date sheets ready to send out to membership
- Sam: Classroom at a glance
- All: recruit for more members at large!