

OCCASIONAL TEACHERS' BARGAINING UNIT

OSSTF District 17 - Simcoe County District School Board

Unit #6 - 51 King Street Barrie 705-726-1722

OTBU Web Site: www.d17otbu.ca

District 17 Web Site: www.d17osstf.ca

SPRING NEWSLETTER



April 2019

AGM Edition

2018/2019 EXECUTIVE

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Your OT Bargaining Unit Exec is here to help you at any time. **Do not hesitate** to contact any of us at any time.

Dear Member;

Spring is still around the proverbial corner and winter like weather is still hanging on, but eventually the warmer temps will be here soon. Please read this newsletter over thoroughly; there are some very important issues concerning you and your Occasional teaching, be it casual or LTO!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You are cordially invited to attend our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** on **Thursday May 16th, 2019**. The meeting will be called to order at **4:30 pm SHARP** and will be held, as usual, at the OSSTF office located at 51 King Street in Barrie (Units 6/7). Only current OSSTF members are allowed to attend with active OTBU members having voting privileges. If you are on EasyConnect, it's safe to say you are a member of our Bargaining Unit as long as you have worked the provincially mandated 1 day in the last 95 work days.

Supper will be provided afterwards at the Red Lobster (Bayfield St. - Barrie) at 7:00pm (timed item). We do need you to RSVP Joanne our Office Manager for dinner reservations. To that end, could you please phone 705-726-1722 & she will confirm your commitment. We will be asking the restaurant to honour our traditional dishes of glazed road kill and blackened Asian Carp (**Repeat Warning**: they are very unwieldy and have been known to suddenly fly off dinner plates).

Copies of our Constitution are available prior to our meeting at the District Office or on line. At the AGM we may be looking for members to fill vacant positions on our executive as this is an election year.

Some agenda items this year are:

- Executive Elections
- Elections for AMPA delegates/alternates
- Member input
- Proposed 2019/20 Budget

- Constitutional/Bylaw Resolutions
- EasyConnect (ATE) report/update/issues
- Working Conditions
- Committee Reports
- Negotiations/grievance report

Please plan to attend and voice your views on the above issues that very much affect you as a professional.

APPLY TO EDUCATE

EasyConnect

The number of supply teachers currently on EasyConnect's Main List is 401. To insure proper remuneration from payroll is correct record all info regarding an accepted assignment (assignment number, date, location, and replacement teacher). If you are called in for an assignment and ATE messes up, show up to the school in question, present your job number, and you will be re-assigned and paid appropriately.

You may be assigned an emergency duty outside the replacement teacher's timetable. If so, record it on your Emergency Sheet and get that sheet signed off by admin. Mostly these consist of on-calls, but could include hall or caf duties etc. that are not on the regular day's schedule.

"Pic by Part"

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Bill 115

(Sick Days)

Under Bill 115, LTOs have 11 sick days in a school year if you are in a full complement 3 period assignment. If you need additional time off you can tap into 120 days of Short Term Disability sick leave provisions at 100% pay. Medical notes would of course have to be provided in these circumstances. These days are available as soon as you start an assignment. Contractually there's also an additional 3 days for funerals, graduations, etc.

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS

Your membership fee of \$150 was due April 15. Failure to have paid it will result in immediate revocation of your OCT teaching certificate and subsequent removal from EasyConnect. There is a reinstatement fee of \$130.

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Paul Cudney	(Ed Services)
Kate Dewey:	(Health & Safety + Human Rights) 705-209-3586 katedewey@hotmail.com)
Deanna Nelson:	(Status of Women)
Jeff Parton:	(Status of Women – Male Rep)
Marcia D'Antimo:	(Status of Women)
Matthew Boyd	(CPAC - Communication & Political Action Committee)

COMMUNICATIONS

If you've suddenly stopped receiving our communiques, are new to ATE Easyconnect, or know of an individual who isn't receiving our blurbs, please resend their/your email to our Communication's Officer Chris Petersen at d17otbu@gmail.com.

CONTRACT

& Doug Ford's Conservative Provincial Government

Our Extension deal with the Government will come to an end on August 31, 2019. We all know it's not pretty out there right now and we are trying to deal with things as they come at us.

CONTRACT MAINTENANCE

With respect to the current contract, is the maintenance of this binding legal document and making sure that our employers are following its inherent intent? If you know of violations in any area, please let us know. At times we don't even have to use your name. To that end, don't forget about the **Emergency Duty Sheet**. This relates to the assigning of extra duties above the actual teacher's timetable (i.e.: emergency on calls). Let Ben Andrews know immediately (emails are preferred for historical recording accuracy) of any discrepancies with respect to these "contract maintenance" issues. Some of the issues of course relate to pay.

- ❖ Don't forget about the **Commitment rule** which is 10 assignments per semester. A ½ day counts as one assignment towards that commitment language.
- ❖ Also, please heed the 15-time assignment decline rule (again, per semester). The turn down has to be in your field of expertise, ½ days don't count, and accepting a job for the same day after declining one negates the decline.

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

This year's **District AGM (DAM)** is Monday **May 13th 2019** and will be held at the OSSTF Office as well (51 King Street, Barrie - Unit 6/7). The social part of the evening will start at 4:45 pm, followed by the start of business at 5:30 PM, sustenance, then further business, if required.

EMAIL

Please be cognizant regarding the content and use of your emails as they are sent via SCDSB servers and are, therefore, subject to scrutiny. Simply put, keep your emails strictly professional. The Board sends out important information via your Board's email address, so please be cognizant and check it often.

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Because OTs are not under contract, we can apply for Employment Insurance when not working. Rules are; you have to look for work, make yourself available, and be willing to accept other short-term somewhat related occupations. Please realize that there are minimum hours that are required for these applications. If you are applying for a **maternity** leave, it requires a minimum of 600 hours. The ROE (Record of Employment) forms are sent out electronically now to Service Canada by HR, but you have to initiate the request. To start your application, log on to www.servicecanada.gc.ca and go to **On Line Forms and Services**. Recently, Services Canada has been stringent in allowing claims and has denied seemingly iron clad applications. OSSTF over the years has appealed several of these denials and has won a significant amount of cases. Code numbers were not needed last summer.

FACEBOOK GROUP

We have a Facebook page for Occasional Teachers here in District 17 Simcoe. It is a "closed group" for individuals who supply teach in secondary schools in the SCDSB. Sign on and one of our Exec members will accept your request. You can search **D17 OTBU OSSTF**, hit "like" and stay current with all of our like-minded local Secondary Panel Occasional Teachers.

GRIEVANCES

We have yet again had a number of minor incidents/grievances this year. Most grievances arise over pay issues, classroom management, and sexual, physical, or verbal abuse. In other words, to avoid the launching of an investigation and possible grievance in the first place, maintain a well-run classroom and for heaven's sake, watch what you say to students. Some also involve member-on-member issues.

LEGAL ASPECTS

(Union Protection)

If you are involved in situations involving sexual harassment, over-reactive discipline, innuendo, or any type of assault (even verbal), etc., you need to contact your union representatives (us) immediately after the accusation, altercation, and/or incident. Above all, do not say anything inculpatory to your accusers; **wait** until **Federation** support arrives.

STAYNER CAR WASH

3 BAY SELF-SERVE CAR WASH

STAYNER, ON.

(West of the Tim Horton's towards Duntroon on CR/Hwy. # 91)

NTIP

(New Teachers Induction Programme)

This programme is offered up to new LTOs (and our counterparts, contract teachers) to navigate them through the pitfalls of being new to the profession. Throughout the year workshops are offered at the Board office to get you accustomed to all the nuances of starting out in your teaching career. To be a part of the process LTOs have to have accrued 97 teaching days or more in an LTO assignment. Also, one can acquire a mentor including paid time off for both NTIPers and mentors paid by Government funding (the Board). As well, some resources for your classroom can be covered, such as books and software, etc.

OFFENSE DECLARATIONS

Don't forget to fill out your Offence Declarations & programme updates again this year before the due date of June 15. Go to the Board's web site and sign in under "Staff"; from there go to Payroll Portal.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We are now well into the year and the end is in sight. Unfortunately as a result of that our PD budget line has been exhausted. New funds will be infused on July 1st so you can apply after that for the next school year. PD \$ is found at www.otbud17.ca where you can download the application form.

RESOLUTIONS – AGM

(Proposed and on time)

HOUSEKEEPING:

BIRT Bylaw 5.2.3.1 be amended to replace "Article 4.1" with "Article 7.1.1"
(Article 4.2.2.1 does not exist)

BIRT Bylaw 5.2.3.2 be amended to replace "Article 4.2.2.1" with "Article 5.1.1.8"
(Article 4.2.2.1 does not exist)

BIRT Bylaw 5.2.3.3 be amended to replace "Article 4.4" with "Article 5.1.1"
(Article 4.4 does not exist)

BIRT Bylaw 5.2.3.4 be amended to replace "Article 4.5" with "Article 7.4.1"
(Article 4.5 does not exist)

Moved by Ben Andrews Seconded by Paul Cudney.

Rationale: Clean up language.

BYLAW 7 – ELECTIONS

BIRT Bylaw 7.11 be amended by adding "in odd numbered years" after "take place every other year".

BIRT Bylaw 7.1.2 be amended by adding "in even numbered years" after "take place every other year".

Moved by Ben Andrews Seconded by Paul Cudney.

Rationale: Clean up language, original is not inherently clear.

BYLAW 9 – RELEASE TIME

BIRT Bylaw 9.1.2 be amended by increasing the compensation for the Secretary from 10 (ten) times the daily rate to 12 (twelve) days.

BIRT Bylaw 9.1.3 be amended by increasing the compensation for the Treasurer from 15 (fifteen) times daily rate to 17 (seventeen) days.

BIRT Bylaw 9.1.4 be amended by increasing the compensation for the Chief Negotiator from 25 (twenty five) times the daily rate to 30 (thirty) days.

BIRT Bylaw 9.1.6 be amended by increasing the compensation for the 1st Vice President from 10 (ten) times the daily rate to 15 (fifteen) times the daily rate.

Moved by Paul Cudney Seconded by Ben Andrews

Rationale: Anticipated increase in work load with the new Provincial Government.

WEB SITE

Our web site is found at www.d17otbu.ca and can provide you with the following info:

- ⇒ Our Constitution
- ⇒ The Contract (Collective Agreement)
- ⇒ PD Application Forms
- ⇒ Posts & Blogs
- ⇒ OT Handbook
- ⇒ Emergency Duties sheet
- ⇒ Newsletter Archive

The District Web site address is www.d17.osstf.ca.

Yours in pedagogical solidarity,

Jeff Parton (President D17 Simcoe, Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit)



How to Save Money on Your Home and Auto Insurance

It's important to have enough coverage on your home and auto policies so you can get back to where you started in the event of a total loss – but that doesn't mean you should be paying more than you have to. There are a number of factors that can reduce the cost of your insurance, some of which could save you hundreds of dollars.

Visit www.otipinsurance.com/article37 to discover home and auto insurance savings and discount options that you may be eligible for.