

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING
April 8, 2009



HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT
(Kris Lee)

OSSTF
District 10

In March the Board's Strategic Planning Committee of ETFO, CUPE, OSSTF and management met to discuss the H&S recommendations concerning auditing, accountability, defining roles and responsibilities, communication to all employees on Health and Safety Policies and Procedures. The challenge has been to design a way to instill Health and Safety principles in all departments and in all Board functions.

The Board will be initiating a management systems audit of the Health and Safety Policies and Procedures for all its elementary and secondary schools. I have worked with Connie Oglivie, Board Health and Safety Officer, on the protocol and general logistics of the audit process from its inception. In April two high schools and three elementary schools will be piloted with OSSTF, CUPE and ETFO Health and Safety Representatives as the external auditors. After feedback from all the unions and other stakeholders, the audit protocol will be finalized for the remainder of the schools in Lambton Kent during the 2009/10 school year.

To my knowledge, Lambton Kent District School Board is at the leading edge of designing and implementing such a comprehensive standardized tool to manage its Health and Safety Policies and Procedures in the education sector. What is most significant is that the worker Representatives have had access to this process from its initial stages and are actively engaging in the decision making process both in terms of the protocol and audit outcomes. The information from the audit outcomes will focus on improvement of the overall management system at the Board level. It will not target individual schools or employees.

Thank you to all the Site Representatives for great inspection reports throughout this year.

Kristina Lee, H&S Officer
OSSTF District 10