

JANUARY 13, 2010



OSSTF/FEESO
District 10

DISTRICT COUNCIL

OCCASIONAL TEACHER REPORT

Lobby Day Queens Park (November 30 – December 1, 2009)

Both I and Vice-President James Grant, also CPAC Officer for District 10, attended this two-day event. On the first day we attended a workshop with the largest turnout to date for this event. We were given a list of the three most important issues for teachers to discuss with our MPP which were, **CREDIT INTEGRITY, SLOWING DOWN THE NUMBER OF NEW INITIATIVES IN EDUCATION AND SCHOOL INFORMATION FINDER.**

On the second day we were to sit in the House for question period. This was when two members were told to leave the House but refused and spent the night, over the combined sales tax issue. Subsequently question period was not observed. We looked forward to our 3:00 pm appointment with Bob Bailey, our MPP. He was not in his office, after we managed to find it, as was no one else so we did not get a face-to-face with him. We were very disappointed. We did leave the information with the thank-you card that was protocol for the day.

Study Hall Supervisors

I have also written a letter to the new Chair of the Board congratulating her on her new position. I took the opportunity to ask her how this Board justifies the study hall supervisor situation that is totally detrimental to student's education and asking her for a response.

On this subject I have received a response from the College of Teachers. Their position is that since the study hall supervisors are not qualified teachers belonging to the College they have no control over them. I have also written to the Premier of Ontario as he professes to be the Educational Premier asking for his views on this disgraceful abuse of the Education system.

Strategy and Structure Review Committee

I have also been chosen to sit on the Strategy and Structure Review Committee. This one-day event was held in Toronto on Wednesday January 6. This consultation session is a result of the AMPA 2008 Action Plan. It is a process to review political and governance structure. There were about 48 participants that were divided into three smaller focus groups.

The membership priorities were identified as representation, service, protection, advocacy and participation. Institutional priorities are things we must do to survive/thrive as an organization. Financial viability/integrity, leadership and staff development, equity, drive the public education agenda, represent educational team; community outreach and social justice were identified. Finally environmental priorities or things we need to influence or respond to were identified as the following. Enrolment changes, education funding, pension issues, changing technology, changing member demographics, legislative/regulatory changes, professional colleges, economic downturn, government agendas and public opinion. Finally the CORE UNION STRATEGIES were outlined as follows: Protecting members, engaging members, shaping public opinion and influencing decision makers.

Before their report can be made to AMPA in March of 2010 the group will take all information received from the three smaller focus groups and incorporate it into their presentation. It will then be decided by the assembled members if it is to go forward with the plan for the next year. For anyone who is interested in exploring this further I have printed information and notes.

New Members

Over the holidays I used some of my time to contact the 60 new members that are not on my list as provided by the Board. After asking for a non-board e-mail address so we could communicate with them I also asked a few questions. It became apparent that the vast majority were not aware they were now in a union with many not even aware of the study hall supervisor program costing them jobs. This only further enhanced my belief that a P/A day should be set up to educate our new young teachers who are trying to become full time.

Collective Bargaining Committee

I continue to enjoy my time on the Collective Bargaining Committee, attending meetings once a month in Toronto for a Friday night and Saturday morning. The next one will be in Toronto on January 15/16. Should any of Council members have concerns or questions regarding any issue I would be happy to take them to this meeting looking for answers.

Al Duffy, Occasional Teachers' President