

SEPTEMBER 26, 2009



DISTRICT COUNCIL

FEDERATION OFFICER'S REPORT

1. H1N1 Flu

In light of the potential to have increased flu cases, the Lambton Kent District School Board has implemented a pandemic plan to monitor absences. They are taking their direction from the Health Unit regarding any school closures in the event of increased cases. High risk members will be given more flexibility in the use of sick days. These "high risk" members would include pregnant women, asthmatics and members with low immune systems.

2. OCT Designation

The College of Teachers has decided that teachers need a professional designation of three letters to place behind their names. The College has indicated that this will not cost teachers any more money. The jury is still out on this one.

3. EAP

Please ensure members are aware of the new EAP website created by the Lambton Kent District School Board and the Family Counselling Centre. The site lists the services available to our members as well as current wellness articles and self diagnosing surveys. The link is on the Lambton Kent Board website. The website is www.myfseap.com Login is : tolkdsb password is : health

4. Honours Technological Education Specialist Qualification Program

Previously, technology teachers needed to take "the equivalent of one year's full-time study (5 courses)" to be eligible to enrol in the Honours Tech Education Specialist. This had been made more difficult with the elimination of Grade 13 and OAC. Now the College of Teachers will allow apprenticeship hours to count towards these courses as long as:

- the candidate holds a secondary school diploma
- the in-class hours are equal to one year full time study
- the SSGD was required for entry into the program

5. Grievances

Six grievances have been filed since March 2009. Three are at the arbitration stage. One grievance was resolved in May 2009.

6. Staffing

All timetables and supervision lists were received by the September 15 deadline. Most schools were staffed very well. We have addressed our concerns where teachers' timetables exceeded the maximums. This is an ongoing process and the Superintendent of Operations has been working on finding solutions.

7. Certification

Please tell new members to get approval from the Certification Department at OSSTF for any course intended for a category change. Every member's academic situation is different. Don't take courses that you thought were going to place you into a different category only to have it backfire. Make sure courses are pre-approved.

8. Child and Family Services

Over the past couple of years steps have been taken to address concerns about protocols with Children's Aid. OSSTF is developing a pamphlet to assist members when confronted by CAS issues. We will distribute to schools when we receive it.

Bob Shaw
Federation Officer

**NB Bill 157 Education Amendment Act

Passed June 1 and effective Feb 1, 2010=> requires the staff to report serious student incidents to the principal and requires principals to contact the parents of the victims.