



WELCOME BACK

I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and are returning to work ready to tackle the challenges of the last few weeks of the semester.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Every year, it seems, there is confusion about what teachers should do if inclement weather delays or prevents them from attending school.

Your obligation is to contact the school to say you will be late or won't arrive at all because of the weather. Board regulations state that "staff employed by the Lambton Kent District School Board are expected to use reasonable diligence when traveling to their place of employment during periods of inclement weather". Further, Board policy states that the LKDSB values the safety of its employees and does not expect them to be put at risk trying to get to work. In the case of fog, the expectation is that employees would report to their work site when conditions improve.

AMDA, 2010

The Annual Meeting of District Assembly will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at the Oaks Inn in Wallaceburg. Again this year we will be honouring the Student Achievement (Marion Drysdale) Award winners prior to the meeting. Contact your Branch President if you would like to be a Delegate at AMDA, 2010. As an AMDA Delegate you are part of the decision making body which governs Federation activities. I encourage new members to get involved.

ELECTIONS

2010 is an election year at the AMDA. All positions on District Executive are a two year appointment.

Article 6 of the Constitution outlines the District Organization

There shall be a District Executive consisting of

Voting Members as follows:

President;

two (2) Vice-Presidents;

Treasurer;

Provincial Councillor;

two (2) Executive Officers;

Nomination forms will be sent to Branch Presidents early in February. Deadline for nomination is March 22, 2010. More information will be posted online at www.osstfd10.ca in February.

ON-CALLS

It has come to our attention that a few of our members were required to complete on-calls for colleagues (without advance notice) in what OSSTF considered to be “non-emergency” situations. Article 26 and 32 in the current Collective Agreement specifically outline the on-call procedures. A principal or vice-principal may need to make short notice on-call assignments but these situations are to be restricted to true emergency situations. Please consider an emergency situation as one which is defined as a serious, unexpected and unplanned event requiring immediate action.

If you are asked to complete an on-call that is not an “emergency”, please contact your Branch President or the District Office.

RETIREMENT

If you plan to retire sometime during the 2009-2010 school year, it is prudent to let the Board and us know as soon as possible so that there will be enough time to make appropriate decisions regarding pension, gratuity, benefit plans, etc.

TRANSFER REQUESTS

Transfer requests may be made at any time during the school year. The transfer request should be in writing to the Principal or Superintendent. It should be noted that requesting a transfer does not give someone preference over other applicants to a job posting, nor are you automatically considered for a school specific posting because you have requested a transfer to that location.

BOARD/PERSONAL EMAIL

In some Districts (including LKDSB), principals are encouraging teachers to communicate with parents and students via email or other electronic means.

Again, the Federation position is that teachers do not use Board or personal email to communicate with students or parents. Phone calls, parents' nights, visits to the school by the parents, etc., are all reasonable and acceptable ways of fulfilling your legal requirements in this area. A CTF brochure outlining want to do and want not to do when using electronic communication can be found at:

http://www.osstfd10.ca/Publications/Other/Cybertips_Brochure.pdf

TRANSPORTING STUDENTS

There are many liability issues when a teacher uses his/her personal vehicle to transport students (and some legal ones as well). Teachers are strongly advised NOT to transport students in their own vehicles.

Barb Young, President
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January 5, 2010