

Upper Grand Occasional Teachers' Local
Executive Meeting
Thursday, December 14, 2006 at 5:10 P.M.
Marina Howlett's home, Guelph, On.

Present: Marina Howlett, Donna Henderson, Ted Pritchard, John Ritchie, Ruth Tomlins, Barb Walkey,
Carol Christie, Pat Klypycz, Andrew Aloe,
Regrets: John Parkyn, Ralph Rainford

1. Call to Order and Welcome: Marina welcomed the Executive members. All remarked at the clear directions and the decorations of the season.

2. Additions/ Approval of the Agenda: Add- #11 (b) Cheques; (c) Presentation;
'Motion 1' "Move to accept the Agenda with additions-cheques, and presentation."
Moved by Barb Walkey, Seconded by John Ritchie CARRIED

3. Approval of minutes of the October 24, 2006 meeting:
'Motion 2' "Move the minutes of the October 24, 2006 meeting be accepted."
Moved by Donna Henderson, Seconded by Andrew Aloe CARRIED

4. Treasurer's Report: Balance in Chequing- \$12,733.25; in Savings- \$4308.44. There has been payment to the Board of \$35,926.13 for Presidential Release. The Board clarifies our FTE so we are now upgraded to 90 days for Release. Also we now receive the Phone Allocation from ETFO (\$1140). We also received our ETFO Rebate (\$4771.55). To keep our Savings Account active we must every six months create some action on the account. We also received an incentive from Johnson's Insurance Company for distribution of information through our Newsletter. Twenty-five policies were initiated.

'Motion 3' "Move to accept the Treasurer's Report."
Moved by John Ritchie, Seconded by Barb Walkey CARRIED

5. President's Report: (a) Release Days: Sept.-10, Oct.-10, Nov.-8. Dec.-7. Total to date-35.
(b) Board Pandemic Planning Committee: Keeping schools clean would be the real way for prevention. There will be hand wash stations and face masks at each site. Hand dryers or paper towels which is easier and safer. An educational program will be implemented. Posters have been acquired. For necessity there may be shut downs. There have been three system meetings so far.

(c) E. I.- Thursday, December 7, 2006-There were 20 present. There was good debate and information. The presentation generated a good number of questions and answers. On the Website members can access the Code# for use over the Christmas Break. Another workshop will be in June in Fergus. At that time someone will be available from the Government E.I. department. Using email to sign up was successful. The Website will contain information that can be easily accessed.

(d) New Teacher Workshop, Nov.28,2006 : Twenty-five were in attendance. The Provincial ETFO Rep led the meeting. There was a good Question and Answer session. The meeting was successful. The attending LTO's appreciated the information.

(e) Status Meeting, Dec. 6: The Topic was to have been Shelters but it was cancelled because of undersubscription. (Interview time)

6. Communication with Members: Marina shared that RTO did a survey of Retired Teachers and found that less than 10% participate in any event. Another 10% pick things that interest only themselves. Our events are attended by over 20% of our membership. We are not doing that badly.

7. Collective Bargaining: (a) Conference- Nov. 24-25 2006, Toronto: Marina, Ted and Andrew attended. Ted attended ETFO philosophy sessions. The plan is to follow rules making sure all is equitable. Do not do volunteer fill-in. Be sure that the activity is in the day plan. Supervision minutes must be maintained. Andrew was impressed with the experience of the Union. You can't lose sight of what our teacher ancestors had to do to earn the rights of today. You can work towards your rights without causing rifts. He wants to learn more. Marina will be diligent of Provincial Bargaining goals for OT's. There will be another workshop in April. There will be some workshops on a Regional basis in the spring or fall of 2007. All are getting ready to bargain. It is reassuring to see a new generation coming into the bargaining arena.

(b) Local Goals/Priorities for 2008: Always enforcing the contract. Looking at our Local Priorities.

8. SEMS: There now are 386 names on the OT list compared to 250 in 2005. The system still has problems. There were many days unfilled in 2006. Discussion arose around "emergency" people being used to fill in. The system was down for a weekend in November. NO Board personnel knew of the problem. A system like Peel has might be better. There is a rolling assignment list and the possibility of allocation for certain schools. Keep the Executive aware of problems.

9. Professional Development: We will have a Workshop on April 27, 2007. There will be WHIMIS and training for new teachers. Other topics could be Tribes, Grade 7&8 teaching, classroom management, Open Court, Library and any other suggestions forwarded to Marina. If you suggest topics of interest to you, it then becomes your day.

10. Other Business: (a) Review Executive Meeting Dates and meal arrangements: Donna reviewed the list as found in the September Meeting.

(b) Cheques: New cheques are being ordered and the new address will be Orchard Park.

(c) Presentation: A card and plant was given to Marina wishing her a Merry Christmas and to thank her for offering her home for this meeting.

Meeting adjourned after a delicious Potluck meal and socializing to celebrate the season.

Next Executive Meeting will be Tues. Jan. 14, 2006 at 4:45 PM at Orchard Park in Guelph.