

Upper Grand Occasional Teachers' Local  
Executive Meeting  
Tuesday, November 21, 2007 at 5:00 P.M.  
Orchard Park, Guelph, On.

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

1. **Call to Order and Welcome:** Marina welcomed the Executive members and hoped that the Dec. 13 meeting would be a good way to end this year.

2. **Additions/ Approval of the Agenda:** Add- #11 (b) Secretarial business- Goodwill and (c) School Effectiveness- Board Plan

'Motion 1' "Move to accept the Agenda with additions- secretarial business- Goodwill and School Effectiveness- Board Plan."

Moved by John Parkyn, Seconded by Ralph Rainford CARRIED

3. **Approval of minutes** of the October 16, 2007 meeting:

'Motion 2' "Move to accept the minutes of the October 16, 2007 meeting as read"

Moved by Donna Henderson, Seconded by Barb Walkey CARRIED

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Balance in Chequing- \$17,597.82; which includes \$4600 as ETFO Rebate and \$1200 in Telephone Rebate. In Savings there is a balance of- \$7483.84. At the OT Fall Meeting in November we paid approx. \$853.00 for the meal but only \$200.00 came back in. Extra food went to Sister Christine's Shelter. We did have a good number of free guest meals. We were encouraged to cash expense cheques promptly.

'Motion 3' "Move to accept the Treasurer's Report."

Moved by John Ritchie, Seconded by Jacquie Gray CARRIED

5. **President's Report:**

(a) Release Days: Nov. 2007 -9 Total to Nov.30- 25

(b) Task Force- Marina is on that Committee. The purpose is to address Presidential Release.

(c) ETFO – Provincial Changes- 1. Executive: Sharron Raymond is joining the ETFO Office in Collective Bargaining and Joanne Meyers will be the new Executive member in the PD Department.

2. Executive Assistants- new hires: The Provincial Executive is looking for nominations and appointment by the ETFO Executive.

6. (a) **Professional Development:** Classroom Management Conference- Nov.16, 2007 (PA Day) -12- 4 pm -J.D. Hogarth P.S. - 26 people. – Approximately 65% of participants are new teachers. The participants are to keep journals for reflection and to record new initiatives to try in the classroom. The next session is April 6 after school. Provincial Reps were here and saw the effectiveness of our mentorship.

(b) **Professional Development Workshop:** PD Day Feb.15 to be announced at Dec. meeting.

(c) **Beyond the Breakfast Program:** Andrew and Gord Dunbar, Local ETFO Social Justice Chair, created a workshop. Our OT Local Vice-President Andrew will be featured in an upcoming article in the ETFO “Voice” Magazine explaining the program.. The play “Danny King of the Basement” was shown along as the kick-off for this program. The pilot project is to counteract poverty in some of our local District high needs schools starting after Jan.1. Some of this support from the Provincial Government will come in the form of breakfasts, showers, and clothing. Victoria Cross in Mount Forest and Grand Valley District School both have been targeted as sites.

7. **Collective Bargaining:** An all member survey will be prepared and out in January. We may be able to ratify our Preliminary Submission at the June Annual Meeting. Bargaining for our OT Local will start the Fall of 2008 and hopefully finish May or June 2009. We base our proposals on the Model Collective Agreement from ETFO.

8. **Fall General Meeting,** Thurs. Nov.15, 4:45 p.m. at the Orchard Park Meeting Room: Turnout was down. Barbara Burkett ETFO Vice President related OT experience and thanked us for all our efforts for our members. Doug Cook, ETFO Executive Liaison outlined collective language which benefits both contract and OT teachers. We need respectful bargaining for common ground. We also need language to protect LTO’s against supervision overload.

9. **OT Concerns:** After the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month Marina receives a print out for days worked and fees that should be submitted to ETFO. This is an available tracking device to determine how many Emergency OT’s are called and how many days there are without available OT coverage. OT’s are encouraged to keep a log of worked and refused days for their own records. There are at present 357 names on the list 21% of those names are Retired Teachers.

10. (a) **NTIP Board Program-** Orientation: The Board wants the New Teacher Orientation moved back to the second last week in August. This is not a satisfactory time.

(b) **Safe Schools:** Marina attended a seminar Nov.16. A Ministry initiative is “progressive discipline”. This means a new expulsion and suspension policy. The alternatives are more planning by the homeroom teacher for a “sent” student. Our Board needs to clarify our responsibility and training for “Lock down”, Tornado Drills and Medication distribution.

**11. Other Business:**

(a) Each person signed up for a part of the Pot Luck Dinner on Dec.13.

(b) Secretarial Business: Donna made a special presentation to Marina to thank her for all her work and to celebrate the approaching Christmas Season.

(c) **Upper Grand DSB Initiatives:** School Effectiveness Plan: Every school will be reviewed in Numeracy and Literacy. There will be visitation by a Board team for evaluation of program, program delivery, climate, and environment; all based on the EQAO results. Upper Grand is not making significant advancement. A narrower focus must be made to see improvement. Some areas of study are assessment and evaluation tools and strategies for delivery.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M. followed by a delicious meal served by Carol Christie.

Next Executive Meeting will be Thurs. Dec.13, 2007, at 4:45 PM at Donna Henderson's home in Orangeville. This is our Pot Luck Christmas Dinner.