

**Upper Grand Occasional Teachers' Local
Executive Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 5:00 P.M.
Ralph Rainford's home, Fergus**

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

1. **Call to Order and Welcome:** Andrew opened the meeting and welcomed all to his first official meeting as OT President. He also thanked Alison and Ralph Rainford for opening their home to the OT Executive.

2. **Additions/ Approval of the Agenda:**

‘**Motion 1**’ “Move to accept the Agenda with the additions 6a) Presidents’ Meeting in Toronto; 7b) “And Still We Rise”- Carol Christie; and 9a) Presentation.”

Moved by Carol Christie, Seconded by Ralph Rainford, CARRIED

3. **Approval of Minutes** of the January 15, 2009 meeting:

‘**Motion 2**’ “Move the minutes of the January 15, 2009 meeting be accepted as circulated.”

Moved by Donna Henderson, Seconded by John Ritchie CARRIED

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Balance in Chequing- \$16,526.56; in Savings- \$11,805.93. There has been no input on either account since January. Things are going well.

‘**Motion 3**’ “Move to accept the Treasurer's Report.”

Moved by John Ritchie, Seconded by John Parkyn CARRIED

5. **President's Report:** (a) **Release Days:** Sept. 2008 to June 2009 44.5/90 days of Presidential Release have been used by Marina and Andrew. During Dec.and Jan. Marina used 24.5 days making her total-39.5. Andrew is left with 50.5 days for the remainder of the year. Andrew may make Fridays his day in the office at Orchard Park.

(b) **Rep Council Report-** Feb.4-5, 2009: Andrew and Marina attended. A Task Force was created to review Presidential Release Time. After successful discussion from OT's a fourth position on the Task Force was created to include an OT President. There was a fine tuning of expenses for traveling to meetings put in place by the Provincial Office. Also a video was presented about Full Day Kindergarten. At the Pre-Rep Council Meeting of OT's the Candidates who are OT's and are running at the ETFO Elections at the Annual Meeting in August were finalized. Financial support for these Candidates was based on FTE. There are two meetings scheduled- GHOTs June 7,8,9 at Milton hosted by Halton and GHOTs Sept.13,14,15 hosted by Niagara.

6. **Political Action/ Collective Bargaining Update:** (a) **Presidents' Meeting in Toronto, Feb.12:** The Provincial ETFO tabled the proposal that was presented by the Ministry. Most Presidents were unhappy with the details but their members wanted the negotiations to be done, therefore it was

accepted. Many believe this agreement to be punitive. Over the four years there will be increases of 2%, 2%, 3%, 3%. In the second year there will be an influx of 3.5% for local OTs. That still means that there are many issues to be discussed locally. ETFO will support the Locals and there will support **NO STRIPS** to Contracts.

(b) **Dates for Negotiation Meetings:** These dates have been set as needed- March 23-27, March 30,31 and April 1,7th,17th.

(c) **Strike Vote:** No movement on a vote can be taken until after March 31.

(d) **Next Steps:** Bargaining on how to spend the new 3.5% is a new development. Hopefully we can change the number of Release Days and the fraction of payment from 1/210 to a larger fraction.

7. Professional Development: (a) **Joint Event:** The (Status/Equity) event sponsored by OT's and Contract Teachers dated for Feb.19 was cancelled because of lack of participation.

(b) **"And Still We Rise":** Carol Christie attended this "amazing" conference. She heard many interesting speakers such as Margaret Trudeau who spoke on Mental Health. One topic of great interest was the integration of Native Peoples. A recommended reading is "A Fair Country" by Jonathon Ralston Saul. Carol also is beginning to open communication with the Local ETFO Status Committee. Another upcoming workshop is **"Women in Politics"** April 16 and 17.

(c) **Annual Meeting Aug.17-20:** Preliminary discussion debated who should go. We can send two Delegates and two Alternates (one paid by ETFO and one paid for by the Local OTs). Wednesday night will be the Annual Banquet. Whoever goes will be helping with the Election.

8. Calendar: At present the committee decision that will be presented to the Board is-"Teachers and Students will go to school September 1st , 2nd , 3rd. Friday the 4th will be a Board Holiday. Also the Friday before March Break will also be a Board Holiday."

9. Other Business: Andrew made a presentation to Marina to thank her for all her support and mentoring.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. and was followed with a Lenten meal of pancakes with a variety of toppings. Thank you for a very filling and delicious meal, Ralph and Alison.

Next Executive Meeting will be (**tentatively**) if there are no negotiations on Tuesday, March 26, at 4:45 at Orchard Park. The meal will be prepared by Jacquie with help from John Parkyn.