

#nocutstoeducation



President's Message

The March Break is almost upon us and for many of our members this is an opportunity to get away from what seems to be a long dreary winter for sunnier and warmer locations. For almost 40 D16 members, the first week-end of the March Break will be spent at the Sheraton in Toronto representing D16 at AMPA (Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly). AMPA is an opportunity to meet and debate OSSTF Provincial By-Laws, Constitution and Budget motions for 2020/2021. This is also an opportunity to connect with other education workers from across the Province and get an understanding of the challenges that they are currently facing. I would like to thank all of our members who are giving up their time to participate in this important meeting and especially thank our Provincial Councilors Blair Vowels (KHS) and James Lane (TDSS) for all of their help in organizing and supporting this year's D16 delegation.

Instead of participating in constitutional debates, many more of our members will be heading out to destinations around the country and around the world. Unfortunately this year, travel advisories are rife due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus.



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2012 Provincial Amie Award Winner for Best Newsletter

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On Monday March 9, the Board sent out a communication to all staff and families that included the directions from York Public Health for travelers returning to a school setting and a FAQ from the Board on assorted COVID-19 scenarios and prevention. I would urge everyone to read the FAQs which also deal with sick leave and quarantines (including self quarantine) and if you are traveling, to not only go over the York Public Health information sheet for travelers returning to a school environment but also consult the Government of Canada's latest travel advice related to COVID-19 which can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html>. Provided that you are not in a high risk category or not traveling to a "hot zone" and take precautions while traveling, such as frequently washing your hands with soap and warm water (remember that hand sanitizers are mostly effective against bacteria and not viruses), there is no reason why you shouldn't be able to get away and enjoy some much deserved time off. 🌊



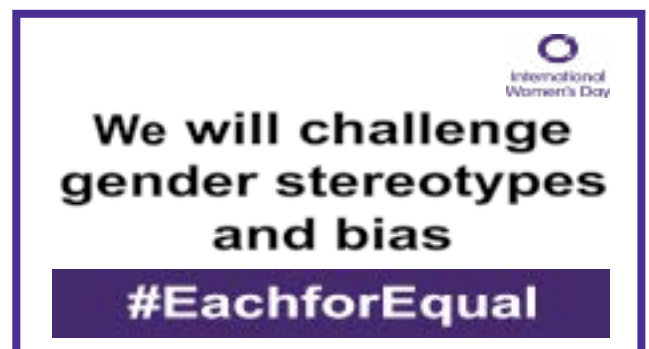
International Women's Day March 8, 2020 #EachforEqual

Happy International Women's Day to all female and female identifying members! We hope you celebrated International Women's Day and continue throughout the month and beyond. As a committee we are working at providing open discussions about women's issues. We want to encourage and promote women leaders, mentors and role models who strive towards making our work environments inclusive, safe and equitable. We had a fantastic day with some of our committee and executive members who took part in a march downtown Toronto, surrounded by inspiring and empowered women. It was amazing to see so many education workers come out and support; thanks to CUPE for organizing this amazing act of solidarity.

We have a fun, exciting workshop coming up, the Women in Sports Symposium on March 26th @4:45pm at Bill Crothers Secondary School featuring a key note by Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe. If you are interested in attending, please email Laura Cipolla cipolla.laura@gmail.com. 🌊

Laura Cipolla

Chair of the Status of Women Committee





Hot Topics represent current issues that have come to and are being addressed by the district office and have an immediate impact on members.

2020-2021 TENTATIVE SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

The 2020-2021 tentative school year calendar will soon be released on the BWW. Please be reminded that this calendar is **TENTATIVE** and still requires approval from the Ministry of Education.

Dates have been calculated based on the Ministry's requirement of 187 Instructional Days, plus seven Professional Activity Days – falling between September 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. As September 7 is the Labour Day Statutory Holiday, the first day with students in the classroom will be September 8.

Counting the days from September 8, 2020 to June 30, 2021, and keeping with our regular patterns, there would only be 185 Instructional Days, plus seven Professional Activity (PA) Days.

However, to meet the Ministry requirements of 187 Instructional Days, plus seven PA Days, we will need to move two of our PA Days prior to the Labour Day Weekend – specifically, Wednesday, September 2 and Thursday, September 3. Please stay tuned for further updates as we work through the Ministry application and approval process in the coming months.

Therefore, we caution members from booking flights, vacations, etc until the school year calendar is officially approved by the Ministry which tends to occur in late April - early May.



ARE YOU THINKING OF RETIRING?

If you are thinking of retiring in June 2020, please contact the D16 Executive Officer, Gerry Harrison at gerry.harrison@osstfd16.on.ca to discuss the cancellation of your LTD benefits.

CERTIFICATION HAS MOVED TO QECO

After conducting certification rating statements for members for over 60 years, OSSTF/FEESO Certification has transferred to the Qualifications Evaluation Council of Ontario (QECO).

Members are encouraged to apply for rating statements and group changes as soon as possible, keeping in mind the deadlines that apply at their particular school board.

While timelines are difficult to predict, the transfer to QECO will be complete when Collective Agreements are ratified reflecting QECO certification language: there can be no guarantees as to when this final stage of the process will be complete.

Please contact QECO directly for all inquires (416) 323 -1969 or 1(800) 385-1030.

OSSTF D16 MAY PA DAY

This year's OSSTF PA Day will take place on Friday, May 1, 2020. The OSSTF DISTRICT 16 PA Day is about professional growth and continued professional development as an educator. This year, we have chosen to stay with a **site-based** model to provide members with an opportunity to collaborate with colleagues at their home schools.

Morning: Annual Learning Plan

It is time for you to work on one or two items on your ALP. You may choose to do this independently/ with others.

Some examples of how you may use the time is by finding resources, viewing webinars, collaborating with others who have knowledge/ skills to aid in your learning (**at your site**), and inviting an expert.

Afternoon: Department/Subject area Focused Professional Development **Site-based**

This time will be dedicated to working with your department/ subject area on your choice of professional development. Departments that are smaller or consist of one person may choose to collaborate with others in the building.

Some examples of what you might choose to focus on are: curriculum (embedding equity), pedagogy, digital/technology, collaborative inquiry, eco-schools/healthy schools, assessment and evaluation, new teacher mentorship, bring in an expert, bring in a community agency/leader.

More information will be deseminated to the members by the end of March. 📧

Truth about Ford's high school changes

On March 3rd Stephen Lecce hosted a press conference where he demonstrated his lack of understanding of the bargaining process by presenting a proposal to the public. Not only were none of the details he spoke about presented at the bargaining table, but they definitely do not represent a reversal of all the deep cuts announced on March 15th of last year.

While our strikes and continued job action did move the government back from 28:1 to 23:1 for average class size funding, that still is an increase from 22:1. Do not forget that this change includes the potential removal of all class cap language in our local collective agreements.

Take a look at the chart below for a review of what's happened over the last year in education. Furthermore, please make sure to use all your personal connections and social media tools to emphasize that major education cuts are still in place and that our fight to reverse them is far from over. 

In Solidarity,
Muna Kadri

Comparison of Ford's high school changes.


	PRE- DOUG FORD	MARCH 15, 2019 ANNOUNCEMENT	MARCH 3, 2020 PROPOSAL
GRADES 9-12 AVERAGE CLASS SIZE FUNDING	22:1	28:1	23:1
CLASS CAPS	Exist and negotiated locally.	Exist and negotiated locally.	No class caps proposed, issue directed to bargaining table.
E-LEARNING	Optional	35:1 class average. 4 required for graduation with exemption process. Courses NOT run by school boards.	35:1 class average. 2 required for graduation with parent opt out process. Courses NOT run by school boards.
LOCAL PRIORITIES FUND	\$148 million Boards and education workers came together to choose funded programs (special ed, esl, etc.)	Eliminated	Renamed 'Support for Students Fund', no education worker input on spending. No 2019-2020 funding, reinstated for 2020-2021.

The numbers and details above haven't all been presented at a bargaining table, but have been announced through Ministry of Education memos.

Feb 21 Provincial Rally for Public Education

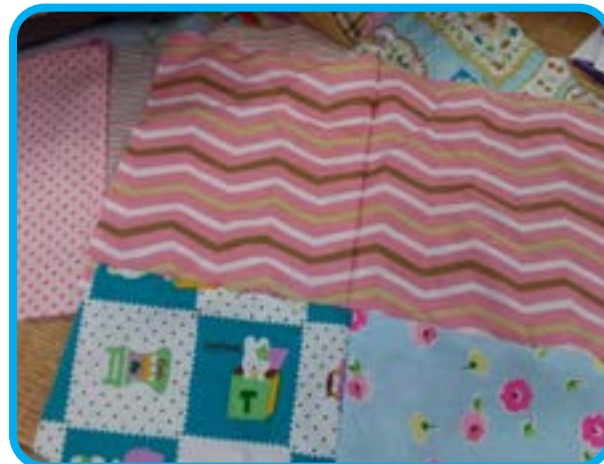
We knew from the outset that the struggle to defend Ontario's publicly-funded education system against the devastating agenda of the Ford government would not be a short one. We also knew it would not be easy. The one-day, province-wide full withdrawal of services that Federation members were compelled to undertake in early December marked the first province-wide strike by OSSTF/FEESO members in more than 20 years. Since then we have taken a measured approach, with a series of one-day walk-outs in targeted locations around the province.

Now, as we are in March we find ourselves several weeks into one of the largest job actions in the history of the Federation and OSSTF/FEESO members around the province are gaining a new appreciation for words like "resolve" and "solidarity." These are words we reference frequently, but they are anything but clichés or hollow platitudes. More than a hundred years of Federation history tells us that the resolve and solidarity of the members have been at the heart of every success and every victory OSSTF/FEESO has won.

As we move forward remember what we are fighting for: class sizes 22:1, maintaining hard class caps, no mandatory e-learning, dedicated resources to our most vulnerable students - ESL/ELL, Special Education and Equity programs, and most importantly protecting staffing levels. Once again education workers and teachers are the last line of defence for quality public education in Ontario. 



Community classes learning stewardship and social responsibility



Students from the Intensive Support Program at Alexander Mackenzie High School are finding unique ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. In addition to their non-credit courses where students are taught functional life skills with a focus on literacy and numeracy, they also participate in a Work Experience Program. This includes finding meaningful classroom jobs before students transition to in-school tasks and then to out-of-school work placements with employers. Community class teachers, Susan Romeo and Celia Clarke, collaborate to plan and carry out a structured in-class work program that includes learning around environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

Under the school's Eco Team leadership, AMHS is a certified Ontario Eco School. One initiative includes the collection of milk bags. The team collaborates with other YRDSB schools who collect and send their bags to AMHS. Senior students from the Intensive Support Program worked with elementary school teacher Melissa Davis from neighbouring school, Pleasantville PS, to instruct younger students on how to use the bags to make sleeping mats for the homeless. The mats from this ongoing project are donated to LOFT Community Services in Newmarket who distribute them to vulnerable members of the community in need of affordable housing.

Students also measure and cut scraps of sample wallpaper sheets, leftover cardstock and GOOS (good on one side) paper to create beautiful notecards. Local vendors provided sample wallpaper and leftover envelopes from unsellable greeting cards. Leftover pieces of wallpaper from this project are used to create bookmarks with inspirational quotes to support a positive mindset.

Students also sew pillows using old fabric samples, also provided by a local vendor. Scraps of fabric from this project are used to create small size heating pads and quilts. The goal is to send the quilts to families in need in Nunavut. To cover the shipping costs, students have been growing house and garden plants using the school's greenhouse. Volunteers from the Richmond Hill Horticulture Society, who share the space with AMHS, provided ongoing support to staff and students with this work. 🐦

Susan Romeo
Alex Mackenzie S.S.



Excellence in Education Grant



Return to Nallur is a Tamil memory play performed by Middlefield Collegiate Institute students, adapted from Return to Ithaca by Dr. Michael Vitopoulos, to reflect a Tamil context and the lived experiences of the Middlefield C.I. student body. This theatrical performance uses memory, traditional student-composed music and student-choreographed dance to engage the audience on a trip through one woman's journey.



Here is a quote from a patron:

"As a Tamil person and co-chair of ETSS, I was deeply moved by the dialogue, acting and cultural references. I was sitting in front of a few Tamil families and I was able to overhear their responses as well. They really connected with the physical comedy, the authentic use of Tamil colloquial phrases and the moving portrayal of earnest immigrants. I also saw many parents approach Laz to share their positive responses as well. I just wanted to acknowledge Laz's part in empowering students to write and stage such a resonant piece – what a great example of culturally

responsive instruction and engagement in a climate of labour unrest and uncertainty. I especially appreciated how he was able to collaborate with students to weave in representations of various South Asian and minoritized experiences to affirm and validate the whole school community."

Check out this link from YRDSB on the event. <https://youtu.be/p6vU3d1fZek> 🐦

Lazaros Geronikolos
Middlefield C.I.



March 21 International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination

DATES TO REMEMBER

International Women's Day
March 8, 2020

AMPA - 2020
March 13-16, 2020
Toronto Sheraton Centre

March Break
March 16-20, 2020

International Day for the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 21, 2020

D16 Council Meeting
March 25, 2020
D16 Office at 4:15 p.m.


Status of Women Meeting
April 6, 2020
D16 Office at 4:15 p.m.

Executive Meeting
April 15, 2020
D16 Office at 4:15 p.m.



THURSDAY MARCH 26, 2020
BILL CROTHERS SECONDARY SCHOOL

WOMEN IN SPORT SYMPOSIUM



4:45-5:15: Keynote Speaker: Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe
6:00-7:00: Panel and Questions
Shireen Ahmed
Chris Critelli
Marissa Papaconstantinou
Jodi Gram
Nirra Fields

Please note Time Change for Keynote



**We will celebrate
women's
achievements**

#EachforEqual



Change in Personal Information?

Have you changed your LEGAL name, address, phone number or email? If so, please notify Daniela Miele at the D16 Office - d16.office@osstfd16.on.ca.



District 16 OSSTF Executive 2019-2020

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Scott West, District 16 Office

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