

Previously, I have stated that SCETF's priority for 2009-2010 was to enforce the Collective Agreement. I would like to thank each and every SCETF Member for taking on this challenge. To date, I have logged over a 70% increase in the number of phone calls, I have answered this school year. SCETF Members are calling to obtain information on the Collective Agreement, to ask questions and to bring issues to the forefront. Working together we can continue to move forward to realize improvements in our working conditions that were negotiated in the last round of collective bargaining.



Janet Bigham
President

One of the improvements obtained in the 2008-2012 Collective Agreement was a revised Spring Staffing Process. This year, Teacher Initiated One for One Transfers were possible. Thirty SCETF Members were able to arrange their own transfer which is a right most ETFO Members across the province do not have. As well, there were eight rounds of postings during the Spring Staffing Process which saw many people moving to new locations for September. (Article 9.03). The next posting will occur after the first week of school in September. (Article 10.02 C (f) (vi).)

Unfortunately, once again this year, the SCDSB is in a County Redundancy situation and 67 SCETF Members (51.7 FTE Positions) were declared County Redundant. On June 10th, 17th and 24th, the County Staffing Committee will place school surplus members and then begin to place county redundant members based on available vacancies. The process to recall county redundant teachers will continue over the summer and into the new school year.

Three major initiatives that will be implemented in 2010-2011: 1. Day 1 to 5 Instructional Day Rotational Cycle; 2. Early Learning Program (ELP); 3. Revised Reporting Process.

Day 1 to 5 Instructional Day Rotational Cycle. According to the PDTA (Provincial Discussion Table Agreement), preparation time is to be scheduled on a cycle of five instructional days. Starting in September 2010, the SCDSB is moving to a Day 1 to 5 Instructional Day Cycle for grades 1 to 8 and the Early Learning Program. Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten students will attend school on the A/B schedule.

The Day 1 to 5 Instructional Day Rotational Cycle will ensure that members do not 'miss' preparation time in any 5 days due to holidays and/or Professional Development Days since holidays and P.D. Days are not included in the Day 1 to 5 schedule. SCETF produced a wallet size 2010-2011 School Year Calendar which clearly shows the Day 1 to 5 schedule for each member.

Early Learning Program (ELP). The Full-Day Early Learning – Kindergarten Program will begin in September 2010, at 16 SCDSB elementary schools for a total of 31 classes. Elementary Teachers and Early Childhood Educators will work side by side in classrooms across the province and are the professionals who will make this new program happen. The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) is undertaking a unionization drive for Early Childhood Educators who work in the public elementary and Catholic elementary systems. For more information, go to <http://youreceunion.ca/>.

Specific information on how the Full-Day Early Learning – Kindergarten Program will look is limited; however, what is known is that a certified elementary teacher will be in each classroom for the instructional portion of the day, an Early Childhood Educator will be assigned to the classroom, the teacher's specific duties include instruction, training and evaluation of the progress of pupils, the management of the class and preparation of teaching plans, and a draft revised version of the Kindergarten Program – the Ontario Curriculum has been released. According to Article 29.01 (j), all teachers will determine how their preparation time is used and this includes ELP teachers. There is no requirement for ELP teachers to use their preparation time to meet with the ECE. For more information, go to the ETFO website at www.etfo.ca. SCETF will continue to monitor class sizes of the ELP classrooms and is ready to file a grievance if cap sizes in the Collective Agreement are not honoured.

New Reporting Process. Growing Success – Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools – Grades 1-12 has been released. Starting in September 2010, two provincial report cards will be issued – one in January/February and a second one towards the end of June. A Fall progress report will be issued between October 20th and November 20th. For 2010-2011, SCETF Members will have two PA Days to use for the purpose of assessment and the completion of report cards – January 24th and June 3rd, 2011.

As your SCETF President for 2010-2011, I look forward to working with the SCETF Membership as these new initiatives are introduced to ensure that working conditions are protected. As well, I welcome the opportunity to continue to work with each one of you to ensure the Collective Agreement is honoured by both the SCDSB and Ministry of Education. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the SCETF Office at 728-2888 or by email to janet@scetf.org.

Wishing everyone a safe and relaxing summer!!