

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members

From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)

Date: May 15, 2020

Regarding: *Continuous Learning* Update (4)

As the school shutdown continues, I want to thank all Teachers for their hard work during this time of continuous learning and emergency remote teaching.

None of this is easy. None of this is desirable. All of this comes at a cost.

Synchronous Learning

Here is Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) Director of Education Mark Fisher's statement on synchronous learning:

On synchronous learning: for TVDSB Educators, focus on what works best for you and your students. Phone calls, emails, videos & active time on platforms are synchronous ways educators are connecting today and we support those connections. What's important is that our students know we care, and they are supported.

Director Fisher's message is supportive of Teacher professionalism and work. It is appreciated.

ETFO Local has always consistently advised Teachers to use professional judgement, to respect professional boundaries, document concerns and contact the Local office for support as required.

Reports

The long-awaited *Ministry Guidance Document* regarding report cards is expected to be shared with Boards early next week.

The Joint ETFO/Board Report Card Committee (comprised of senior ETFO and Board leaders) meets on Tuesday morning to address mutual concerns, to review the *Ministry Guidance Document* (if it is available), and to draft a common system-wide message that will be shared with all Teachers and Principals shortly thereafter.

Teachers will have access to equivalent instructional time to write reports. Specific information will be distributed system-wide next week.

ETFO Local continues to advise Teachers to refrain from working on reports until system wide direction and advice has been sent out.

School Year

The Minister of Education is expected to make an announcement on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 regarding school shutdown and the school year.

The provincial state of emergency has been extended until June 2, 2020.

Access to Schools

The Board has indicated that Teachers will be granted limited access (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, maximum 15 minutes) to schools to retrieve materials required for the writing of reports. Teachers requiring access should contact their Principal, who will assign a date and time for access.

General Reminders

- Teachers should ask for verbal directions to be put in writing if they are unclear.
- Concerns regarding directions given should be documented and referred to the ETFO Local office as soon as possible for follow up with TVDSB Human Resources.
- Follow the Collective Agreement, use professional judgement and observe professional boundaries.

Stay well. Take care of yourself and those you love. Be safe. Thank you for all that you do.

For more information regarding this *Communiqué* please contact the Local office by phone at 519-474-3150 or by email at etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com.