

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: October 23, 2020
Regarding: In-Person/Full Remote Learning Update (6)

ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL) does not endorse the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) school reopening “plan.”

ETFO TVTL continues to push the TVDSB to stop the extreme pressure it is putting on all Members by meaningfully addressing unrealistic expectations placed on Teachers as professionals, adopting a clear and concise communication plan, focusing on core curricular priorities, and delineating between required mandatory training and voluntary professional development.

The following message was sent to us from a Teacher in an FRL school:

“There are many issues here. For one, if we were in an IPL setting and we were required to do PD, we would not have our students in class with us. Students would be sent home, under the care of their parents, and not marked present for that time. We would also not have to provide work for them to complete for the afternoon.

In this remote setting, we are doing double the work. We are providing students with work to complete during the time we’re not with them AND we’re doing PD. The PD times are also during our prep periods so we lose that too. On top of that, we had 15 mins to have students log in to take attendance and send them off to do work. Which was chaotic for kids, confusing for a lot of parents and just way too rushed in general. Once those students log off the meet, I do not know if they are working on their assigned tasks or not. I can’t confirm they are home, etc. This is what I am concerned about. If I am going to be held responsible for those students during those times, then how can I mark them present, confirming that they were in “home school” during an afternoon in which I would normally see them until 3:00 but didn’t see them after 1:15?

I feel like the Board is taking advantage of FRL Teachers and hiding it with fancy terminology. There’s so much PD that’s held during our prep or after school that I just can’t keep up. They only give us a couple days’ notice for the PD days. They have yet to provide us clarity about report cards, which are looking very different and have a lot of new challenges for FRL Teachers.

The Principal had another “volunteer” staff check in meeting today and made the comment that she wishes ETFO could see the value in the meetings. The “value” in those meetings (and I say it loosely) is because our monthly staff meetings are not meetings anymore. They are so stuffed with PD and those prerecorded videos that we watch every year, that there’s no time to ask questions or discuss anything. If we could have an actual staff meeting, we wouldn’t need to check in with these voluntary meetings.

This is the email sent to us about today's PD:

Thank you for your patience on Friday with the challenges we experienced with the MyOn training. This was a direct result of the vendor and as such, TVDSB has communicated our disappointment with the service provided. We hope those of you who were able to join found it beneficial and those of you who had the afternoon, were able to use the time for self-directed PD. The recording of the session will be made available. Again, our apologies. We sincerely thank you for your resiliency and your professionalism.

A second opportunity for learning was already scheduled for all FRL Educators and we are pleased to share that we will have another "asynchronous" learning afternoon for students on Thursday, October 22nd from 1:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for this to take place. You will be required to take attendance at 1:00 p.m. In your planning this week, consider asynchronous opportunities that could be completed by students as an extension of the learning prior to Thursday. This does not have to be extensive and can be follow up or completion of work assigned, independent reading/ math or reflective/ choice activities.

*FRL Administration, LSS staff and the FRL Superintendent are meeting to finalize the agenda for Thursday's sessions. There will be a variety available. If you wish to **not** partake, you will be required to inform me and continue to provide your regularly schedule for your students.*

I am sorry for the rant, but I'm frustrated, exhausted, overworked, overwhelmed and I know I'm not the only one".

This Teacher speaks for many. It's why ETFO TVTL continues to fight hard to make the Board care enough to change things for the better.

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