

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members

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

Date: May 8, 2020

Regarding: Learning/Emergency Remote Teaching Update (3)

Let me begin by thanking all Teachers for their hard work during this difficult period of Continuous Learning/Emergency Remote Teaching. We all know that none of this is easy but the fact that 80% of the 20,000 respondents to the TVDSB Parent Survey indicate they are pleased with the type and amount of student work assigned is a credit to Teachers and their professionalism.

This success has not come without cost and personal sacrifice. Teachers are working hard and contending with all the other challenges, fears and uncertainties associated with the pandemic. Many are also mourning the loss of loved ones and friends claimed by COVID-19. We are painfully aware of these losses and it is why, even in isolation, we must stand together to support one another.

Here are some updates on key issues of concern to Teachers:

Report Cards

The Board's memos restating what we already know about final reports has caused concern, anxiety and panic for Teachers. Here is where things stand provincially. Below is an excerpt from the summary of the May 7 meeting between the ETFO Provincial General Secretary and the Deputy Minister of Education.

Ministry Guidance re. Final Report Cards

ETFO Staff on the workgroup dealing with continuous learning issues has been providing important feedback to the Ministry on issues relating to the final reports. Ministry staff are working to finalize their guidance document that we hope will be released to boards next week. The document should address many issues/questions that members have regarding how to approach the final report. Once received, we will circulate a copy as quickly as possible.

Advice to Teachers:

- Refrain from working on reports until the Ministry Guidance Document has been released next week.
- ETFO Local expects the Joint Union/Board Report Card Committee to meet as per the Collective Agreement to review the guidance document before any information is sent to Teachers, school administrators and area superintendents.
- An ETFO Report Card *Communiqué* will be sent to all Teachers next week.

Professional Activity Days

The government made an arbitrary decision to remove Professional Activity Days for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. **ETFO Local and TVDSB agree that Teachers will have instructional time to write final report cards.** We are working with Senior Administration on the specific details which will be shared with Teachers shortly.

Recording Students

Just because something is permissible does not mean that it is advisable.

General Reminders:

- Teachers should continue to provide Principals and Parents with *Week-at-a-Glance* update regarding work assigned to Students. Members are **not** required to provide Principals with access to learning platforms like Brightspace or Google Classroom.
- If Teachers are unclear about directions given to them by Principals, or Vice-Principals, they should ask that those directions be put in writing to ensure clarity and accountability.
- Concerns regarding directions given to Members should be documented and referred to ETFO TVTL as soon as possible for follow up with TVDSB Human Resources.
- Follow the Collective Agreement.
- Exercise Professional Judgement. It is in the Collective Agreement.
- Observe Professional Boundaries. It is in your personal and professional interest to do so.

ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local will provide a weekly update to Teachers.

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.

c. *ETFO TVTL Released Officers*
Terry Card, President, ETFO Thames Valley Occasional Teacher Local
Susan Ansara, ETFO Provincial CB Staff Officer
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