

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members

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

Date: August 21, 2020

Regarding: Summary of Meeting with Deputy Minister of Education (Shared with Local Presidents)

Good morning Presidents, today I participated in our weekly call with the Deputy Minister, Ministry Staff and Affiliate GSs. Agenda items included:

1. Voluntary Redeployment Program

The Ministry will be extending the emergency order to allow the redeployment program to continue until the end of the summer. The Order is set to expire on August 24 but will be extended until August 31 and then revoked. Andrew Davis thanked the Affiliates for the response to the VRP. Over 900 people volunteered, a small number were assigned.

2. Restart Planning

Nancy Naylor reported that everyone is devoted to the goal of restarting school in September. The Ministry produced a memo last Friday re additional funding and staggered re-entry for the first week of school. On Monday, a second memo was released that increased the staggered start to a two-week period and addressed secondary timetabling issues.

3. Cohorting

Clarification was sought regarding the number of students that elementary and secondary students can be exposed to. Monday's memo referred to student cohorts of 100. This is intended for secondary students. The elementary cohort is set at "approximately" 50 students. This is meant to address the issue of students who are on withdrawal programs. If a student (who is already in a class of 21) is withdrawn to work with two other students who are in cohorts of 20 each, this would increase their cohorting number beyond the 50 guideline and be problematic. The Ministry urged us to continue to bring forward issues around cohorting for further exploration.

4. Funding for Boards without Reserves

A question was asked about how the funding will be allocated to boards that do not have sufficient reserves. Andrew Davis replied that boards that do not have the 2 percent of their operating budget in reserves will be provided with whatever top-up is needed to get to the 2 percent. This would come from the pool of money that has been set aside for this purpose. Boards who require this funding would be required to submit the request and provide the documentation to support the request.

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5. Distance Learning

Soon school boards will know how many students are opting out of in-person attendance and participating in Distance Learning. Andrew Davis advised that the funding will continue for these students as part of ADE (average daily enrolment). Nancy Naylor indicated that there is a good amount of interest in distance learning. A question was asked about how decisions regarding the delivery of the DL program will be made. Is it a Ministry decision or a board by board decision? The Ministry has allowed boards to set up a mident number to establish a DL 'school' for record keeping purposes. It will be set up so that there is a link for students to their home school. Due to the scale of interest, the Ministry determined that it would require leadership (Ps and VPs) to oversee the DL program. Boards are setting up their own models for Distance Learning. The Ministry is encouraging boards to share solutions but the set-up process is rooted at the board level not the Ministry level.

Sharon O'Halloran
General Secretary

For more information regarding this *summary* please contact the ETFO 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