

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members

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

Date: August 28, 2020

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

Presidents, I am providing an update on the meeting that took place today between Affiliate GSs and the Deputy Minister, Nancy Naylor and some of her staff. Please pay particular attention to #2 regarding the hiring of new positions during the reopening process.

1. Nancy Naylor advised that the MOE was surprised by the announcement of money for education from the Federal Government. Negotiations for this money were occurring between the provincial and federal governments. The MOE wanted to ensure that the money was allocated quickly. Boards were given flexibility to use the money to augment their reopening plans. The money was provided in a 50/50 split. Only half of the pool of money is available now. The other half will be released in January. There are some accountability measures in place to access the second pool of funds. MOE is still in discussions on this 50/50 split as they recognize it doesn't help with the immediate issues that boards are facing.
2. In the memorandum that the Ministry sent out to school boards on the use of the funding, a reference was made to the hiring of **“non-permanent teachers for a time-limited position.”** No such position exists under current collective agreements or legislation. Clarification was sought on what was intended by this terminology. The Affiliates confirmed with the MOE that boards CANNOT hire teachers outside of the collective agreements or the laws of Ontario including the Education Act and Regulation 274. The reference to a term or time-limited position implies an exploding contract which is not permissible.
3. Andrew Davis confirmed that this was not the intent of the language and committed to clarifying with school boards that all hiring must be in accordance with collective agreements and required legislation. He stated that the idea was to use 'occasional teachers' during the reopening process but stipulated that this hiring situation is temporary and not permanent. He confirmed that boards cannot create "term" positions or exploding contract positions as they do not exist and are not recognized in any legislation including our collective agreements.
4. A concern was raised that the B memo re air quality was released to school boards earlier this week and not cc'd to the Affiliates. Nancy Naylor apologized for this oversight and committed to sharing the memo immediately.

5. Nancy Naylor advised that the MOE released PA day supports to school boards with materials including:

- Health and Safety Protocols
- Anti-Bullying/ Mental Health resources
- Introduction to the New Math Curriculum
- Anti-racism resources
- Remote Learning/Online Learning tools

In addition, she advised that webinars are now occurring on the new math curriculum. The response from teachers has been positive to date.

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.