

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members

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

Date: June 26, 2020

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

Good afternoon Presidents, below please find a brief summary of the items that were discussed today at our weekly meeting with Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister:

1. Redeployment Update

Andrew Davis reported that they have received interest from over 800 individuals in education. 535 have been approved but no one has been redeployed to date. The Ministry is still trying to match skills to sites. The biggest need is in Long Term Care Facilities and most of our members are not considered a 'match.' Andrew advised that the vast majority of those approved are teachers/OTs.

2. Math Announcement

Nancy Naylor highlighted some of the decisions that were communicated last week re math; the cancellation of EQAO for elementary students and the changes to reporting on math (one mark vs. reporting on each strand). Yael Ginsler (Ministry Staff) shared that the Ministry will be offering webinar training on the new curriculum. This is scheduled to start on August 19. They will also have other resources and supports including classroom-ready resources available soon. The GSs urged the DM to reconsider the timeline for the implementation of the curriculum. We raised numerous concerns about starting a new curriculum now given the challenges of COVID 19, the uncertainties of September, increases stress/anxieties. The DM responded by saying that they felt the new curriculum was more streamlined with 150 fewer expectations and better sequenced. They weighed all of the pros/cons of timing and decided that since it was ready it was better to release it.

3. September Restart

A discussion regarding the lack of consultation on the Ministry's guidance document took place. The GSs urged the DM to change their approach re September reopening. There are many collective agreement implications that cannot be ignored. The GSs advised that consultation on reopening needed to be meaningful and cannot just be "sharing of information." We also discussed a concern that the boards seem to be receiving information that we are not. Andrew said he understood the concerns re c.a. implications and believes that there was some misunderstanding. He clarified and confirmed that they are respecting the language re Kindergarten; a teacher and a DECE will continue in the program in September. The class size will be based on all children on the register not just those who are on site. Andrew also said that he recognized that there may be other issues such as timetabling and PD that we will want to discuss in more detail.

4. Future Meetings

The DM proposed that we continue weekly meetings throughout the summer commencing July 16. She expects that by mid-July we will be able to work through some of the key issues for reopening. She will also give some thought to who else needs to be involved to ensure that the consultation is more meaningful.

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