

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members

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

Date: June 5, 2020

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

1. Miscellaneous Expenses

A concern was raised that Boards are refusing to reimburse staff for miscellaneous supplies such as paper, ink, etc. They are saying that the direction is coming from the Ministry. The Ministry has not issued a central direction on this. It is a local board decision. The issue should be discussed locally.

2. Pulse Survey

An update was provided on the survey that the Ministry sent to the system to get a 'pulse' on continuous learning. The Deputy Minister reported that 61 school boards responded and reported that a high percentage (76-100%) of their staff were working at high capacity. This included rotary teachers, special education teachers, ECEs and EAs and other staff including guidance teachers, library teachers etc. The survey also asked about synchronous learning. The Boards that reported on synchronous learning indicated that teachers are doing "some" synchronous learning.

3. Math Curriculum

A draft of the new math curriculum has been shared with the Affiliate workgroup. The Ministry is seeking final feedback on the curriculum. They want to release it as soon as possible so that it is in place for the next school year. A concern was raised about releasing a new curriculum for implementation if the system is still in 'closure mode'. The Ministry is mindful of this issue. A question was also asked about what training and in-servicing will accompany the new curriculum. The Deputy Minister advised that a suite of in-service opportunities is planned to support the release.

4. Voluntary Redeployment Program

ADM Andrew Davis reported that they continue to receive registrants on a daily basis. The requests have not reached a 'plateau' to date. Over 660 education sector workers have applied to be matched for redeployment. 346 have been approved for redeployment but no one has been redeployed to date. 42 boards/locals have signed the template agreements.

6. Restart

The Deputy Ministry advised that they are still waiting for Public Health advice on the re-opening of schools in September. She indicated that it is hard to determine where things will be 84 days from now. The Health System is committed to working on a re-opening of schools. The Ministry is probing on possible delivery models. There has been no decision yet on how they can or will proceed. They are hoping to share a guidance memo next week that will outline the possible models of delivery, academic considerations, technical readiness, H and S protocols and other administrative implications including transportation.

7. Continuity of Learning Update

Boards and staff have been focused on the retrieval of personal belongings. The Deputy Minister acknowledged that there were a few contentious issues at the onset. The majority of boards have approached it well. They have consulted with local health authorities and provided appropriate protective equipment and protocols. The GSs indicted that a few problems continue to exist. The Deputy Minister did raise the issue with the Directors last week and flagged the concerns. If there are situations that continue to be intractable, she has asked that we advise on that.

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