

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members

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

Date: October 8, 2021

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

I attended our bi-weekly meeting with the Ministry today. The Deputy Minister was absent so the meeting was led by ADM Andrew Davis. The Affiliates raised the following issues:

1. Quadmestering in Secondary Schools – The Ministry was asked when this model will be discontinued and when schools will return to regular semesters. Ministry staff responded that they are continuing the quad model for now due to the ongoing pandemic. They are following the advice of health experts on this.
2. Hybrid Model – All Affiliates raised grave concern about the hybrid model being adopted by more boards. We called on the Ministry to intervene to direct boards to discontinue this model of learning. Concerns for the well-being of students and staff were discussed. The Affiliates collectively advised the Ministry that it is not acceptable for the Ministry to say this is a “board decision” as it is impacting the high quality of public education. Boards have implemented the model as a cost-saving measure. The Ministry responded by stating that when they first investigated the concern last year they were advised that it was being implemented to address the issue of the changing student/parent choice to be virtual or in-person and to avoid gaps in learning. Boards also claimed that the model was implemented to address the mental health and well-being of students by keeping them connected. The Ministry advised that they are monitoring the situation and have heard the concerns of the Affiliates on this issue.
3. Evaluations - The Ministry responded to our request for a further pause on staff evaluations that was raised at the last meeting. It was explained that last year’s pause required a regulatory amendment for those who are covered under the teacher appraisal process. The amendment was for one year only. The plan is to continue with appraisals this year. All evaluations that should have happened last year will be bumped to this year. For experienced teachers who are required to be evaluated on a five-year cycle, if they were scheduled for last school year (20/21), they will be evaluated this year and anyone scheduled for this year (21/22) will be bumped ahead by one year. The Affiliates continued to request a further pause and reminded the Ministry staff that the pandemic is still underway, teaching and learning conditions have not returned to what they were before so the pause should be continued for another year. The Ministry staff will take this request back for further consideration.

4. Assessment Memorandum – There was a brief discussion on the issue of the Ministry's assessment memorandum to the system. There is a need to remind all that learning continues in a modified environment.

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