

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members

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

Date: September 11, 2020

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

Good afternoon Presidents, I have outlined my summary of today's call with the Deputy Minister below:

1. The Deputy Minister provided a short update on the restart of school. She indicated that approximately 1900 schools have opened with partial cohorts. Most boards will be fully operational by the end of next week (September 18). There are a few large high schools in Toronto that have been given until September 21 to open.
2. Nancy Naylor spoke about issues relating to PPE including the shipment of cleaning supplies to boards. The Ministry was using a third party provider to ensure all boards had their shipment of cleaning supplies in time. There were some challenges around the scheduling of deliveries. The Ministry is working to improve this situation for the October delivery cycle. She indicated that they are committed to full transparency on what products they are providing. All PPE is meant to be medical grade and Health Canada approved. While some supplies were purchased from China over the last few months, the Ministry is trying to ensure that all supplies are secured in Ontario moving forward. If there are any issues with the products that boards are using, the Ministry is asking that we share the concerns so that they can continue to improve for the October cycle. This includes issues with hand sanitizer, masks/shields and cleaning supplies. If a school board purchased some its own supplies, these supplies may not meet Ministry requirements. The Ministry will be providing boards with a full inventory list with spec sheets for all PPE. The Deputy Minister agreed to share this list with the Affiliates as well.
3. The Ministry is 1 or 2 days away from activating the public website re active COVID cases in school sites. The information will include school and child care sites. It will list information by school and will also identify whether the case is amongst staff or students. The Ministry is working with Public Health to finalize the site. They expect to be in a position to start posting cases by September 21.
4. The Ministry is also working on the release of a screening tool that is specific to those in school sites. An announcement will be coming shortly on the launch of the public website and the screening tool.

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5. Issues re masking protocols were discussed. Some boards are adopting protocols to minimize contamination issues with student masks. One board adopted a protocol that involved students removing their masks in class prior to leaving for outdoor recess. This raised immediate safety concerns for others. The Affiliates have asked the Ministry to follow up on this.
6. An update on the progress of workgroup meeting was shared. Ministry staff shared that the teacher workgroup is currently focused on the issue of the timing of the first report card and how timetabling changes impact this reporting period. They are meeting today to explore this issue further.

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.