

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: January 13, 2023
Regarding: **Weekly Update (14)**

Happy New Year. We hope that all Teachers enjoyed a safe and restful Winter Break.

Report Card Program Update

The Local office was inundated early with concerns about the inefficiencies of the new reporting system. Since then, the Local conducted a report card program survey (with over 1200 responses), created a work group of classroom Teachers to review the survey data and provide perspective, and held multiple meetings with the Board through both Joint Report Card Committee and Labour Management Committee.

The collective effort of all those involved was the catalyst for system improvements that include the introduction of comment banks, the retrieval of past report card comments from TWEA, stability in the program, spell checker, improved interactions with other software systems, the use of variables (he/she/they), more training and supports, and a more user-friendly interface. The reporting system has its limitations, but the improvements gained are significant.

Thanks go to everyone who contributed to this collective effort.

The Local also acknowledges the Board's willingness listen to the concerns of Teachers, and to work collaboratively on improving the reporting system.

Report Card Writing Day

All Teachers are reminded that Friday, January 20 is a PA Day assigned exclusively for assessment and evaluation activities related to the writing of report cards. There are to be no other activities scheduled for Teachers on this day.

Collective Agreement Article L17.16 (c), Report Cards states the following:

For these Professional Activity Days designated for assessment, evaluation, and report card writing Teachers will have the option to work remotely.

Permission to work remotely is **not** required, but Teachers should inform their Principal that they will not be working at school on this day.

Collective Bargaining Update

The ETFO Thames Valley Local Preliminary Submission has been forwarded to the ETFO Provincial General Secretary. Once approved, the Preliminary Submission will be presented for the consideration of all Teachers.

A Special Meeting of Teacher and Occasional Teacher Presidents and Chief Negotiators has been called on Thursday, January 19 to review the Central List and Local Non-Exhaustive List of bargaining items.

"The Collective Agreement is the rule book, not a guidebook."

The goal of the ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local is to negotiate a fair collective agreement that addresses working condition issues through free local collective bargaining.

The ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local will keep Teachers informed regarding progress at the local bargaining table in a clear, concise and timely manner.

Communication Protocol

Teachers are reminded that the **Communication Protocol** remains in effect, **from** Friday, January 13 at 6:00 p.m. **until** Sunday, January 15 at 6:00 p.m.

The Board's **Disconnecting from Work Employee Procedure** came into effect on Thursday, June 2 in compliance with the **Working for Workers Act, 2021**.

Violations of the **Communication Protocol** and the **TVDSB Disconnecting from Work Procedure** must be reported to the Local office immediately.

Duty of the Local

- Defend the **Collective Agreement** and the rights of Teachers under it.
- Ensure that the provisions of the **Occupational Health and Safety Act** are enforced.
- Bring to the attention of TVDSB ongoing Teacher concerns, with the expectation that these concerns will be taken seriously and resolved quickly.
- Communicate with Teachers in a clear, concise, and timely manner.

Thank you for all you do.

For more information regarding this **Communiqué**, please contact the Local office by email at etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com or by phone at 519-474-3150.