

**To:** ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members  
**From:** Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)  
**Date:** January 26, 2023  
**Regarding:** **Weekly Update (16)**

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## **Report Card Frustration**

Accompanying this update is a link to the Board memo, sent to all staff, regarding comment box character limits, and the discrepancy between the posted and actual limits.

It would have been helpful to know of this specific problem before the Report Card Writing Day. ETFO TVTL immediately addressed the issue with the Board.

Here is the response from the Board

“Considering the current technical difficulties, this timeline has been adjusted to support teachers with additional time to complete report cards where needed. Where possible, teachers are highly encouraged to submit their report cards in advance of the adjusted due date. In situations where the reduced character count has created an issue, please note that teachers are not expected to rewrite the comment. Therefore, a teacher will need to delete a portion of the existing comment and ensure that it still contains essential/relevant information about student achievement. We understand that there are challenges and technical difficulties that come with using new software platforms. The transition to Aspen was required because Trillium/TWEA is no longer available to school boards. We appreciate your patience and on-going commitment to providing quality comments for families in support of student learning.”

### **Advice to Teachers:**

- The due date for submission of reports, and all related dates outlined in the collective agreement, have been extended by one (1) week.
- Report cards that are complete, in the professional judgement of the Teacher, may be submitted at the end of the school day on Thursday January 26.
- Teachers are not expected to rewrite comments. Deletion of portions of the comments is permissible.

It is the perspective of the Local that the problematic report card program is a workplace issue significantly impacting workload and work-life balance. Teachers can, and should, speak with Principals about the possible provision of release time within the instructional day, to facilitate the completion of report cards in a supportive and timely manner.

### **Next Steps:**

The report card program is far from perfect. The Local will continue to push hard for changes to the report card program that make it more functional, efficient, and intuitive for Teachers.

There will be another report card survey. Information generated by it will be reviewed by the ETFO Report Card Workgroup, and then presented to the Joint ETFO/TVDSB Report Card Committee.

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

## **Collective Bargaining Update**

Pending ETFO Provincial approval of the Local Preliminary Submission, the plan is to present it for the consideration of all Teachers at the February 16 General Meeting.

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 27 at 6:00 p.m. **until** Sunday, January 29 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](mailto:etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com) or by phone at 519-474-3150.

c. *ETFO TVTL Released Officers*  
Terry Card, President, ETFO Thames Valley Occasional Teacher Local  
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