

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: May 6, 2022
Regarding: Weekly Update (33)

There are 26 days until Election Day (E-26). Election Day is June 2.

Wear **Red 4 Ed** on **Fridays**.

This week the Government of Ontario, the Ministry of Education, and School Boards across the province, celebrated Education Week. It should be noted that for Teachers every week is Education Week.

Political Action Update

A link to the **Weekly Political Action Update (1)** accompanies this Communiqué.

EQAO Training

The following statement is taken directly from the Board minutes of the March 23, 2022 ETFO/TVDSB Labour Management Meeting:

“EQAO training – staff meeting prior to administration of tests, guide/training shared with all staff. April staff meeting has EQAO on the agenda, which would align with previous years. Virtual students will attend home school to take tests in person. Not counted against results if virtual students don’t complete the test.

Action: Linda confirmed with Riley 30 minutes is being provided at the April staff meeting for all staff to receive training. Additional time can be offered at the May staff meeting for those staff members administering the assessment.”

This was the agreement hammered out by ETFO Local and the Board, who failed to, or had no actual intention of communicating it to the system.

Any violations of Collective Agreement provisions, regarding preparation time and supervision, must be reported to the Local office immediately and will be grieved.

Violence in Schools

There is increasing public attention being paid to the issue of violence in elementary schools and worksites.

New scopal language in the Collective Agreement, and a related grievable letter of understanding, require the Board to work with ETFO Local to develop and implement plans that will reduce violence in elementary schools and worksites.

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

It is not helpful when the TVDSB Superintendent responsible for Safe Schools and Mental Health, makes public a statement that students and staff are dysregulated. This is a terrible and inappropriate thing to say, implies that classrooms are out of control because Teachers are out of control, and is tantamount to gaslighting.

What is needed is a concrete plan of action that has at its core zero tolerance of violence, not Board bromides, glitter bombs, and gobbledygook.

Collective Agreement Highlight - Report Cards

Collective Agreement Article L17.16, 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.

This new Collective Agreement language was secured in the last round of local bargaining prior to the first pandemic lockdown.

Teachers may work remotely at home on these days. No permission is required to do so.

Communication Protocol

Teachers are reminded that the **Communication Protocol** remains in effect, **from** Friday, May 6 at 6:00 p.m. **until** Sunday, May 8 at 6:00 p.m.

It is the duty of the Local to:

- 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.

Teachers continue to do amazing things in the face of trying circumstances. Thank you for all you do. Enjoy the weekend. Stay well.

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

c. *ETFO TVTL Released Officers*
Terry Card, President, ETFO Thames Valley Occasional Teacher Local
Elizabeth Kettle, ETFO Provincial CB Staff Officer