



Subject: ECE Executive Meeting



Date: November 24, 2022



Time: 5pm

ECE President's Report

OCTOBER WAS ECE APPRECIATION DAY:

However, ECEs should remember every day that they are appreciated for their never-ending dedication to our children in upholding the best education standards of practice while advocating to maintain professionalism and the quality of our profession. Even though it may not feel that way all the time, ECEs are making an extraordinary world of difference in the lives of children in their care through expert knowledge of early childhood development, observation skills, and assessment skills to provide exactly what five and six-year-olds need to succeed with wellness and growth.

As mentioned in our newsletters, the executive will be planning an ECE appreciation and member engagement gathering. As per the results of our survey, this event will take place on a weekend date in the early spring, and we are hoping to share the finalized plan in the New Year.

LOCAL BARGAINING SURVEY:

A local bargaining survey has been emailed to all ECE members, both full-time and casual. Members are encouraged to give input to shape our Bargaining Brief for the local bargaining team (what we bargain with the Algoma District School Board for the ECEs in the district of Algoma) to focus on in the next round of negotiations. Please respond before November 30th by replying to the email and get entered into a draw for a prize!

LEAVES WITHOUT PAY:

A heads-up to members considering the submittal for a leave without pay to refer to article 18 under Short-Term Leave Without Pay:

"The Board may grant a leave of absence without pay to an employee for up to a maximum of twenty (20) working days to attend to matters of personal business which cannot be addressed in any other way."

Please note the word "MAY." Before you book a trip or buy that concert ticket, please plan weeks in advance to apply for the leave and await the decision. If there are large amounts of absences, the Board will not grant leaves in order to ensure the safety and operational needs of schools. Please be transparent and remember, sick leave is for health care and that

includes mental health days. Please take care of yourself and reach out if you require any assistance when submitting a leave.

MEMBER MANAGEMENT:

Members are reminded if they are ever called in for an attendance management meeting, please request union representation and take the opportunity to be informed. In the meantime, it is in our Collective Agreement that we have 11 allotted sick days so if you're sick, you're sick! Period! TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND YOUR MENTAL HEALTH!

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE – iPad PROJECTING:

In another discussion with HR and IT, the new devices to project the iPads are not working as intended, so members should no longer have their administration request to have one installed. There currently is no other solution, but advocacy will continue, and any updates shared when available.

OSSTF CYBER INCIDENT:

On May 30, 2022, OSSTF fell victim to a cyber incident involving ransomware that affected our systems and that is why the entire email system was down. They hired a cybersecurity firm to conduct an eDiscovery process to review the impact. The process took several months and was just recently completed.

If you receive an email from OSSTF about this, it means your data was included in the breach and your personal information MAY be compromised, including your current or former residential address, email, phone number, member ID, date of birth, and social insurance number.

If you receive that email, it offers free credit monitoring and identity theft protection services with Equifax at the expense of OSSTF for one year.

If you have any questions, please call the phone number within the email for Provincial Office representatives. **THIS DOES NOT MEAN YOUR IDENTITY HAS BEEN STOLEN.** It means a hacker gained access to your personal information from hacking OSSTF servers and threatened to sell it on the dark web, holding it for ransom. You are being asked to stay vigilant and monitor your banking and credit as a precaution to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft.

OMERS UPDATE:

Our OMERS Pension Plan will soon expand enrollment eligibility to include Non-Full-Time (NFT) members working for OMERS' employers. This change will come into effect on January 1, 2023.

NFT members will begin to receive information about their options and an offer of enrolment

from OMERS and/or the Board. Please reach out to me if you are a casual or LTO member and have not been contacted by the Board by mid-December (before we wrap up for the Holidays) so I can inquire.

For more information please visit: www.omers.com/nft

Note: enrollment is not retroactive. Therefore, in order to join the plan as of January 1, 2023, members must complete and submit the Offer of Enrolment package prior to that date. Failing to do so will result in delayed enrolment.

\$500 FOR KINDERGARTEN TEAMS:

Each kindergarten team in the Algoma District is receiving \$500 for purchasing open-ended, emergent based toys. The Board provided some catalogs for this; however, we can make the decision at our school to order from wherever it works best for the team. The Board will be transferring \$500 per kindergarten classroom to each school's budget, so it will be processed at the school level and not centrally. Please recognize that means any Amazon purchases will require a credit card and thus, requires reimbursement. Therefore, that discussion **MUST** be made with your administration's input. Timelines for spending are whatever works on your school's end, but it must be spent within this school year.

WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO:

- CBC meeting
- Labour Council meetings
- Rally at Romano's Office
- PSC Regionals

Thank you; Merci; Miigwetch; for being here today.

Jess