



From the President

September 2017

Shawn Martin, GEETF President – smartin@geetf.ca

Welcome Back

Welcome back from very well-deserved summer holidays. Your Federation is only a call or email away if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. You can reach your released officers through their Board or GEETF email or a call to the GEETF office at (519) 753-9291. Your released officers are:

President – Shawn Martin

(smartin@geetf.ca)

- Professional Relations Services (TPA, OCT, professional relationships between contract teachers and other teachers, DECEs, administration, etc)
- Health & Safety issues
- Elementary Program/Report Cards
- Management of the GEETF
- Any other issues that may arise

First Vice President – Nancy D'Aurora

(cao@geetf.ca)

- Long Term Disability
- Leaves of any kind
- Pregnancy/Parental issues
- Grievances
- All items related to the Collective Agreement
- Contract teacher staffing issues
- Workplace Accommodation/Return to Work plans

Second Vice President – Cory Judson

(cjudson@geetf.ca)

- Treasurer of the GEETF
- Political Action/Public Relations
- Retirement/Member Support
- Community Engagement

GEETF Committees Starting Up

Have you ever thought of joining a committee to offer your expertise and share your interests with colleagues? GEETF committees are starting up again and welcome new teacher members. All GEETF members are welcome to join.

- Arts
- Awards
- First Five Years
- French as a Second Language
- Indigenous Partnership
- Political Action/Public Relations
- Professional Development
- Social
- Social Justice
- Status of Women

ETFO Video on Violence Reporting

ETFO produced an excellent video for members to better understand our rights to work in a safe environment. The video is located on ETFO's Health & Safety webpage: etfohealthandsafety.ca

ETFO 2017 Annual General Meeting



The ETFO Annual General Meeting took place in Toronto from August 14-17. Fourteen Grand Erie members attended, including members in their first 5 years and 5 first time attendees.

This year was an election year which resulted in several changes. Sam Hammond was re-elected as President. Our local member Susan Swackhammer retired and her previous position was filled by the election of Karen Campbell (from Toronto) as ETFO First Vice President.

Many motions were debated. The following key ones were passed:

- Change the composition of the provincial executive by reallocating two positions for equity seeking groups while maintaining a 14-member provincial executive.
- That ETFO, through OTF, lobby the Ministries of Education, Health, and Labour to implement an upper indoor temperature limit in all elementary schools.
- That ETFO increase the fee rebate to locals gradually over the next 3 years.
- That ETFO encourage school boards to rename schools named after Sir John A. MacDonald.

A Reminder to Verify Your Personal Information

Just a reminder that as the new year starts it's important that your personal information be updated. I recommend that you check the accuracy of your assignment in the Board's Absence Dispatch System (ADS), and ensure that the Board, our local office, and the ETFO provincial office have your correct up-to-date information.

Extension Agreement Funding

Following ratification of the Extension Agreement that extends all ETFO collective agreements until August of 2019, one of the benefits we accepted was to increase the number of teachers providing direct support to students. The GEETF worked with the Board last year to determine the best use of extension funding. These additional teachers will help to address the growing needs of students and the increasing demands on elementary staff. The following positions were added for this year:

- An itinerant teacher for ELL (English Language Learners)
- Instructional Coach for Indigenous Students
- one self-contained strategies class
- three self-contained autism classes
- An itinerant LRT - Differentiation (grades 2-8)
- three itinerant LRTs – Early Years Well-Being (grades K-1)

Upcoming Events

Oct 12 and 16 – First 5 Years Mini-Conference

Oct 25 & Nov 1 – Union Steward Training