



From the President

March 2018

Shawn Martin, GEETF President – smartin@geetf.ca

Welcome to our New GEETF Executive Assistant

Jeannette Dodds will be taking over the position of Executive Assistant from Maggie Bailey-Bomberry effective March 26th. I welcome Jeannette to our organization and wish Maggie great success in her new position. Thank you Maggie for all you've offered our membership these past 12 years.

Update on Unfilled OT Assignments

Since our last meeting with representatives from the Board, steps have been taken to reduce the number of 'no-fills': better control of the Board calendar to limit the number of OTs booked for one day, combining half-day assignments into full days, adding more OTs to the list, booking OTs in advance, ensuring accurate information in ADS, and consideration of the working conditions of our OT colleagues have helped to mitigate the problem. At this point we have collected more data on the local impact, and we have received ETFO's Fail-to-Fill Focus Group report. Most of the recommendations in that report have been implemented in Grand Erie. There are more options available that we will discuss with the Board. Please know that I take this problem very seriously and will continue to work with our Occasional Teachers and the GEDSB in finding local solutions.

2018-2019 Staffing Update

Surplus to School notifications and redundancy notices will be going out on April 25th. The first Vacancy List will be out either Friday, April 27 or Monday, April 30. Your In-school Staff Advisory Committee should meet after the Surplus Notices go out in order to review the school organization prior to it being submitted to the Board. Prior to the end of June, the Staff Advisory Committee will meet again to provide input to your principal regarding next year's timetables, supervision schedules and staff meeting dates. Please refer to article 15.08 of the Collective Agreement for specific language about Staff Advisory Committees.

Provincial Election and GEETF Elections this Spring

This spring brings us two opportunities for you to cast your ballot. On June 7th Ontario goes to the polls to vote for a provincial government. And on May 16th the GEETF will host our Annual Meeting where the released positions of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President (half-time release), and the non-released positions of Secretary, Health & Safety Officer, and eight additional

Executive Members will be elected. Nomination forms are due April 15.



Community Support

The GEETF provides financial support to community agencies who work for social justice. Pictured below are recent donations made by ETFO and/or the GEETF to local organizations.

1] The GEETF Social Justice Committee organized our participation in the Coldest Night of the Year on February 24th at Yes Church in Brantford. A \$500 donation was made from the Committee towards Why Not Youth Centres and The Welcome In Resource Centre in their efforts to support those who are homeless or risk facing homelessness. Pictured below at the event are Anh Hoang and her children, Beth Edwards and Cory Judson and his two children.



2] On Monday February 12th, GEETF Second Vice President, Cory Judson and GEDSBOT President Kevin Utley presented a cheque on behalf of ETFO for \$1000 to the R.I.S.E.Group in Simcoe to support their anti-poverty work.



3] The GEETF donated \$5000 to the *Save The Evidence Campaign* and encouraged other ETFO Locals to donate as well. To date, ETFO and its affiliates have donated over \$20,000 to the Woodland Cultural Centre's efforts to restore the former Indian Residential School as a museum and learning centre. Pictured below are Cory Judson, Shawn Martin, Carlie Myke, Sabrina Sawyer and Nancy D'Aurora.



Teacher Performance Appraisal

I highly recommend that if this is your TPA year that you read ETFO's PRS Matters bulletin #49 accessible on the ETFO website. Preparation and mutual understandings are key to a successful process.

Upcoming Events/Workshops

- ❑ **MAR 26** Walk into Retirement (Simcoe location)
- ❑ **APR 5** Zumba Fitness
- ❑ **APR 9** GEETF Annual Trustee Dinner
- ❑ **APR 11** Day of Pink
- ❑ **APR 16** OTIP Retirement Benefits
- ❑ **APR 18** Ukelele Playing Group
- ❑ **APR 19** Resume Writing
- ❑ **APR 23** Your Pension, Your Future
- ❑ **APR 25** Pregnancy & Parental Leave
- ❑ **APR 25** Surplus/Redundancy Notices go out to the System
- ❑ **APR 26** Interview Workshop
- ❑ **MAY 16** GEETF Annual Meeting