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To: All Secondary Teachers  
From: Allyn Janicki

Monday March 25th 2019  
Memo #16

### **Local Impact: Ministry of Education March Break Announcements**

The announcements that the Ministry made March 15th will heavily impact secondary students, schools and teachers.

#### **28:1 vs 22:1**

These ratios are class size average \*by school\*. Currently schools are staffed on the 22:1 ratio. As you all know this means most courses are running with enrollment numbers that are typically higher than the ratio implies. What this ratio does allow for is the running of courses with numbers lower than the 22:1—these could be senior academic courses or courses to address specific communities or needs in our schools. **Increasing the ratio to 28:1 will mean that some courses will balloon to up to 40 students, because to make the average work and meet the needs of all students - for every course with 12 students there will need to be one course with 40-44 students.**

#### **28:1 and Staffing**

Increasing average class size to 28:1 will impact jobs. **If this were to be implemented immediately it would result in the loss of approximately 100 jobs at secondary.** We have approximately 500 teachers at secondary, **the job loss represents 1/5th or 20% of our workforce.** “No teacher will lose their jobs” is a spin, a minimizing rhetoric. In reality it is disingenuous. The fact is that there will be

fewer teachers teaching students whether that be tomorrow or some mythical date four years from now. The student teacher relationship is key to student success. Facilitating that relationship requires time, 28:1 will further hinder time pressures and the ability of teachers to connect with each student. These impacts will be felt in higher failure rates and lower graduation rates.

**There has been very little information provided to school boards from the Ministry as to how to operationalize this change in class size average in the staffing process for the 2019/20 school year. The work behind our local staffing process has commenced and if there are teachers being declared surplus or redundant they are to be notified on April 15th. If there is a change to this timeline I will advise the membership immediately.**

### **The Local Priorities Fund**

The local priorities fund allowed school boards to hire teachers to meet the needs of their students. These teachers have worked to address the needs of marginalized and disenfranchised groups in our school communities. Removing the funding will leave these students without critical supports in our schools.

### **Take Action!**

Below you will find the links to all the Ministry announcements. Be familiar with the impacts these will have when engaging with members of the public who may not understand.

- [Modernizing Classrooms](#)
- [Modernizing Learning](#)
- [Modernizing Health and Physical Education](#)

Consider having your voice heard in the supplemental “*consultation process*”. The consultation documents can be found [here](#).

The strength of our Association rests with you, the members. An engaged, informed and unified membership is essential to make sure the government knows that we, as a collective, will do whatever it takes to stand up for our students, ourselves, and our profession.

Below you will find an email link for Minister of Education Lisa Thompson. Email her to let her know what you think about the recent announcements. Remember to keep your comments professional, and refrain from personal attacks. Consider mentioning points such as:

- Increasing class sizes will mean a reduction in the number and variety of programs and supports for at-risk students in some schools. This will undermine Ontario’s reputation as a world-renowned public education system.
- By increasing class sizes, and reducing the number of teachers in schools, some classes in core subject areas, like math, will grow to more than 40 students. This will hurt the learning environment and teachers’ working conditions.

### **EMAIL THE EDUCATION MINISTER**

### **Rally for Education: Saturday April 6th**



The local units in conjunction with our affiliates will be arranging buses from several Simcoe County locations to this rally on April 6th. Information will be sent as soon as arrangements have been made to book a spot on the bus.

**Staying Informed**

Over the coming weeks I am visiting our schools over the lunch period specifically to get people connected to OECTASM. The dates are as follows:

- |                   |                           |                   |                        |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| <b>March 28th</b> | <b>St. Domenic</b>        | <b>April 12th</b> | <b>Jean Vanier</b>     |
| <b>April 2nd</b>  | <b>St. Thomas Aquinas</b> | <b>April 16th</b> | <b>Holy Trinity</b>    |
| <b>April 3rd</b>  | <b>St. Joseph's</b>       | <b>April 17th</b> | <b>Patrick Fogarty</b> |
| <b>April 5th</b>  | <b>St. Joan of Arc</b>    | <b>April 18th</b> | <b>St. Peter's</b>     |
| <b>April 11th</b> | <b>St. Theresa's</b>      |                   |                        |

In order to ensure you are an informed member consider subscribing to, downloading or bookmarking the following (hyperlinks embedded in graphics):

	@OECTAProv		Apple	
	@catholic_teachers		Android	

**Questions? Concerns? Contact Allyn:**  
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