

Memo #6

Date: October 4, 2017

To: Executive/Members

Re: **2017 Kindergarten Conference; School Based Meetings; Laurentian Faculty of Education Strike; Directing Members on Preparation Time; Approved Diagnostic Assessment**

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Correction:

In Memo #4, within the Conference Funding section it was referenced that one of the restrictions was: A maximum of 6 members may be funded for any particular conference/workshop. And only one member per school/location.

The correct restriction is: A maximum of 6 members may be funded for any particular conference/workshop. **Funds may be approved to provide more than six members and/or more than two members per school location.**

**2017 Kindergarten Conference for Teacher and ECE Teams**

The Ministry has provided additional professional development funding to support the ongoing implementation of the updated Kindergarten Program Document, and Kindergarten Addendum to Growing Success, including Communication of Learning Templates. To continue building the capacity of additional kindergarten teams, OECTA will host another conference for Teacher and Early Childhood Educator teams entitled: **Digging Deeper-Teaching, Learning, Assessing, Evaluating and Communicating Learning**. This conference is open to teams who have **not** attended an OECTA Summer Institute or the Kindergarten Conference last year. As this is Ministry funding, the conference is open only to teacher and early childhood educator teams currently delivering the Kindergarten program.

It will be held from Tuesday, November 28 through to Wednesday, November 29 at the Sheraton Parkway North Hotel, 600 Hwy 7, Richmond Hill starting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday and concluding by 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday.

Simcoe Muskoka Catholic Elementary Teachers can send three (3) teams to this conference. If you are interested you are asked to email [kent.macdonald@oectasm.ca](mailto:kent.macdonald@oectasm.ca) with your name and the name of your DECE partner. A confirmation letter/email will be sent to those accepted, and others will be placed on a waiting list.

**School Based Meetings**

Staff meetings are to take place once a month, for up to one hour in duration. The Association encourages all members to attend these meetings, however, if you are unable to attend, please inform your principal in a timely manner. A schedule for all the monthly staff meetings for the 2017 - 2018 school year should now be well established.

All other meetings before or after school are strictly voluntary and no one should be disadvantaged for not attending a voluntary meeting. These voluntary meetings include: division meetings; school improvement meetings; weekly morning meetings; lunch meetings and any other type of scheduled meeting that takes place outside of the instructional day.

## **Laurentian Faculty of Education Strike**

The union representing Faculty of Education staff at Laurentian University commenced a legal strike action on September 28, 2017.

Associate Teachers should not accept faculty students or carry out any activities related to practicum during the period of the strike.

## **Directing Members on Preparation Time**

No teacher should ever be directing another teacher on what they should or shouldn't be doing on their scheduled preparation time. All meetings on preparation periods should not be scheduled without the approval and consent of all teachers involved.

Only a principal can direct a teacher to attend a meeting or event on their scheduled preparation time block, and if this occurs there is language in our collective agreement that will see this time being made up to the teacher that lost their preparation time.

## **Approved Diagnostic Assessment**

Teachers are to use their own professional judgment to determine which of the approved diagnostic assessments to use, which students will be assessed, the frequency of use, and the appropriate timing of the use of these assessments. Diagnostic assessments should play an important role in our classrooms and their use needs to continue to direct our teaching and planning. There shall be no arbitrary deadlines for these assessments, however your Principal can request that you share with them any assessment data that you have completed, and they can discuss with you regarding your personal diagnostic assessment plan for your classroom. What Principals can't do, is direct a teacher that they must perform specific assessments, for specific students, by a given date, as this would be contrary to the Diagnostic Assessment understanding in our collective agreement.

The Board approved list of diagnostic assessments for this school year is as follows:

<b>Literacy</b>	<b>Numeracy</b>
First Steps Writing	Numeracy Nets
CASI	Leaps and Bounds
PM Benchmarks	ONAP (Ontario Numeracy Assessment Project)
An Observation Survey for Early Literacy Achievement	Gap Closing - Mathematics Ministry Resource
Running Records	

**If you have any concerns, please contact the Unit office at 705-733-9625 or 1 800 558 4815**