

OSBCC BARGAINING CONFERENCE REPORT

From November 18th to November 20th, 290 delegates from school board locals across the province met in Toronto to prepare for the 2012 round of negotiations.

SPEAKERS

Brother Fred Hahn, President of CUPE Ontario, was our opening speaker.

Brother Hahn congratulated the delegates and the committee for their commitment to centralized bargaining. He provided an overview of the Drummond commission established by the government to look at ways to cut costs within government departments. Brother Hahn also spoke of a letter he had written to Rick Mercer and our role as adults working in schools to ensure bullying of students is not tolerated under any circumstance.



Trish Hennessey, a researcher from the Centre for Policy Alternatives, spoke to us on the current socio-political climate in which we find ourselves. Trish challenged us to think about the way in which we present our issues to the public. She also challenged us to consider working in a way to ensure the next generation has an even better standard of living than ours.

Hugh Mackenzie, economist and current Chair of the Atkinson Foundation, spoke to us on the myth of “unfunded liabilities”. New accounting rules require employers show future employee obligations (e.g. retirement gratuities) on their balance sheets as a liability. He explained, “When a worker owes money to a bank, it is called a debt. When an employer owes money

to a worker all of a sudden it is referred to as an unfunded liability.”

Brother Paul O'Donnell, CUPE National researcher assigned to the OSBCC, presented the results of a survey that asked locals to identify the number of members working in each classification. The survey provides us with a snapshot of who we represent within the School Board Sector and the nature of our work. It further provides us with a benchmark against which we can see employment trends in relation to our work in future years.

Reg Pearson, the Director of the Dispute Resolution Services, Ministry of Labor, gave us his unique perspective on bargaining trends in Ontario's public sector. He informed us that even with the pressure of the government's "zero zero" funding position, non-zero settlements have been achieved in the public sector. Additionally, he noted that private sector settlements are currently outpacing public sector settlements.



ELECTIONS

Delegates voted in favor of a motion to run elections for positions on the OSBCC and alternates at the conference. Running the OSBCC elections early allowed for the timely election of both the central bargaining committee and the bargaining support committee.

Many thanks to Sister Shelley Smith and Brothers Claude Duscheneau, Don McAngus and Marc Boisvert for their work on the committee. The list of the new OSBCC

committee members can be found at the back of this newsletter.

The bargaining support committee will be made of alternates and area representatives who are not on the bargaining committee. It is very clear this group of people play a key role in ensuring our members are informed of and engaged in supporting the bargaining process.

SPECIAL THANKS to Sister Candace Rennick, Secretary Treasurer of CUPE Ontario, Brothers Brian Blakeley and Dave Michor and all the CUPE National Staff in attendance who participated in the process of running our elections and ensuring the process was understood by the delegates.



MEET YOUR ELECTED BARGAINING COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

Chair: Terri Preston

Re-elected to her third term as Chair of the CUPE Ontario School Board Coordinating Committee, Terri has experience negotiating at both the 2008 Provincial Discussion Table and the PDT for the designated ECEs. As one of the Vice-Presidents of CUPE 4400 and spokesperson at its Central bargaining table, Terri has bargained on behalf of all three bargaining units represented by the local with the Toronto District School Board.

Vice-Chair: Susan Hanson

Sue has served as Vice-Chair of the CUPE Ontario School Board Coordinating Committee since 2004. On behalf of the OSBCC and because of her experience as an Educational Assistant, Sue represented CUPE at the Special Education Funding Review Table with the provincial government in 2007. As President of Local 5678, Sue has experience representing all support staff at the Upper Canada District School Board in three rounds of negotiations. Sue participated at both the Provincial Discussion Table in 2008 and the PDT for the designated ECEs.

Northern Rep: Rodney McGee

Rodney is serving his second term as the Area 1 representative on the OSBCC. Both as a member of his Executive and President of Local 2486, Rodney has bargained eight Collective Agreements on behalf of the Custodial, Maintenance and Cafeteria Workers employed by the Lakehead District School Board.

**French School Board Rep: Sylvain Piché**

Sylvain is starting his third term on the OSBCC as the Area 16 representative. Serving nine years as Chief Steward for Local 4340, Sylvain has been part of the local's bargaining committee for 4 rounds of negotiations with the Conseil scolaire de district catholique centre-sud. Sylvain was part of the reference group for the 2008 Provincial Discussion Table.

Area Rep: Lee Ann West

Lee Ann has been an active member of the OSBCC representing Area 6 since 2004. Serving her second term as Vice-President of Local 1022, Lee Ann represents EAs, Custodial, Maintenance, Trades, ECEs and Office, Clerical and Technical workers employed by the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board. She has represented her local in five rounds of bargaining and was part of the reference group for the 2008 Provincial Discussion Table.

Area Rep: Vern Andrus

Vern is beginning his seventh year as the Area 7 representative on the OSBCC. At the 2008 Provincial Discussion Table, Vern was part of the reference group. As a member of the Executive, currently serving as Treasurer in Local 5555, Vern has been involved with 6 rounds of bargaining with his local. Local 5555 bargains one Collective Agreement for all support staff working with the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board.

Area Rep: Dave Smith

Dave is starting his third term as OSBCC rep for Area 8a. Dave has experience both with the coordinated bargaining efforts undertaken by CUPE locals prior to amalgamation and central bargaining with Local 4400. As one of the Vice-Presidents of CUPE 4400, Dave has ensured the needs of all three bargaining units have been met through four rounds of bargaining with the Toronto District School Board.

Area Rep: Jim Glavan

Jim was elected at the conference as the representative for Area 9. He has been President of Local 2544 for four years. Local 2544 represents Custodial, Maintenance and Food Service Workers employed by the Peel District School Board.

Jim was active in the 2008 round of bargaining with his local. Jim is President to the Peel District CUPE Council and ran as a candidate in the last Federal election for the NDP.

Area Rep: Mark Luciani

Mark has been the Area 12 rep on the OSBCC for 8 years. As the Unit Chief Steward for Local 4156, he represents the Office/Clerical/Technical and Instructional Support Unit who work at the District School Board of Niagara. Mark has been involved in 6 rounds of bargaining with his local and was part of the Reference Group in the 2008 Provincial Discussion Table.

Member at Large: Don Bryans

Don Bryans is President of Local 218 representing support staff in both the Durham District School Board and Durham Catholic District School Boards. He has 24 years of experience representing EAs, Custodial Maintenance and Office/Clerical/Technical staff. Don has been involved in 8 rounds of central bargaining with 6 bargaining units and two employers.



Member at Large: Frank Ventresca

Frank Ventresca is President of Local 4156 representing all support staff with the District School Board of Niagara. He has been on the bargaining committee for his local since 1984. Frank was an Area Representative on the OSBCC from 1993 to 2004 and Chair of the committee from 2004 to 2008. He was one of our negotiators at the 2008 Provincial Discussion Table.



In our next bargaining update we will introduce our bargaining support committee!

WHO IS REPRESENTING YOU?

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