



Check it out! www.cupe997.ca

Box 672 – Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0

705-286-1156

Toll Free – 1-877-838-CUPE (2873)

Fax: 705-286-2642

e-mail: inquiry@cupe997.ca

Report For CUPE Local 997 Regular General Meeting – May 5, 2007

Delegates Report – 2007 OSBCC Conference and Update re Fair Funding Now Campaign

The Ontario School Board Co-ordinating Committee held its annual conference in Niagara Falls this year, from April 17 – 21, 2007. The theme of the conference was “Mobilizing for our Rights”. This is in direct relation to the flawed funding formula the government uses to give money to school boards in Ontario. The main request is that the government revisit the funding formula and fix it, so the school boards are given enough funding to keep the School Board Support Workers working in our schools. 997 Delegates attending were: Lynn Raback, Herb Pounder, John Roycroft, Lisa Wokral, Fiona Williams and Shelley Godfrey.

This was an excellent CUPE Ontario conference for School Board Locals. We got to network with our “job” counterparts from other School Boards across Ontario.

The following is a breakdown of the conference and its highlights:

Tuesday, April 17

Registration started at 4:00 p.m. with a welcome from Frank Ventresca the Chairperson of the OSBCC. Paul Moist, President, CUPE National President; Fred Hahn, Secretary-Treasurer of CUPE Ontario and Wayne Samuelson, President, OFL (Ontario Federation of Labour) spoke to the 300 delegates. Paul Moist congratulated CUPE Local 4222 Thames Valley Educational Assistants and CUPE Local 218 for their strike action resulting in increased hours of work for Educational Assistants and “no concessions” at the bargaining table.

Wednesday, April 18

On this day we met with our counterparts from other boards and were able to discuss issues and concerns that are occurring to our own specific positions. This was an excellent day!

Thursday, April 19

Reports back from each of the occupational “mini conferences”. Paul O'Donnell, CUPE National Researcher and Betty Somers, OSBCC Co-ordinator, provided an overview of bargaining across the Province and the impact of the GLG's on support staff positions. Support staff continue to be overlooked and underfunded by the Ministry.

A review of the “Fair Funding Now and Educational Assistant Campaign” - the materials and radio ad's are available on the CUPE Ontario website – www.cupe.on.ca – select on the home page “Our Schools Need – Fair Funding Now”.

Sid Ryan, President of CUPE Ontario spoke to the delegates regarding the lack of funding for support staff by the Provincial Government. This Fall there will be a Provincial election and we need to ensure the issue of the lack of funding for “our work” is front and center.

Claude Genereux, Secretary Treasurer of CUPE National provided an overview regarding CUPE National's Defence Fund, the construction of the new CUPE National offices and the CUPE National's new data base regarding bargaining and collective agreements – “CAIS – Collective Agreement Information System”.

Friday, April 20

This was the day when workshops were held. The following is a breakdown of who took what workshop:

- Lynn Raback – Understanding the End of Mandatory Retirement and Fighting Attendance Management
- Herb Pounder – Fighting Attendance Management and Ways of Winning
- John Roycroft – Ways of Winning and Understanding the End of Mandatory Retirement.
- Lisa Wokral – Understanding the End of Mandatory Retirement and OMERS.
- Fiona Williams – Bargaining Benefits and Maximizing Bargaining Power
- Shelley Godfrey – Fighting Attendance Management and Pay Equity Maintenance.

Minister of Education, Kathleen Wynne, met with our conference at 4:40 p.m. and spoke for 45 minutes and answered questions for 1 hour and 15 minutes. It was a very interesting time. The Minister of Education has promised to have a committee formed to deal with the issues that School Board Support Workers are facing on a daily basis. The main concern is that the funding formula is flawed and needs to be fixed.

Saturday, April 21

Guest Speaker – Rosario Marchese, NDP Education Critic. Motions coming from the OSBCC Occupational Groups meetings of Wednesday and co-ordinated bargaining. Presentations from the OSBCC Health & Safety and Injured Workers Representatives.

All in all, this was an excellent, informative Conference.

“Be it resolved the OSBCC Delegates’ Report and Fair Funding Now Campaign Report be received”.