



Bargaining GR8 in `08

Ontario School Board Coordinating Committee
Provincial Discussion Table
Bulletin 3, March 7th 2008

This is the third bulletin updating CUPE members about the discussions taking place at the Provincial Discussion Table (PDT). The latest bargaining session was held on Monday, March 3rd, regrouping CUPE's PDT bargaining team, representatives from the Ontario School Boards and the Ministry of Education.

Common issues

To date, we have been able to table seven of our positions on key issues. Four of the issues were mentioned in the previous newsletter. At the March 3rd session we raised Instructor issues, professional development for all staff, and custodial and office/clerical/technical staffing levels.

On each of these points, CUPE has addressed the employer with a series of clear proposals. Most of them were guided by concerns over adequate staffing levels, which we argued have a direct impact on the quality of learning environment offered to students.

Our proposal on instructor issues focused on job security and enhanced working conditions for CUPE members.

Board's position

The employer has maintained its position that CUPE's proposals will have to be analysed in light of their impact on Board financing.

PDT Reference Group first meeting

The PDT Reference Group met in Toronto on Tuesday, March 4th. This was an occasion for the PDT Reference Group to have focused discussions arising from the PDT.

The day long meeting was spent discussing the following issues:

- An update on PDT process to date
- Fine tuning our communications strategy
- Supervision
- Exploring alternatives to the current enrolment based funding formula

Broadcast conference call

CUPE Ontario President Sid Ryan and the CUPE PDT Team are planning a broadcast conference call for Wednesday, March 19, in the early evening. All local presidents will receive a phone number to participate in this conference call. Details to follow.

Information: Contact your local CUPE executive, check out the CUPE Ontario website <http://www.cupe.on.ca/>, or join the CUPE school boards Listserv. If you wish to receive this newsletter by fax please send your fax number.

In solidarity,

Your bargaining committee:

Frank Ventresca	OSBCC Chair
Susan Hanson	OSBCC
Marc Boisvert	OSBCC
John Weatherup	CUPE Local 4400
Linda Thurston-Neeley	CUPE Assistant Director
Brian Atkinson	CUPE Assistant Director
André Lamoureux	CUPE Assistant Director
Brian Blakeley	CUPE School Boards Coordinator
Paul O'Donnell	CUPE Research
Elizabeth Nurse	CUPE Legal
Luc Tittley	CUPE Communications
Antoni Shelton	CUPE Ontario Division