



Bargaining GR8 in `08

Ontario School Board Coordinating Committee
Provincial Discussion Table
Bulletin 2, February 29 2008

This report provides CUPE members with an update on our discussions following face-to-face meetings on February 19th and 22nd. While some hopeful progress has been made in these discussions, the challenges facing the parties remain a concern for the CUPE team.

Early notice

While CUPE locals are serving notice to start early bargaining or to begin mid-term discussions with their local Boards of Education, it seems that this process is not a priority for the School Board representatives at the PDT. CUPE Locals are asked by their Bargaining Team to continue to work for early meeting dates with their employers before this becomes a problem for us in achieving our goals.

Tabled positions

The CUPE team began tabling positions on several of our common issues, namely benefits, EA work hours and violence in the workplace.

The CUPE team felt that the discussions on benefit issues and EA hours of work, while preliminary, were positive.

Funding problems

The parties had detailed discussions about the current situation facing CUPE Local and Local School Boards. A mutual concern was the ongoing under-funding situations that exist due to the shortcomings of the Funding Formula. The employer expressed concerns with the deficit situation they face over benefits and this would appear to be a priority item to them.

Violence in the workplace

CUPE Ontario has been working hard to make violence a recognized hazard under the occupational health and safety act. The CUPE team violence in the workplace proposal builds on recent CUPE health and safety efforts including a recent meeting between CUPE Ontario and the Minister of Labour.

PDT Reference Group to Hold First Meeting

The CUPE PDT Bargaining Team will be meeting on March 4th with the PDT Reference Group (OSBCC committee) to review progress to date and to examine specific proposals for presentation at the PDT at future meetings.

Broadcast conference call

Watch for a broadcast conference call later in March, updating the situation and CUPE'S action plan.

The OSBCC Conference is Coming to London

The second call for the OSBCC Conference at the Hilton, in London, Ontario has just been sent out to Ontario School Board locals. This year the four-day conference is focused on the PDT process and the development of a plan in the event of a breakdown at the PDT. The conference starts at 6:00 pm on April 8th with an update for locals regarding the PDT. The conference continues until Saturday, April 12th with workshops, the jurisdictional mini-conferences and lots of important discussions and some fun socials. Please plan to send your local teams!

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
Andre 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