

President's Report - February

I have had enough snow! I think we have had a record amount of snow days this year. I want to remind you that you must call your school if you cannot make it into work because of inclement weather. I also want to remind you that your principal, vice principal, teacher, department head or other staff, should not be commenting on your inability to get into work. If the weather is bad and you don't feel safe driving to your school and you cannot make it into the nearest Board location, then all you need to do is call your supervisor and tell them that you cannot make it into work and will be using that day as an inclement weather day. Please make sure that you fill out a form 411 when you do return to work and that it gets sent into the Board office promptly. Please let me know immediately if you are being made to feel uncomfortable in any way about taking inclement weather days.

Some of you have written or called me concerned about your performance appraisal or evaluation. John Potocska, our Vice President, sat on the Board Performance Appraisal Committee, and did bring the evaluation tool to our executive for input. If you are concerned in any way about your evaluation, please give me a call. Remember that you do not have to meet with your Principal or Supervisor without your Union Representative present and if you are expecting or receive a negative evaluation, I strongly recommend you do not comment on it and you call me immediately before you meet with your supervisor.

Our District Office is gearing up for OSSTF's Annual General Meeting, held in Toronto over the March Break. Your AMPA Representatives are Trish Rubenstein, Cathy Bruder, John Potocska, Deanna Turton and I.

On the Bargaining Unit front we have a few grievances pending. We have another pay equity meeting scheduled with the Board on March 31st. I will report on that in our next newsletter. Our Bargaining Unit Annual General Meeting will be held in April and information regarding that will go out soon, so keep your eyes open for that info. Please also check our Bargaining Unit website as it is being updated daily with great information on new Board initiatives, important information for members and cool links for our students. The address is www.d18osstf.com.

The Ground hog says that spring is just around the corner. I've heard groundhogs never lie but as I shovel yet again after the snowplow, I'm not convinced.

Warm regards,
Tracey Selkirk