



Weekly Update for September 30th, 2022

OSBCU Central Strike Vote – Our Local is doing well with the number of members who have already voted in the strike vote. As of yesterday, we still had about 70 members who had not voted yet. That’s about 25% and quite frankly that’s not good enough. **If you need help with voting, please call Laurie Penner at 905-518-7024 or Jason Atkinson at 289-237-5672 before 4pm today!**

We’ve had members go to schools to talk to people face to face. We’ve made thousands of phone calls to remind people and offer help over the phone to vote. We’ve opened our office up for members to drop in for help. We’ve included information on these updates as well as reminders sent to personal email addresses. OSBCU has hosted information meetings and made robocalls to members. “The Union” has gone above and beyond in order to make it as easy as possible for members to vote. Now it’s up to you – the members. I voted. My vote counts for the same as everyone else’s. **Make your decision before Sunday night at 6pm when voting closes online.** If you leave it until Saturday or Sunday and can’t reach anyone from the Local for assistance – you only have yourself to blame. And no, I won’t know results before anyone else but I will receive a list of people who have not voted from our Local. There will be a press conference on Monday to announce results with Laura and her OSBCU team.

Can’t find your voting email ? - [Click Here](#)

Consumer price index showing inflation rates for the past year in Ontario - [Click Here](#)

OSBCU Webinar with Laura Walton & Bargaining Team - https://youtu.be/yLr4iscLo_I

Various News Articles about OSBCU Proposals & Responses -

<https://springmag.ca/education-workers-fighting-back-interview-with-laura-walton>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/education-workers-strike-vote-ontario-1.6592863>

<https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/2022/08/11/ontario-school-support-staff-to-consider-strike-vote.html>

OSBCU Website with all Bargaining Updates – www.osbcu.ca

A HUGE Thank You! - I wanted to take a minute and recognize the huge task that certain people have undertaken for the betterment of our Local over the past few months. From members signing petitions to the photo challenge and now the Central Strike Vote organizing – it's been hundreds of hours of meetings after hours with OSBCU, days of planning and countless phone calls and driving around the city. None of this has just magically happened – it's happened because of people that want to see every single one of us benefit from a new and better contract. Every one of these members committed to do that, and they have. Next week, the mobilizing will be over and we'll turn things over to our Picket Captains and they can begin their work. And yes, there's more to come on that next week so please be patient as the focus on everything for the past few weeks from OSBCU has been getting members across the province to VOTE YES.

Please join me in reaching out to thank these members who have given up family time, evenings and weekends for your benefit. Without their hard work, our Local would not be as organized and ready as we are today.

Laurie Penner – Co-Lead Mobilizer Jason Atkinson – Co-Lead Mobilizer

Mobilizers – Michelle Madley, Chris Cosby, Kathleen Powell, Stephen Clarkin, Marilyn MacAloney, Renate Schrank

Local Bargaining Update – Today, your Local bargaining committee will be in talks with the employer all day. Proposals will be exchanged, issues discussed and there's always the possibility of a few fireworks depending on what we're discussing. **It would be great to see pics posted to the Facebook page (the one most of you are in LOL) of our members wearing purple to support your bargaining team today. I'm not in the group but I do get sent screenshots of the posts so wear your purple, snap a pic and post it and we'll be feeling your energy!**

Who To Call ? - When you have an issue, the vast majority of the time you should be contacting your supervisor first. Especially with Health & Safety issues as it's the law. We do have elected people to help if you think your supervisor is wrong or doesn't pay attention to your inquiry or concern. When talking to someone from the Local, don't be surprised if they ask if you have talked with your supervisor first.

Health & Safety issues – Supervisor first (by law), then one of our health & safety reps.

Collective Agreement, Overtime or School issues – Supervisor first, then one of our stewards. If the steward needs assistance, they will reach out to one of our Executive.

Once you have talked to your supervisor first – if you need to call a steward or h&s rep – please don't call more than one person. It ends up creating more work and calls for people that is wasteful. Leave your question with one person and let them get the answer for you. That's what you elected them to do.

As always, you can call our office at 905-544-7733 or email us at cupelocal4153@bellnet.ca and Janna will either find the answer for you or have one of our elected officials get in touch with you.

Unfortunately I will be off most or all of next week on bereavement and won't be answering my phone or emails for a few days. While I'm away, the P&P Connection (Patrick Cumbo & Pat Amatangelo) will be holding down the fort.

I hope you all have a great weekend – enjoy the weather and get outside before it really cools down and we're waiting for summer again!

Lastly, I'm so very proud of all of our members that have gotten involved, done your strike pay form, voted in the Central Strike Vote and have had conversations with your co-workers about our Central Bargaining. It's because of you caring about not only your job but the jobs your co-workers do, the students in our schools and all the jobs that will be done in public education a decade from now. I know in North America we face a constant barrage of "me first" and "do what's best for you" and "look after yourself and to hell with everyone else" and it's tough not to think like that – BUT YOU HAVE. Each one of us is placing the group above ourselves and doing the right thing for all of us. Thank you for that. By doing just that – we all win in the end. We have shown what 4153 is made of when it comes to rubber meeting the road.

Your YES votes have the ability to change the course of public education in Ontario and when it does, we'll be able to laugh at how tough this was to accomplish, the grey we added to our hair, the amount of coffee and caffeine we drank and the sleep we lost and be proud that we each did our part.

Cheers,

Blake