



Quick Update for September 28th, 2023

Recent Bomb Threats – Unfortunately, since last week our board, students and all staff have been under attack with multiple bomb threats. The stress, anxiety and personal issues this has caused many people can't be properly measured. Yesterday, a young person was arrested for at least one of the bomb threats according to local media. While I think we all hope this ends this string of incidents, I'm no confident in today's day that some will try and keep the confusion and panic going for their own enjoyment. Taking some time to read through the Bomb Threat Protocols in the Police/HWDSB Protocol document – we're making sure our members have the following information on hand for any future bomb threats in your buildings. If you have an interest in anything else that has to do with police issues in our buildings – you can Google “police HWDSB protocol” and it will take you right to the document and the bomb threat protocols are in Appendix C near the end of the document.

Important Takeaways for CUPE 4153 members:

- When a bomb threat is received at the school an announcement will be made by the principal or designate stating “Staff, please conduct a visual scan and notify office of results.” This is a code that everyone needs to be aware of that when you hear that announcement, there is a threat to your building. All staff are asked to look around their immediate surroundings and look for anything suspicious or out of place and report it to the office. We do not go through the building actively looking for things. If anything suspicious is found, walk away from that area and report it immediately to the office.
- If the threat is deemed credible by the Principal, designate or police – there will be a follow up announcement stating “This is an emergency evacuation, please take your personal items with you.”
- School is evacuated and students assemble in predetermined areas.
- When police or emergency responders arrive on scene – if exterior doors need to be opened for them to enter, caretaking staff is to open doors for them.
- When on scene, the police or emergency responders are in charge of the scene
- When the building has been deemed safe by the police, re-entry of staff and students can begin – caretaking staff to open exterior doors to allow re-entry.

Realizing that these incidents can cause a stressful and anxious atmosphere for most people involved, all of our members are encouraged to reach out to make use of our EAP provider Homewood Health for support in dealing with the feelings, emotions and fallout from these ridiculous incidents.

Feedback for our Christmas Party : The Social Committee is looking for our members input on what sort of dinner and setup we should follow for the Christmas Party. **There will be an online “vote” for lack of a better term that will be open from 5pm today until 10am on Friday.** The results will be sent to the Social Committee so they have that input when they meet on Saturday to start planning the event. If you are interested in attending (and I hope most of you are!) please let them know what your preferences are! Emails will be sent to all members just like when we vote in elections later today at 5pm when the voting opens.

Orange Shirt Day Friday – I could say a lot about indigenous people and their treatment in this country for a very long time, but I won't. We all know how bad it has been starting long before the residential schools and taking children from their homes and the continuing struggles they face today. Saturday is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and we will be observing that day in our schools on Friday. If you have something orange that you can wear on Friday – a tee shirt, a scarf or even a button, please do.



Stay safe, keep smiling!
Cheers,

Blake