



CUPE
EDUCATION
WORKERS

Members' bulletin

THE POWER OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

August 8, 2019

Town Hall Call - recap

Thanks to everyone who took part in the Town Hall call on Wednesday, August 7. For those who couldn't call in, I am sending this bulletin as a summary of the points covered.

Locals are welcome to use this bulletin when talking to CUPE members about central bargaining, upcoming strike votes, communicating with allies and meetings with Trustees and/or MPPs.

Highlights

Bargaining outlook

As you will know from the recent bargaining bulletin, CUPE requested the appointment of a conciliator from the Ministry of Labour following the response, by the Council of Trustees' Associations and the Crown, to CUPE's bargaining proposal. The proposals contained deep concessions beyond the status quo and would have very negative consequences for the services we provide in schools.

We hope the assistance of a conciliation officer will assist the parties in narrowing the issues at the central table when we meet next on August 14, 15, 20 and 21.

August 11 leadership meetings

According to OSBCU's bylaws, there must be a roll call vote of the leadership of the bargaining units to endorse bringing a strike vote to local membership.

The school board locals' leadership meeting takes place on Sunday, August 11. At this meeting, leaders will vote to endorse the proposed job action and also on taking the strike plan back to their members, who will take part in strike votes that locals will hold no later than September 15.

Strike votes

Many of the questions taken during the town hall concerned strike votes. It might be helpful to say again here:

- OSBCU and CUPE's recommendation is for locals to take central and local strike votes at the same time, even if you haven't started local bargaining with your school board.
- Strike votes and strike mandate votes are essentially the same thing.
- Getting a strong strike vote for both central and local bargaining is both a show of solidarity and lets the employer know that your members are ready to take job action. This is important centrally but is important for local tables as well, even if local bargaining has not yet begun.
- The deadline for locals to take strike votes is September 15.

Communicating directly with members

Once again, we are asking locals to ensure that they can contact all their members via personal emails/phone/home addresses and to share those contact details with CUPE and OSBCU.

The union -- both at the local level and provincially through the OSBCU -- has a duty of fair representation to its members, and that duty includes prompt, effective communications.

Political action

Political pressure on decision makers will help to protect quality public education and jobs for education workers.

CUPE locals and members are urged to:

1. Join with parents' groups, students' associations and other community groups
2. Contact trustees regarding the importance of the services we provide and encourage them to speak to their association.
3. Contact their MPPs and let them know that funding cuts are hurting students.

Lobby kits, talking points and draft letters will be available to help locals with this work.

In solidarity,



Laura Walton
OSBCU President

Email: lwalton@osbcu.ca

COPE491/phw