W.R.D.S.B. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION

eUpdate

The Latest Information to Keep YOU Informed

Dear Members:

The purpose of this email is to update you regarding Central Bargaining.

We met with the Crown and Trustee Associations on Monday and Tuesday this week during which time we continued to raise our most pressing issues including; the need to meaningfully increase compensation, the need to provide full time work and full time wages for those who do not have it, and the ongoing need to address the many Health and Safety issues our Members face daily. In particular we raised concerns about our School Board's inability to attract and retain workers and the negative impact this is having on our Members and in our schools where thousands of our students are going without the support they need on a daily basis.

We have yet to receive a meaningful response on any of these issues. Rather, the Crown and Trustee's have avoided addressing these issues directly with us and instead we find ourselves spending hours and days being drawn into conversations about revisiting and revising the bargaining process. Requests to have our employers at the bargaining table are being denied, as are our requests for information we feel is needed to bargain successfully.

The Crown and Trustee's official bargaining position remains unchanged from our opening day – they are proposing negligible wage increases as well as strips to our sick pay and benefits. That said, the Crown and Trustee's have also informally indicated that an agreement similar to that of CUPE workers could be available. While that is an option we are certainly exploring, it is difficult to engage in such a discussion when so many of our pressing issues

While it is still our hope that an agreement can be reached peacefully, job action at some point in the future can no longer be ruled out. Rest assured that we will give our Members plenty of notice should we decide to go down that road.

Two more bargaining days have been tentatively scheduled in April. We will provide further updates at that time.

Yours in solidarity,

Colleen Dietrich Sisson. Lisa Weiler Haskins
President - EAA. Vice President - EAA

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