

PEEL LOCAL BARGAINING

MYTHS AND FACTS

Myth: No progress has been made in local bargaining.

Fact: The Peel District School Board and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)-Peel have agreed on over 100 individual clauses and 24 articles or letters of agreements. That reflects real, factual progress in local negotiations. Certainly, not a rationale for strike action.

Myth: The board has not met enough with OSSTF-Peel.

Fact: Including Thursday, Friday and the entire weekend, the board has met 11 times with OSSTF-Peel to negotiate local issues—about the same number of times that the board and federation would have met in the past to negotiate a full agreement.

Myth: The board has not been serious at the table.

Fact: On Feb. 19, 2015, the local presented their brief and the board tabled a full response on March 3, 2015.

Myth: The board has not agreed with what OSSTF-Peel presented.

Fact: That's what negotiations are for. The reality is OSSTF-Peel started with a position that would be impossible for any school board to agree to—one that dramatically stripped negotiated management rights and with a price tag of over \$7.3 million dollars.

Myth: The federation has been without a contract since August—why did the board not meet earlier?

Fact: The contract expired in August 2014, but we could not legally begin local negotiations until the decision was made at the provincial level about which are provincial bargaining issues and which are local. That happened mid-December. Dates were set with OSSTF-Peel in January and we received their full brief Feb. 19, 2015.

Myth: The board has not taken the OSSTF-Peel proposal seriously.

Fact: The board replied to the proposal in full and has fully responded to each subsequent proposal. In fact, we asked for the strike to be paused while we continued to negotiate.

Myth: No agreement was reached because of board strips and items to negatively impact working conditions.

Fact: No. There are no strips on the table other than the OSSTF proposals to strip negotiated management rights. There are no working condition proposals from the board.

Myth: The board wants to increase class size, limit prep time, freeze salaries and benefits.

Fact: If teachers have been told this, it is not true. None of those issues are at the local table.

Myth: The board has aligned itself with the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA).

Fact: OPSBA is not involved in any way in our local negotiations. OPSBA represents the board at the provincial table because that is what the legislation requires.

Myth: This is a strike about local issues.

Fact: Not the case. There is nothing at the local table that would historically ever have been a reason to strike.

Myth: Peel was targeted because it was so far behind in negotiations.

Fact: None of the seven boards chosen by provincial OSSTF were picked for any reason other than strategy. The reality is the Peel board is farther ahead on local negotiations than almost any board in the province.

Myth: The board is criticizing local teachers engaged in fair bargaining.

Fact: Absolutely not. We have incredible respect for our Peel secondary teachers. They are dedicated professionals, committed to student success. We also respect the local bargaining process and have shown a willingness to work in negotiations with OSSTF-Peel—as we always have. But, we will stand up against the use of our students by provincial OSSTF as a strategy to create pressure at the provincial level—that is not fair—that is not right.