

WLC/B Committee

November 24, 2021

Name: Jesse Taylor

Site Issues

Several sites reported significant violations of class size & composition language, including one example where a class has 9 designated students, and no extra support. Several sites mentioned over-full skills blocks, and the apparent lack of a district plan to support inclusion in secondary classrooms. There was discussion of the role of site-based Timetabling Committees in reviewing and addressing these violations.

An issue was raised regarding the ongoing lack of callouts for TTOCs, in light of reports of increased failures to fill at school sites. Reps were made aware of an online form to collect failure to fill data from sites. WLC/B reps have been asked to support the collection of this data at their worksites.

A number of factors that are having a negative impact on morale and the working conditions of members were discussed, including declining student behaviour (vaping at school, disrespect and indignant attitudes towards teachers), TikTok challenges (filming teachers and violating members' privacy), and parent-teacher conferences being longer than needed (and being repeated each semester).

VTF Local Bargaining Update

The chair provided an update on bargaining progress, including the agreement with VESTA on the composition of the bargaining team, and what has been accomplished at the table with the employer over the first two bargaining sessions (primarily agreement on the bargaining protocols and discussion of each side's bargaining objectives). At the time of the committee meeting, proposals had yet to be exchanged. Bargaining dates are currently scheduled weekly until the end of January.

Semester 1 Reporting

Feedback was sought from reps on the latest reporting period.

- The frequency of reports (a new report to be generated almost every month) results in a draining workload on members. When combined with the policy to not print paper reports at most sites, this leads to the feeling that members are doing a lot of work, that is not being looked at by parents and students.
- The detailed comments required are a significant increase in work (compared to past years), and consensus in this committee is that we need more time to complete this work for it to be meaningfully done – such as a non-instructional day to prepare reports.
- After some discussion around the timing of posting of grades, it was noted that with the move to proficiency scale grading, it is as important as ever that students are regularly updated on their grades, so that the final reports are not a surprise. Students can be involved in generating the report card comments to help them be more meaningful.

Remedy 2020-2021

Inaccessible remedy from the 20-21 school year is now available to be used for professional development expenses, or school resources. Teachers with remedy funds to spend should submit requests for reimbursement to their school site accountant (not the VSTA office).