

OPC

Thames Valley

Information Update

September 2014

President's Remarks

Welcome back and best wishes for the upcoming school year! On behalf of your OPC executive, we hope each of you enjoyed some down time with family and friends these past two months and are ready to go for what will likely prove to be another challenging school year provincially. As your 2014-15 OPC president, I am also fully aware that this past summer presented some unprecedented and often frustrating hiring timelines and scenarios in which all of us were obligated to accommodate as required. Please, be assured that your executive worked closely with central staff who were responsible for creating the various procedural hiring practices for new contract teachers, according to the non-negotiable guidelines provided through Reg. 274. In my opinion, central staff did an exceptional job at both soliciting and hearing all of our concerns and created the best go-forward plan possible given the unique parameters they had to work with.

Congratulations to those of you promoted to new positions and to those of you at new postings. We extend a special welcome to new administrators and new OPC members and we look forward to meeting you at future meetings. This is certainly an exciting time in your careers and you can count on the support of your OPC colleagues as you work through the highs and lows of the role.

In addition to our regularly scheduled general meetings, we are planning an after school OPC/Senior Admin social at the Wolseley Barracks on Thursday, October 2, 3:30–6:30 pm. Stay tuned for more details but mark the date on your calendars. The social will give us all the opportunity to reconnect and meet informally with our colleagues. This opportunity was very well received last year - looking forward to seeing you there!

Our three general meetings give us the opportunity to build strong relationships, to stay informed and to be updated on important issues concerning all of us. Please make every effort to join us for all three meetings as your presence and contributions make our organization even stronger. Our first general dinner meeting is scheduled for November 6 at the Stoneridge Inn.

Your local OPC Executive is here to support you and feel free to contact any of our members listed below should you have concerns and suggestions; your input and feedback are important to us. We will continue to have regular meetings with our Associate Directors and central staff where we can raise issues concerning our members. You are also encouraged to check out the provincial OPC website where you can find out more about the supports available to you.

In conclusion, if you haven't done so already please make sure you take the opportunity to review our recently negotiated Terms and Conditions, posted on First Class. Although this agreement expires on August 31, 2014, it will continue to be in effect as it rolls forward, until such revisions have been negotiated and agreed upon by your TVDSB OPC negotiation team and senior administration.

As I begin my one year tenure as your OPC Thames Valley President, I have taken a moment to reflect on OPC's Mission statement, 'Exemplary Leadership in Public Education'. With so many new administrators in their first couple of years, it is important for them (as well as for those of us who are more seasoned in the role) to create a sustainable professional plan to keep themselves well and maintain the passion and incredible energy and resiliency

required to be successful for the long term, in this role. I would suggest that in order to best achieve this mission statement, all of us need to commit to a plan that will allow us to best maintain our personal wellness, all the while serving our students and school communities. Strive to determine the balance that works for you and make it happen. Take the time to call a colleague to chat every once in a while. Take a lieu day every so often (guilt free), if only to recharge your batteries after a tough school issue. Give yourself permission to not be perfect, and call a colleague you trust when you need help. Chances are, someone has dealt with the very same issue you are struggling with. You are the anchor of your school, and to be the best you can be, please keep yourself well!

On behalf of our local OPC Executive, I look forward to serving you and wish you a very successful school year.

Jason Pratt
President, OPC Thames Valley

OPC - Thames Valley Elections

The following is the OPC Thames Valley 2014 - 2015 Executive

President: Jason Pratt

President Elect: Michael Deeb

Past President: Paul Panayi

Vice President: Andy Rivett

Vice President: Margaret Sullivan

Secretary: Linda Carswell

Treasurer: Scott Armstrong

Provincial Councillors: Linda Mills, Andrew Smith, Dave Westaway

Members At Large: Tiffany Birtch, Sylvie Blais, Susan Bruyns, Greg Howard, AnnMarie Luce, Paul McKenzie, Andy Orr, Scott Purvis, Regina Smith, Paul Sydor, Janet Williamson

Executive Member Portfolios

Terms & Conditions – P. Sydor, D. Westaway, P. Panayi, J. Pratt

TVSSAC – M. Deeb

TVACE – L Carswell

Professional Development – A. Luce, A. Smith, A. Orr

Membership Involvement – L. Carswell, A. Smith

OPC Scholarship – S. Purvis, A. Smith

Meeting Dates for 2014-2015

General Meetings and Executive Meetings

General Dinner Meetings

Nov.6/14	4:00 p.m.	Stoneridge
Feb.12/15	4:00 p.m.	Stoneridge
May 14/15	4:00 p.m.	Stoneridge

The November and May General Dinner Meetings will retain the format of past years with a social time starting at 4:00 followed by a brief business meeting at 5:00, Dinner at 6:00 and a Professional Development component following dinner.

The February General Meeting will involve a more informal format. Details will be forthcoming.

These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to network with colleagues and we encourage all OPC members to attend.

Executive Meetings

Aug.26/14	3:00 p.m.	
Oct.2/14	8:00 a.m.	Stoneridge
Nov.6/14	1:00 p.m.	Stoneridge
Dec.4/14	8:00 a.m.	Stoneridge
Jan.8/15	8:00 a.m.	Stoneridge
Feb.5/15	8:00 a.m.	Stoneridge
Mar.5/15	8:00 a.m.	Stoneridge
Apr.2/15	8:00 a.m.	Stoneridge
May 7/15	8:00 a.m.	Stoneridge
June 11/15	To Be Determined	

Member Personal Information Update

Members are reminded that whenever they experience a change in assignment or location it is important that they report the changes to OPC Provincial at 1-800-701-2362 or www.principals.on.ca to ensure that their personal records are up to date.

OPC Assistance

Members are reminded that, if at any time they find themselves in a situation where they have questions or feel the need for additional support, they are encourage to contact OPC either locally or provincially.

The local executive would be happy to provide advice or assistance up to and including supporting members in a difficult meeting situation where such support is requested.

Where the situation would be better handled by provincial representation your local executive will encourage members to seek that assistance while providing the support possible at the local level.

OPC both locally and provincially are there to support the members. Please do not hesitate to seek this assistance at any time.

OPC Thames Valley Priorities for 2014-2015

- a) To maintain ongoing communications with our members regarding issues and concerns
- b) To ensure that new appointees are welcomed and made aware of the role of OPC and encourage involvement.
- c) To promote exemplary leadership through our support of Professional Development, mentorship, member recognition and networking opportunities for administrators.
- d) To maintain positive relations with Senior Administration in supporting the interests of our members.
- e) To advocate for the best possible Terms & Conditions for administrators.

Member Involvement

Frequently OPC is asked to provide representatives to various system committees and work groups. The process that is followed when these requests are made is as follows:

- 1) An e-mail message is sent to all OPC members regarding the request to see what members are interested.
- 2) The member(s) is contacted about serving on the committee and the person requesting our representation is made aware of the member that will represent OPC.
- 3) Members who represent OPC on various committees are expected to provide ongoing updates to the executive member who contacted them about serving on the committee.

It is our hope to utilize the interest and expertise of as many of our members as possible.

*** It is important to be aware that on occasion these requests are received with a very short time line which may make it impossible to send out an e-mail and wait for responses and on these occasions the selection of a representative will be made by the appropriate executive member.**

TVDSB Professional Development Offerings:

Consult the First Class e-mail system for a list of workshops being offered by the system staff development personnel.

Principals Qualification Programs:

If you or colleagues that you know are interested in taking the Principals Qualification Programs this year please access all of the information regarding the courses on the OPC web site at www.principals.on.ca or by calling OPC at 1-800-701-2362.

OPC Thames Valley Web Site

To access the OPC Thames Valley web site please do the following:

- 1) Go to the OPC Provincial web site at www.principals.on.ca and log on.
- 2) Select **LINKS**.
- 3) Select Local OPC Websites
- 4) Select Thames Valley DSB

The OPC Thames Valley web site will be static rather than interactive in nature and will provide general information about our organization.

OPC Scholarship Awards:

OPC members may make application to OPC - Thames Valley on behalf of their children for an educational scholarship. A committee is established annually, reviews all applications and selects the recipients. Detailed information on the application process and timeline will be sent out in the near future.

Your Executive At Work

Some of the issues that the executive has been dealing with recently include:

- Principal and Vice Principal Symposiums
- Terms & Conditions
- Reg.274
- Student Teachers
- Principal/VP Workload
- Support for the Large Cohort of New Administrators

Jason Pratt
OPC Thames Valley President
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