

October 8, 2020

September has flown by, but most of us feel as if we have been back at work for several months. The constant changes, and uncertainty and the rise in COVID 19 numbers have been daily stressors for all. Adapting to new daily routines and workload demands has been exhausting for all of us.

### **Big Changes Coming to Elementary Schools**

We are somewhat aware that the Board will be implementing a realignment of all classes for elementary schools. Our understanding is that the “in school” teacher will be responsible for delivering education to a combination of in school students as well as virtual students. There will be some virtual classes, but the majority of classes will be a blended model. This realignment may impact staffing; however the Board has not provided the details. I can only imagine the additional workload and issues that will have to be resolved to reassign students to new classes.

We also understand that Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup> will be a “turn around day” and students will not be in school. Staff will report to work as normal. CUPE 2331 has expressed concerns with the extremely short notice to our members who need to make child care arrangements for Tuesday. To be clear, CUPE 2331 had NO input on this realignment and we have very few details.

As should be the case, we anticipate that the Board will clearly communicate the details of this plan to parents, employees, and the Union ASAP. We understand that there will be a system wide communication to parents and staff on Wednesday evening.

As with everything that has come our way this school year, we endeavour to do our best. We also expect that the employer does their best to ensure a smooth transition by providing proper communication, instruction, and a manageable workload to make this transition successful.

A gentle reminder to all our members that “doing your best” does not mean working yourself to the point of mental breakdown.

**General Membership Meeting** – plans are in the works to hold a virtual general membership meeting in the next few weeks. More info to follow.

Wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving, albeit much different than we hoped.

In Solidarity,  
Mary Di Federico  
President CUPE 2331