

E.T.F.O. Durham PAC Meeting

February 29, 2012

Present: Pam Harrison, Barb Haynes, Megan Staples, Mary Fowler, Neil Redknapp

Regrets: Gerard O'Neill, Kent Clark, Cheryl Fleury-Eekma, Andres Musta, Joanna Bowman

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:50.

The ETFO Human Rights Statement was read by Barb Haynes.

2. Previous Minutes:

The minutes from the December 20 PAC meeting were presented.

Motion #1

Moved by: Megan Staples
Seconded by: Barb Haynes

That the minutes from the December 20 PAC meeting be approved. CARRIED

3. Business Arising From The Minutes:

The PAC discussed our plan to sponsor skiing, tobogganing and skating nights for cities around Durham to help promote our ETFO local in the community. We decided that since the weather has become warmer, we would focus our sponsorship on a spring/summer activity. We agreed that to sponsor an event in the winter season, we would look at arranging that in September 2012.

Our committee was pleased at the positive reaction to the last Standing Together newsletter. We noticed an increase in how active our members were at our schools and we were pleased to hear members discussing issues that were raised in the newsletter. The PAC would like to continue this dialogue with our membership by having more articles for the newsletter submitted by our members.

Our school trustee social that we had been planning has been put on hold, pending direction from the Local Executive.

At our next PAC meeting, we will be brainstorming ideas on how the PAC can support the Collective Bargaining Committee. We feel this is an important issue to discuss since our political voice applies to the work the Collective Bargaining Committee is doing.

The PAC encourages members to stay unified, and to obtain their information on Collective Bargaining from the ETFO Durham website and the ETFO Provincial website.

4. New Business:

Budget: The PAC will ask for a budget of \$17,000 for 2012-2013. Our budget for 2011-2012 was \$24,000 but included in that \$24,000 were funds allocated for elections. The PAC looks forward to using their funds in 2012-2013 for union action support (including events outside of the ETFO Durham local),

sponsorships and donations as well as workshops and events that support our PAC Terms of Reference.

Sponsorships: The PAC received 2 sponsorships requests. One was from the Durham Family Court Clinic to help sponsor their CANVAS Youth Art and Soul Auction & Exhibition on March 29, 2012 and the other was from Cartwright Soccer. The PAC is supportive of youth in communities around Durham and agreed to approve both sponsorship requests.

Motion #2

Moved by: Pam Harrison
Seconded by: Barb Haynes

That the PAC sponsor the Durham Family Court Clinic's CANVAS Youth Art and Soul Auction & Exhibition in the amount of \$500. CARRIED

Motion #3

Moved by: Barb Haynes
Seconded by: Megan Staples

That the PAC sponsor a Cartwright soccer team for the summer season. CARRIED

The PAC is also looking at supporting Village Union Public School in their fundraising efforts for new playground equipment. We will find out more information regarding cost, and might be able to vote on this motion at our next meeting.

Standing Together: We are looking at putting together a new issue of Standing Together. The PAC would like ETFO Durham members who have been part of political action in the past, to submit articles. The articles could take the form of stories or experiences members have had with work action, or their reflections on how contract negotiations have improved their working conditions.

At our next PAC meeting on Tuesday, March 20, we will plan out how we would like to inform members about our upcoming Standing Together newsletter. Our current plan is to have newsletter submissions in by April 6. The PAC would meet on April 10 to review the submissions we receive. This would give us 2 weeks to create the final newsletter that would be sent to ETFO stewards by the end of April.

Union History Workshop: We have selected May 15 as our date to hold a union history workshop at our ETFO Durham local. At our next meeting, we will brainstorm a list of possible guest speakers to contact for the event. The PAC will send out a flyer to all ETFO Durham members closer to the date. The workshop is being planned to run from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm and dinner will be provided. We will also advertise the workshop at the AGM on May 9.

5. Other:

The bus trip to London in support of the Electro-Motive workers was a great event. There was fantastic support and representation from different locals.

On April 18, the Canadian Labour Congress and the Durham Region Labour Council are presenting a free workshop on Effective Lobbying Strategies and Tactics. The workshop runs from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the CAW Hall, 1425 Phillip Murray Avenue in Oshawa. Dinner will be provided. Any interested members can contact Erin Harrison (eharrison@clc-ctc.ca) to register for the session.

The PAC and ETFO Durham is going to look at incorporating QR codes (Quick Response Codes) on their correspondence to ETFO Durham members regarding contract negotiations. By being able to scan

a QR code on their smartphones that links to a mobile website on ETFO Collective Bargaining updates, this may engage more of our members as a way to stay informed with upcoming contract negotiations.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 20 at 4:30 pm.

6. Adjournment:

Motion #4

Moved by: Pam Harrison

Seconded by: Mary Fowler

That the meeting be adjourned at 6:15. CARRIED

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