1st Annual Mentorship Awards
Nomination Now Being Accepted

The District 20 Teachers’ Bargaining Unit will annually recognize mentors with an award at the President’s Celebration Dinner in June. This year’s venue is the Holiday Inn Burlington Banquet Centre.

An essential part of the teaching profession is the ability and willingness of so many teachers to become mentors to their colleagues on a voluntary basis. True mentoring is more than just answering occasional questions or providing ad hoc help. It is about an ongoing relationship of learning, dialogue, and challenge.

To be eligible, the nominator and nominee must be members of the District 20 Teachers’ Bargaining Unit. The mentorship must have taken place in the current school year.

Members of District 20 TBU can nominate another member as deserving of recognition for their mentorship on or before May 6th by writing a letter to TBU President Brad Fisher outlining the reasons why the nominee should be recognized.

Supreme Court Cases Delay
OSSTF’s Bill 115 Challenge
UNIFOR wishes to join challenge!

OSSTF, Toronto Two weeks ago, the judge assigned to the OSSTF/FEESO Bill 115 Charter challenge, Justice Himel, held a meeting or case management conference of all the lawyers representing the unions (OSSTF, ETFO, CUPE, OPSEU) involved in the case and the Attorney General lawyers representing the government. Last week, Justice Himel issued a decision on the basis of the meeting.

During the case management conference, the Attorney-General requested an adjournment (postponement) of the June 2014 hearing dates set aside by the Ontario Court to hear the Bill 115 Charter challenge. The Attorney General’s postponement request stemmed from two issues:

1. Three cases similar in nature to OSSTF/FEESO’s Bill 115 case are currently being argued before the Supreme Court of Canada. The Attorney General presented the argument that the law is currently changing on the meaning of the protections for collective bargaining and strike action under s. 2(d) of the Charter. The current cases before the Supreme Court will shape and form the law and will be very instructive to the Judge hearing OSSTF/FEESO’s Bill 115 challenge. They argued that on a practical basis, the Court dates in June 2014 will be wasted because all parties will have to return following the Supreme Court’s decision to address the updated law;

2. Another union wishes to intervene in the Bill 115 Challenge. UNIFOR believes that it has a direct interest in the Charter Challenge because some of its members were affected by Bill 115. It has requested to join the proceeding and file materials, and wants some time to be able to do so.

We sought legal advice on the request to postpone the Bill 115 Charter Challenge. While not pleased with a postponement, the Provincial Executive accepted the advice recognizing that Justice Himel was likely to grant it because it made sense from a legal perspective.

Justice Himel granted the adjournment thus cancelling the hearing date initially scheduled for June 2014. While we were advised by Justice

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Himel last week that the matter would be
adjourned until March 2015, the actual date was
contested due to the unavailability of some of the
parties. As a result, we are still waiting for
confirmation of the actual hearing date.

We anticipate that it will likely take place
sometime during April 2015. Once
the final date is con-

clusive Educator Award
Nominations Accepted Until April 15th
In order to raise awareness, understanding,
and appreciation of diversity, and to help
eliminate bias, prejudice, stereotyping,
discrimination and harassment related to race,
ethnicity, language, gender, sexual orientation, or
religion in Halton schools, this award is given to
recognize and encourage a secondary teacher
whose active participation in activities, events,
and/or curriculum development at the board or
school level have contributed to advancing these
goals in Halton’s schools.

The Inclusive Educator Award will be made at
the Annual Teacher Bargaining Unit Assembly on
May 13th. The award consists of a plaque, and
$500, donated each year by the founder of this
award, a retired Halton secondary school teacher.

Nomination letters should be sent to Lorie
Wiersma wiersmal@osstf20.ca at the District
Office.

The Executive of the Teacher Bargaining Unit
will select the recipient from the nominations
received by April 15th at 4 p.m.

BOB SMITH AWARD
Nominations Accepted Until April 15th
This award is to honour a member who has made
a contribution to the Union over a considerable
period of time of service to the Bargaining Unit or
District.

Experience considered by the committee may
include having served as Branch President,
Executive member, Standing Committee member
or member of a Provincial Standing Committee,
AMPA representative, or workshop provider.

Nomination letters should be sent to Lorie
Wiersma wiersmal@osstf20.ca at the District
Office.

The Executive of the Teacher Bargaining Unit
will select the recipient from the nominations
received by April 15th at 4 p.m.

Key Dates
Critical Path for Secondary Staffing

March 28/31 Teachers who are potentially surplus
to school notified by principal.

April 8 Internal ad. Open to all permanent
and probationary teachers, including those
potentially surplus to school. No top-up allowed.
Not open to teachers declared potentially redundant.

April 10 Teachers who are surplus to school
notified in writing.

April 22 Deadline for surplus teachers to submit preference form to HR.

April 29 Surplus Placement meeting. Surplus
teachers placed in available vacancies according to
seniority and qualifications. Surplus teachers who
are placed in another school no longer need to notify
the Board of their wish to retain right of recall to
their home school. The Board is assuming they wish
to retain that right.

April 30 Last day for notification to Board of
intent to retire as of June 30.

May 2 Surplus teachers who were considered
at the Surplus Placement meeting on April 29 are
notified of their status. A surplus teacher will either
(a) have been placed in another school, with right of
recall to the home school, or (b) have been declared
potentially excess to region.

May 6 Internal ad. Open to all
permanent/probationary teachers. Not open to
teachers who have been declared potentially excess
to region/potentially redundant. Top-up allowed
only if there are no excess/redundant teachers.

May 20 Internal ad. Same conditions as May
6.

May 30 Teachers on excess/redundancy list
notified in writing of their status as redundant to the
system effective August 31.

June 5 Excess/redundancy Placement
meeting. Excess/redundant teachers placed in
available vacancies according to seniority and
qualifications.

After June 5 Excess/redundant teachers, if any,
placed in available vacancies, as they arise,
according to seniority and qualifications.