

DECEMBER 2019

## WELCOME TO NEW FACES

Welcome to Stephanie Malinsky, our new school board coordinator. Many of us will know Stephanie from her great work with CUPE Ontario before joining National Staff. Stephanie's skills with member mobilization, organization and attention to detail are a great asset to our team. Welcome, Stephanie!

Also welcome to the many new local presidents and local executive members who have joined the OSBCU team in the last year. Our local activists are key to our successes at the bargaining table and on the streets. Welcome aboard.

## VP PORTFOLIOS

Congratulations to the following OSBCU area vice-presidents, who have taken on special areas of responsibility and who will make sure that OSBCU is on track to reaching its objectives:

- Event planning – Nora Shaughnessy (VP, Area 4)
- Education – Mike Galipeau (VP, Area 6)
- Provincial Politics – Liz Harrison (VP, Area 5)
- Local Political Landscape – Dave Géroux (VP, Area 1)
- Coalition Partners – Jason McFarlane (VP Area 3B)
- Campaigns – Tammy Graham (VP, Area 7)
- Equity – Keith Levere (VP, Area 2)

## The journey to defining ourselves: a look back at where we started

The year 2019 was a dynamic year for OSBCU. As a council representing 55,000 education workers, we worked together with our allies to highlight the key services that we provide our students, our schools and our communities. We pushed forward on the issues facing us as members and our students. We ensured that not only the public was aware of the key services we provided, but also stood in solidarity with us.

How did we do it?

- **Engagement:** we engaged CUPE members, our communities and our colleagues
- **Mobilization:** we had a plan that leaders contributed to, then they owned it and executed it
- **Lead:** we set the course for all other education allies to follow

Then what did we see? CUPE education workers ready to protect safety, security, services and student success. Students stood up for us. Parents stood with us. Allies walked alongside us.

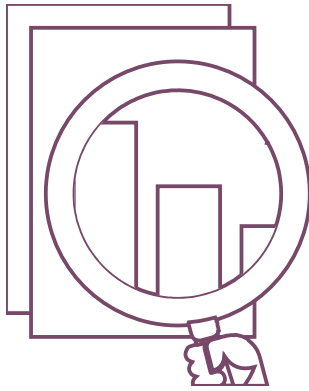
We defended education services for students and for ourselves and got a central agreement to be proud of. Granted, the 1% wage increase was bargained in the shadow of Bill 124 and doesn't reflect what CUPE members deserve. That's why we are looking ahead to the next three years to figure out how we can address such issues as low pay and violence in the workplace, and make them issues that resonate with CUPE members, elected representatives and the public.

To continue with our commitment to communication with our locals and public, we will be launching a monthly newsletter. A contest will be launched in January for members to name our new newsletter. Be watching for details!

In solidarity,



Laura Walton



## Ways and Means Committee

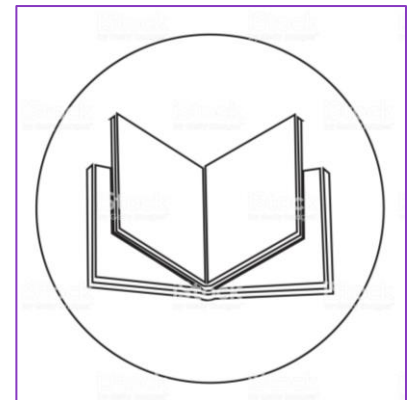
Congratulations to Sister Laurie Lucciola of CUPE 5555 and Brother Scott Franklin of CUPE 3987, the new members-at-large on OSBCU's 2020 Ways and Means Committee.

This committee works to review the OSBCU budget for presentation at our annual convention and makes recommendations regarding the council's budget. They will join Policy Committee members Kimberly MacMichael, Dave Géroux and Liz Harrison on January 15 at the OSBCU offices for the first committee meeting of 2020.

## Bylaws Committee

Congratulations to Sister Alex Millican of CUPE 4186 and Brother Anthony Cutrone from SCFP 4299, the new members on OSBCU's 2020 Bylaws Committee.

They joined OSBCU executive members Mike Galipeau and Liz James on November 19 and 20 to review all submitted bylaw amendments and prepare the package of amendments for the membership. This package will accompany the second call for convention in the new year and amendments will be debated on the floor of convention. Thank you to all locals that submitted amendments.



## Envisioning our power: building, fostering and promoting



Laura Walton remembers: "I think a turning point for CUPE education workers was the Rally for Education at Queen's Park on April 6. Our members came from all over the province and joined with thousands of students, teachers, parents and other supporters. It was a demonstration of our power and I believe we as education workers began to think differently about our power and our ability to stand up for students and the services they need."

## **OSBCU office – nearly ready!**

We've had a long wait, but OSBCU will soon have its own dedicated office on the ground floor of the CUPE's Ontario regional office at 80 Commerce Valley Drive.

If you are in the ORO area, please stop by for a visit.



## **Workplace violence is still the issue**

Our new central agreement provides, for the first time, a half-day training for all CUPE education workers on the prevention and de-escalation of violence.

But there is still more to be done to address the issue of violence facing education workers.

That's why OSBCU is building on results of previous surveys we've done and partnering with University of Ottawa researchers. They have prepared an in-depth survey for all CUPE education workers and are planning one-on-one interviews with about 30 of us, to put together a complete picture

The goal is to raise awareness about the violence education workers face and use that to mobilize political pressure to win significant improvements. From now until spring, the work will focus on the survey and how we will mobilize for political action around the results.

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## **OSBCU Convention 2020**

**February 24 to 28**

**Sheraton Centre Hotel, 123 Queen St West, Toronto**

If you haven't been to an OSBCU convention before (or an OSBCC conference before that), why not ask your local president about attending this year? We appreciate seeing old faces at OSBCU events, but new faces are very welcome too. We hope you can join us and see what OSBCU has to offer members of its affiliated locals. Registration packages will be sent to locals in the new year.

## Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night ...

... can break the bonds of solidarity forged between Ontario's education unions. Tougging it out at an education rally are (left to right): OSSTF's Harvey Bischof; ETFO's Sam Hammond; CUPE/OSBCU's Laura Walton, and OECTA's Liz Stuart.



## Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday



To all our OSBCU Executive, Local Executives and of course our 55000 members. You've worked extremely hard over this past year, and it shows in the success you've helped your locals achieve. Thank you for being wonderful members of our team.

## Success stories

If you and your local have a story to tell about how you took on an employer, mobilized members or thought outside the box about bargaining support, share it with OSBCU and we'll share it with the world! (or at least our readers). CUPE locals 1280, 1328 and 3155 at Toronto Catholic District School Board will be our focus for the January edition.

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