

## Delegates

---

**Subject:** FW: Written submission to Emergency Committee of the Whole, May 12

Dear TDSB Trustees

While I understand from Trustee Chernos-Lin's comment on Twitter that it was never the intention to suggest that synchronous learning be implemented between teachers and students, it would appear that the press attention around the emergency motion related to student engagement that you are set to consider today has, at least in part, resulted in a pronouncement from the Minister that Boards ensure this happen.

On behalf of the Members of OSSTF Toronto I ask you to consider the following

1. The Presidents of the Teacher Bargaining Unit, PSSP Bargaining Unit and OT Bargaining Unit are each meeting weekly with senior management at the Board to discuss issues related to emergency-remote learning. These meetings have been ongoing first informally, and now formally since the week after March Break. During those meetings we have spent hours deliberating how best to ensure that students all feel supported and engaged. To suggest this is not already happening does a disservice to the dozens and dozens of hours we have all put into this already.
2. Among the issues considered is the fact that Members of our Bargaining Units are, like everyone else, working from home. Many have their own children home with them. Some are single parents. Others have partners who are working outside the home and are home alone during working hours with their children. Some have living conditions which afford them little to no private work space. In spite of this, all OSSTF Toronto members have made it their mission to work their hardest to connect with students. Phone calls are being made, emails are being sent. Just last night (Sunday night) one member was online with a student for two hours assisting with connectivity issues.
3. Synchronous learning is not something OSSTF can or will support as a requirement of emergency-remote learning. The Ontario College of Teachers [professional advisory on use of electronic communication](#) points out the pitfalls that teacher members face, particularly where synchronous use of the internet with students is involved. Further, a requirement of synchronous learning has major privacy implications for students

While I understand that parents may have questions about what may appear to some to be an uneven implementation of programming since schools were closed, rather than suggesting -as you do through this motion - that there is something more the Board and OSSTF members could be doing to solve this issue, you may want to consider that the Director has repeatedly told parents not to expect there to be a one-size-fits-all approach to emergency-remote learning and know that every single one of the members of OSSTF Toronto is already doing their best to support students.

A motion of support and thanks to the employees of this Board who have turned their entire personal worlds upside down to do their best to meet the Minister's ill-conceived approach to school programming during the school closure period might be a good substitute for your current motion, or at the least, should be considered as a partner to it.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Leslie Wolfe, President

OSSTF Toronto  
#300-1482 Bathurst Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5P 3H1  
416-393-8900 X240

Leslie Wolfe, President  
OSSTF Toronto  
#300-1482 Bathurst Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5P 3H1  
416-393-8900 X240

*'Like' us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/osstftoronto>*  
*Follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/OSSTFtoronto>*