

February 4, 2016

Colin Matthew  
President, OSSTF District 15  
PO Box 912  
Lindsay, ON K9V 5N3

Sent via email: [president@osstfd15.net](mailto:president@osstfd15.net)

Dear Mr. Matthew;

I am writing to you today to formally request that OSSTF District 15 agree to refer the outstanding items from collective bargaining with Trillium Lakelands District School Board to interest arbitration. We are disappointed that we have been unable to reach an agreement with our secondary teacher and occasional teacher bargaining unit despite the fact we have been able to reach agreements with all of our other local unions and with another OSSTF bargaining unit. We believe that successful negotiations with those groups demonstrates our commitment to achieving fair and reasonable local collective agreements.

We are confident that an interest arbitrator will be able to assist the parties in reaching a fair and reasonable collective agreement with our secondary teachers and occasional teachers. We have tried, without success, to negotiate such an agreement directly with your bargaining unit and with the assistance of a provincial mediator.

If both parties are of the view that their respective positions are fair and reasonable, there should be no objection to allowing an interest arbitrator to decide the outstanding issues so that a collective agreement can be finalized for the bargaining unit.

This option for interest arbitration, in the Board's view, ensures that students are not negatively impacted by OSSTF strike action and that secondary school teachers and occasional teachers can focus on their students and leave the outstanding collective bargaining dispute to be resolved through arbitration. The Board believes that an agreement to proceed by way of interest arbitration has the advantage of ensuring that both quality education and positive labour relations will prevail.

We look forward to hearing from you with respect to our proposed path forward no later than 4 p.m. Monday February 8, 2016.

Sincerely,



Larry Hope  
Director of Education

c. TLDSB Chairperson, Louise Clodd  
TLDSB Trustees