

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
APRIL 21, 2009
SHERATON CENTRE, CITY HALL ROOM

APRIL 21, 2009

The Executive Board was called to order at 9:00 am. President Thomas in the Chair. All members were present. Peggy Maybury, Executive Assistant to the First Vice-President/Treasurer was also in attendance.

Oath of Office

President Thomas swore in Brother Richard Larcher to the Executive Board.

AGENDA

The agenda was amended to add:

- Pension Liaison Committee Appointment
- OJTBF
- Women at Work Mental Health Conference
- Withering Trillium Award
- SGEU Fraternal
- Hardship Fund Committee

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved by Thomas/Tocker

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OPSEU Executive Board adopt the OPSEU Executive Board Minutes of March 4-5, 2009.

Moved by Grimaldi/Rowett - Amendment

On page 12 take out the items listed under the In Camera session.

CARRIED

The question was called on the minutes as amended and it **CARRIED**.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Auditors Report

Frank DelZotto and Bishara Rizek of BDO Dunwoody, presented the Auditors report to the Executive Board. Maurice Gabay, Accountant, was also present for this discussion.

BUSINESS ARISING

E-Polls

This issue was referred to the May meeting.

CBS and Diagnostics Negotiation Procedures

This issue was referred from the March meeting to bring back with the amendments highlighted.

Moved by Rout/Lundy

WHEREAS the CBS Negotiation procedures have been slightly revised through at the 2007 Bargaining Conference, and adopted by the membership, the Executive Board and Convention will need to approve the change; and

WHEREAS Article 2.1 has been adjusted to allow the CBS and Diagnostic Division, in consultation with staff, to select a date for the Provincial Bargaining meeting, and previous procedures limited the meeting to weekends only; and

WHEREAS the members felt it should be open to the Division to select dates that suit everyone's best interests,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Board propose adoption of the CBS and Diagnostics Negotiation procedures as amended.

CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT

First Vice-President/Treasurer Rout presented her report, which addressed the following topics:

Financial Report

Executive Board/Officers Approvals - General Fund

Executive Board/Officers Approvals - Defence Fund

Financials

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hardship Fund Committee

Moved by Rout/Nancekivell

WHEREAS the board has endorsed a hardship committee for the regions; and
WHEREAS members will need some education on how to handle this fund; and
WHEREAS consistent criteria needs to be put in place; and
WHEREAS the workers training centre offers a course both centrally and regionally;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT OPSEU send the chairs of the hardship committee to the training in Toronto for one day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT \$10,000 be set aside from the Contingency Fund for the education of the hardship committee chairs of each region at head office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the regional education funds be used to send the remaining members of the hardship committee for the regional education offered through their labour councils in the regions.

Moved by Franche/Orzel - amendment

Take the funds from the central education fund.

CARRIED

Moved by Almeida/Rowett - Closure - **DEFEATED**.

Moved by Elliot/Pridham - amendment

In the last whereas change "workers training centre" to "Union Counselling Course". In the 1st resolve change "committee" to "committees".

CARRIED

The question was called on the motion as amended:

WHEREAS the board has endorsed a hardship committee for the regions; and
WHEREAS members will need some education on how to handle this fund; and
WHEREAS consistent criteria needs to be put in place; and
WHEREAS the Union Counselling Course offers a course both centrally and regionally;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT OPSEU send the chairs of the hardship committees to the training in Toronto for one day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT \$10,000 be set aside from the Central Education Fund for the education of the hardship committee chairs of each region at head office; and

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hardship Fund Committee (cont.)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the regional education funds be used to send the remaining members of the hardship committee for the regional education offered through their labour councils in the regions.

CARRIED

President Thomas had the members who were present in the meeting room introduce themselves.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Thomas presented the President's Report, which addressed the following items:

Internal Issues

- Cut Me a Slice campaign

- Proposal to Amend Organization Chart - Transfer of Secretary Position

- Targeted mobilization of court reporters: May 4-29, 2009

- Poor No More documentary film project

- Health Care Support Proposal for Pre-Bargaining Conference

- Central Labour Updates (OFL/NUPGE/CLC)

- Western Climate Initiative (WCI)

- CLC Ontario Region Summer School

- Staffing Issues

INTERNAL ISSUES

A Communities Response to the Economic Crisis

The National Union has launched a Canada-wide campaign, Cut Me a Slice: A People's Response to the Economic Crisis. The campaign aims to bring people together to talk about their economic reality and mobilize for a strong economy and fair society.

Moved by Thomas/Lundy

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Board waive the 30-day notice for expenditures in excess of \$20,000.

CARRIED

This issue continues on page 6.

AFTERNOON

First Vice-President/Treasurer Rout in the Chair
President Thomas in the Chair.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recommendation from April 2009 Executive Committee Meeting

Orillia Regional Office

Moved by Rout/Middleton

WHEREAS, OPSEU has entered into a conditional agreement of purchase of sale dated April 3, 2009; and

WHEREAS, one of the conditions of the purchase is approval of the Executive Board;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OPSEU Executive Committee recommend to the OPSEU Executive Board the purchase of the property at 76 Coldwater Street East in Orillia, Ontario, and authorise the notice of waiver to be delivered to the seller.

Moved by Elliot/Franche - amendment

THAT the funds be drawn from the General Fund.

2nd Vice-President Rapaport in the Chair.

4th Vice-President Jackson in the Chair.

Moved by Orzel/Pridham - Closure - **CARRIED**.

The question was called on the amendment and it was **DEFEATED**.

President Thomas in the Chair.

Moved by Rapaport/Pridham - Closure - **CARRIED**.

The question was called on the main motion and it **CARRIED**.

A Minority Report was filed by Ron Elliot and Gino Franche.

PRIVILEGE MOTION - CONVENTION AGENDA

Moved by Thomas/Elliot

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Convention Agenda on Thursday, April 22, 2009 be amended to break for lunch at 11:30 am.

CARRIED

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

INTERNAL ISSUES

A Communities Response to the Economic Crisis (cont.)

The following resolution was recommended for a timed debate at Convention on the afternoon of Friday, April 24, led by remarks from the National Secretary Treasurer, Larry Brown. The resolution is aimed at setting the union's agenda for the next 12 months.

WHEREAS the global recession has hit Ontario hardest among Canadian provinces, with tens of thousands losing their jobs, primarily in manufacturing, construction and resource-based sectors; families and communities suffering, yet only about 30 per cent of unemployed Ontarians qualifying for Employment Insurance; and pension plans and retirement savings under attack, and

WHEREAS, more than ever, Ontarians rely on a social safety net and public services provided by the nearly one in five Ontarians working in the public sector, a key provider of jobs and spending power; and

WHEREAS, the Broader Public Sector, the colleges and the Ontario Public Service, chronically underfunded for years, are further threatened by cuts and layoffs as budgets are flat-lined and the Ontario government moves to reduce its provincial deficit; and

WHEREAS the Ontario government has so far failed to take a leading role in encouraging the growth of high-wage, high-skill, green jobs, and a more sustainable future where economic growth is harnessed for the benefit of all; and

WHEREAS the Ontario government will invest \$32 billion in physical infrastructure but not in services and programs and training that will help people through the recession; and

WHEREAS a corporate income tax cut will further reduce the province's ability to fund public services by \$4.5 billion over three years; and curtail its ability to expand social assistance to the jobless, fund 22,000 endangered day care spaces, or strengthen public services and education; and

WHEREAS that confronting the current crisis offers a clear opportunity for increased solidarity among public and private sector workers in our communities; and

WHEREAS the provincial election of October 2011 will give Ontarians the opportunity to judge the McGuinty government on its handling of the economic crisis;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT OPSEU work with its allies to fight back against service cuts and layoffs and help develop a plan for a sustainable economy and fair society.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

INTERNAL ISSUES

A Communities Response to the Economic Crisis (cont.)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT to lead this campaign, OPSEU will:

- Organize community forums where people are invited to talk about their economic reality, develop ideas for restarting the local or regional economy and mobilize for community action.
- Promote the coming together of labour, business and government to develop a strategy for revitalizing the Ontario economy, in which the province takes a lead role in planning and promoting the economic recovery and designing a green economy;
- Develop an education program to empower OPSEU members to be knowledgeable workplace and community leaders on the political economy of public services, progressive taxation, privatization and quality jobs;
- Energize provincial and local coalitions or campaigns formed in response to the economic crisis and fighting against cuts and layoffs;
- Use the political energy generated in the aforementioned campaigns to initiate a "2011" campaign -- a grass-roots mobilizing effort for the next provincial election built on countering an increasingly right-ward tilt in Ontario politics.

Moved by Thomas/Lundy

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the above resolution on the "Cut Me a Slice Campaign" be forwarded to Convention 2009 for debate and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the OPSEU Executive Board commit to the campaign at a cost of \$310,000 from the Contingency Fund, such funds to be allocated according to a campaign plan as hereby adopted.

Moved by Franche/Elliot - amendment

THAT the amount of \$310,000 be changed to \$556,200 to be drawn from the Contingency Fund, plus a further \$100,000 from the Defense Fund; change book off time per region from \$54,000 to \$84,000; add a further resolve to read: **THAT** a committee will be struck consisting of 3 EBMs as assigned by the President, and staff as assigned by the President, to coordinate the campaign.

First Vice-President/Treasurer Rout in the Chair.

Moved by Rapaport/Pridham - amendment to amendment

Under community forum book off for region 5 change the amount from \$12,000 to \$16,000.

CARRIED

4th Vice-President Jackson in the Chair.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

INTERNAL ISSUES

A Communities Response to the Economic Crisis (cont.)

Moved by Grimaldi/Franche - amendment

Delete the line "Follow-up "2011" political action campaign material"

Moved by Brown/Rowett - Closure - **CARRIED.**

The question was called on the amendment and it **CARRIED.**

Moved by Elliot/Pridham - amendment

Under the 1st resolve replace "Cut Me a Slice Campaign" with "A Peoples Response to the Economic Crisis".

Moved by Almeida/Grimaldi - amendment to amendment

Strike "Peoples" and add "Communities"

CARRIED

Moved by Orzel/Grimaldi - amendment to amendment

Add an additional \$75,000 to the \$100,000 of existing committed funds to be taken from the Defense Fund.

DEFEATED

The question was called on the amendment as amended and it **CARRIED.**

President Thomas in the Chair.

Moved by Snider/Pridham - closure - **CARRIED.**

The question was called on the amendment as amended:

THAT the amount of \$310,000 be changed to \$550,200 to be drawn from the Contingency Fund, plus a further \$100,000 from the Defense Fund; change book off time per region from \$54,000 to \$88,000 with each region receiving \$12,000 except for region 5 which will receive \$16,000; add a further resolve to read: **THAT** a committee will be struck consisting of 3 EBMs as assigned by the President, and staff as assigned by the President, to coordinate the campaign; Under the 1st resolve replace "Cut Me a Slice Campaign" with "A Communities Response to the Economic Crisis".

CARRIED

The question was called on the motion as amended:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the above resolution on the "A Communities Response to the Economic Crisis" be forwarded to Convention 2009 for debate and

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

INTERNAL ISSUES

A Communities Response to the Economic Crisis (cont.)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the OPSEU Executive Board commit to the campaign at a cost of \$550,200 from the Contingency Fund, plus a further \$100,000 from the Defence Fund, such funds to be allocated according to a campaign plan as hereby adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Targeted mobilization of court reporters: May 4 - 29, 2009

The campaign objective is to apply pressure on the Ministry of the Attorney General to make changes to its proposed court reporting model which if implemented unchanged, will result in job loss and de-skilling of court reporting jobs. OPSEU represents 500 court reporters in 150-160 courthouses across the province.

Moved by Clapp/Lundy

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT OPSEU Executive Board book-off a member mobilizer to support the union's objectives with regard to court reporters at a cost of \$8,000. These funds are to be withdrawn from the Contingency Fund.

CARRIED

Heath Care Support Proposal for Pre-Bargaining Conference

Jill McIlwraite, Acting Chair Health Division Council made a presentation to the Executive Board.

Moved by Thomas/Grimaldi

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Board approve this conference proposal at a cost of \$17,997 to be drawn from the Contingency Fund.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Campaign funding for Saint Lawrence Parks Commission Campaign

Moved by Lundy/Grimaldi

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Board commit to the campaign at a cost of \$20,000 to be drawn from the Contingency Fund.

Moved by Franche/Grimaldi - amendment

After "to the" add "St Lawrence Parks Commission Campaign"

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Campaign funding for Saint Lawrence Parks Commission Campaign (cont.)

The question was called on the motion as amended:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Board commit to the St. Lawrence Parks Commission Campaign at a cost of \$20,000 to be drawn from the Contingency Fund.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recommendations from April 2009 Executive Committee Meeting

Local 658

Moved by Thomas/Brown

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OPSEU Executive Committee recommend to the OPSEU Executive Board that Local 658 consisting of Canadore College members and Nipissing University members be separated and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Nipissing University become a new local, Local 608.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Minute of Silence

Moved by Brown/Pridham

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT from this day forward, every regional meeting and convention will hold a minute of silence for the loss of our dear brothers, sisters, friends and family; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this will be the first order of business.

Moved by Grimaldi/Brown - amendment

After "order of business" add "after the Statement of Respect".

CARRIED

The question was called on the motion as amended:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT from this day forward, every regional meeting and convention will hold a minute of silence for the loss of our dear brothers, sisters, friends and family; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this will be the first order of business after the Statement of Respect.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Withering Trillium Award

Moved by Grimaldi/ Almeida

WHEREAS following an 11 week strike, the Grey Bruce Health Unit laid off 15 of 25 members in the OPSEU administrative bargaining unit; and

WHEREAS the cost of maintaining these employees is exactly the same as the increased cost of the GBHU's new building; and

WHEREAS this priority of bricks and mortars over needed staff makes it more difficult for the remaining OPSEU and ONA members on the health unit to carry out their duties to protect the community; and

WHEREAS the efficiency of the unit is further comprised by poor decision-making, terrible staff morale, an environment of fear, and ridiculously cumbersome procedures for day-to-day activities; and

WHEREAS we should be learning our lessons around the importance of health protection from Walkerton - which is within the health district's boundaries;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT OPSEU award the Grey Bruce Health Unit the Withering Trillium Award.

CARRIED

OJTBF

Sister Nancy Pridham updated the board on this issue.

Women at work mental health conference

Sister Nancy Pridham attended this conference and gave an update on this issue. More information can be obtained at www.guardingmindsatwork.ca and mentalhealthcentral.ca

SGEU fraternal

Sister Claire Rowett attended this fraternal and reported to the board on the convention.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

INTERNAL ISSUES CENTRAL LABOUR UPDATES (OFL/NUPGE/CLC)

Western Climate Initiative

President Thomas gave the board an update on this issue. First Vice-President/Treasurer Patty Rout and the Chair of the Greening Committee will attend this conference. This issue will be brought back to the May board meeting.

CLC Ontario Region Summer School

President Thomas gave the board an update on this issue. This issue will be brought back to the May board meeting.

STAFFING ISSUES

Material for this discussion were made available under separate cover.

NEW BUSINESS

Organizing - OPSECAAT

Paul Bilodeau, Administrator, Communications, and Fran Borsellino, Supervisor, Organizing, updated the board on OPSECAAT issues.

President Thomas thanked the outgoing board members for their service.

Hospitality issues

This issue was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Board adjourned at 4:20 pm. All members were present.

Smokey Thomas, President

Kathryn Kaminski, Corporate Secretary

/kk