

District 4 T.B.U. North Vice President Year End Report

2020 A.G.M.

Parker Robinson

2019-2020 will be remembered as the most challenging and unusual of my Federation involvement. That said, it continues to be an honour to serve the members of the District 4 Teachers Bargaining Unit. I am proud of the work that the T.B.U. executive does on behalf of the members and I am inspired by the resilience and determination our members demonstrate during these challenging times.

Some of the highlights from 2019-20:

-We faced some extremely difficult times in the spring of 2019 but through the efforts of our executive and the patience of the members most of the redundant/surplus issues were sorted out during this school year. There are still a small number of teachers in a redundant position but OSSTF continues to look for ways to have these members employed once again. Members have been very strong during this period of uncertainty and change.

- Central contract negotiations took up much of our attention during the fall and winter. The government's extreme position forced us to fight back with solidarity. District 4 TBU members demonstrated their commitment to public education and their working conditions. Members answered the call and took to the picket line. They also used their voices on information pickets and social media to push back against the cuts to education. This strong demonstration of labour action made me proud to be a part of OSSTF District 4. I am especially grateful for the hard work of our strike captains and their unwavering commitment to our members.

-The same commitment to public education that the membership showed during the labour actions is also present during the challenging events of the current Covid-19 pandemic. Teachers are providing outstanding emergency distance learning opportunities for students and have demonstrated themselves as leaders in the community.

-On a personal note, I will be embarking on a new adventure in September as the president of the Ontario Teachers' Federation. This is a one year term and I will be away from District 4 next year but I am confident the executive and the membership will continue to be the strength of the local public education system. The lessons I have learned and the relationship I have made by my involvement in District 4 will be valuable tools in my new role. Thank you to everyone for your support over the years.