## 'Long and difficult:' another agreement made for teaching staff

Several unions ratified on Saturday a central agreement that was reached with the Province and the Council of Trustees' Association (CTA).

Eighty-nine per cent of the members of the bargaining units representing Designated Early Childhood Educators (DECEs), Education Support Personnel (ESPs), Professional Support Personnel (PSPs) and other education professionals with the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario



Sam Hammond

(ETFO) voted in favour of the deal.

Approximately 2,900 ETFO members, represented by 16 bargaining units, are covered by this agreement. These members have been without a contract since Aug. 31, 2014.

"It was a long and difficult 15 months of bargaining, but we are pleased that we achieved an agreement for our DECE, ESP and PSP members," said ETFO President Sam Hammond. "These members play a fundamental role in ensuring

quality services and optimal learning conditions for students."

Under the terms of agreement, these members will be provided with classroom keys to ensure the safety of students and staff in the case of school lockdowns. As well, a combined work group will review DECE issues including joint preparation time, full-day Kindergarten class size, students with special needs, and professional collaboration and development. The group

will submit recommendations to the government no later than June 30, 2016.

"Due to the positive relationships the HDSB has with our local unions, meetings/discussions have been both productive and thoughtful to date," Stuart Miller, Director of Education for the HDSB, said Dec. 1 when the central agreement was announced. "We are very hopeful we will have local settlements with all of our remaining union groups."



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