HDSB brings back retired administrator to handle negotiations

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The Halton board's head of human resources (HR), who sits in on contract talks, has been in a state of flux for the 2014-15 school year.

Debra McFadden served as its executive officer of HR for nearly four years before leaving on a secondment and was replaced from September to March 31 by Paula Dunn, the acting executive officer.

Dunn accepted a position with another board starting March 31, prompting the board to hire Jeff Blackwell as its acting executive officer until a permanent replacement is hired.

Blackwell retired in 2014 after 37 years with the Halton board. His final

position was as associate director, the board's No. 2 administrator.

Euale said Blackwell is at the bargaining table co-ordinating all negotiations.

In its letter to parents the Halton board stated, "In most cases strikes happen when parties have reached an impasse. That is not the case locally as negotiations are continuing regardless of the no-board report. Negotiation dates are set throughout April and May.

"The Halton District School Board will make every attempt to keep parents and students informed of progress or the potential of a disruption to education, and will update information to our website (www.hdsb.ca) as the situation changes," the letter states.

OSSTF District 20 Halton represents about 1,300 permanent contract secondary school teachers. There are about 600 occasional secondary teachers that are represented by the Halton Occasional Secondary Teachers.

> — with Toronto Star and Milton Champion files



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