

SPECIAL POINTS  
OF INTEREST:

"The Board and the Association are desirous of "...a process to introduce and review technology in the work environment"

What the settlement says: Be sure to read this whole Issue to be clear of new duties or changes are made without consultation

The New JTC functions or terms of reference

Some of the Issues identified on pg 2 are:

- Use of Webmarks
- Reporting Periods
- Information Sharing and Assessment
- Technology
- Data

New Joint Technology Committee (JTC) Applications:

Contact TSU at

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# TSU Notes

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## Webmarks

The Webmarks grievance was settled recently. This was a long grievance and represented a lot of serious concern by our members.

In negotiating a signed agreement the Board and TSU sought to find a means "to introduce and review technology in the work environment." This includes a new Joint Technology Committee (JTC).

To have a more informed and effective use of technology TSU "will be consulted on existing, newly planned, or amended technology and their use affecting classroom teachers."

Any change to practice related to Webmarks or other technology will need to be

done in consultation with TSU and TSU will be guided by classroom teacher input.

There will be a Joint Technology Committee (JTC) established "to review matters concerning Webmarks and technology (including but not restricted to hardware and software) affecting classroom teachers".

"The Board will provide the JTC with notice of plans for any new technology or any changes to existing technology. The Board will consult with the JTC on any major technology changes prior to implementation."

As part of the settlement the Board will also be required to make a purchase of new

computers. The Board will be providing teachers with 200-300 new computers for their work areas. This will only be on a ratio of approximately one computers for every nine teachers.

TSU is being consulted on the type of computer but we are restricted by board tendering and their prices as well as their technical requirements.

The purchase is being arranged and they should start rolling out the computers to teacher work areas in January.

We look forward to the opportunity the Board and TSU have created in the settlement.

## New Joint Technology Committee

The functions of the Joint Technology Committee will include the following:

- i) To review, assess and make recommendations concerning existing and newly planned or amended technologies and their use affecting classroom teachers
- ii) To review and make recommendations about

existing and future supports, resources and training for teachers concerning existing and newly planned or amended technology affecting classroom teachers

- iii) To collect, review and assess feedback from classroom teachers about their use of existing and newly planned or

amended technology

- iv) To make recommendations about needs for new technology or changes to existing technology; and

- v) To obtain information relevant to existing and newly planned or amended technology affecting classroom teachers."

# Webmarks Issues: Apply to the New JTC

## Webmarks Issues :

### DATA:

We have concerns for the continuing loss of data in Webmarks since teachers have met their duty once they input data.

We are concerned that teachers have a duty to report accurately and have confidence in their reporting and not all teachers are when using Webmarks

### TECHNOLOGY

There are concerns around technology required for Webmarks—inadequate access to computers, ten year old computers, computers that can take up to 10 minutes to log in, and the system bogging down near deadlines.

The board has recognized a need for over \$30 million dollars in technology needs across the board which is not a likely part of any budget in the near future. The board has turned their minds to this challenge in their strategic planning

There are also concerns about the program—the board has continued to make efforts to improve the program but it still allows errors that good software design should prevent. Data still gets lost, the program slows down and there are still crashes or “hiccups”. There are functionality and ease of use concerns.

### INFORMATION SHARING

### AND ASSESSMENT

This Webmarks issue is complicated because it is related to assessment and to teacher

professionalism. Teachers are concerned about a model of delivery that reduces the role of teachers to merely technicians. This is inconsistent with the potential of autonomous professionals and the ideals of subsidiarity and the dignity of individuals

We have concerns of marks being read, interpreted and shared without discussion with the teacher. The lack of even the professional courtesy of notification of the teacher raises concern for professional misunderstanding or misrepresentation.

Some administrators use Webmarks as a tool to assess teachers which should be handled within the assessment and growth models.

We have concerns about privacy of data

Webmarks is further complicated when it is used to represent common assessment efforts as standardization of marking and assessment. This model is again incongruent with a respect for the Catholic understanding of educating the individual or the current public discourse on differentiated instruction.

### REPORTING PERIODS

Reporting and communication: We sometimes have teachers express concern that administrators are adding reporting periods. The only reporting that is mandated is the mid semester mark and final mark at the end of a semester. If other ‘reporting’ is suggested it will have to be negotiated as an increased workload.. A teacher is responsible for communicating with parents. If local administrators offer to support the parental communication through the early letters of

concern, there should not be an expectation of an assessment or a grade mark. Also a letter of concern should only be necessary for students who are having difficulties.

### USE OF WEBMARKS

We have said before, and we have had agreement with the Board - In compiling marks a teacher is free to use whatever program he/she wishes to use based on their professional judgment. The teacher is responsible for making sure she/he records the marks according to the evaluation policy in effect. The teacher is expected to use Webmarks in order to enter final term marks or final semester marks. Teachers’ marks have always been available on request.

**This is just the start of the dialogue....**

### JTC Committee Application

We need three members for the New Joint Technology Committee

Technological background will be considered but a balance of technological knowledge and regular classroom input will be sought to inform the perspectives of the committee. Ability to clarify concerns, analyze issues, and problem solving ability will be helpful

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**We Teach The Love of Learning.**

### TSU Mission Statement

TSU, in cooperation with Divine grace and in solidarity with the Catholic community, serves the professional and contractual needs of its members.

### Core Values

Dignity of the Individual  
Professionalism  
Catholic Education  
Faith Based Community

### Vision

- To be a proud community of Catholic educators
- To establish and protect collective members rights
- To create, maintain and broaden respectful and collegial relations with partners in Catholic Education.
- To have a commitment to a strategic planning cycle
- To have established, effective communications
- To be recognized and respected advocates for public Catholic Education
- To network with the broader community
- To model Christ by supporting each other as brothers and sisters
- To assist in the professional and spiritual development of our members
- To be effective Catholic advocates of social justice in the broader community