Brenda O’Dell’s Speech

April 19, 2016  
Re: Employee Budget Consultation Meeting (with Glenn Borthistle, Trustees…..)  
NOSTA (Brenda, Noah Ralston, Graham Gomme, George, Norma Jean Gomme, NOSTA members)

First, let me remind everyone about why we are here, having these discussions.

We are here because of chronic government underfunding and devaluing public education.

For over a decade, the Liberal Government has made financial decisions and asked Boards of Education to do their dirty work of slashing programs and services that assist students in classrooms and increase the complexity of working conditions for teachers.

That being said, this Board has been making decisions which have not been transparent and open and are, quite frankly, very difficult to understand given that they say their decisions are all about children.

NOSTA has lost confidence in these decision making bodies and has no faith in the processes designed, on the surface, to provide consultation to the Board around the budget.

1. Given that there have been public calls for the resignation of both the Superintendent and the Board….
2. Given that there is over 10 million dollars of questionable spending…..
3. Given that both the Board and Superintendent have claimed to not have known where the dollars for their new Board Office came from…..
4. Given the state of mistrust and lack of confidence…..

Given these things, NOSTA makes the following recommendation to the Board:

* Roll over a large amount of the 2015-2016 budget surplus to the 2016-17 Operational Account.
* Retain a small portion from the surplus - $200,000 - as your contingency fund.
* The Board should add the following three budget sections to the annual Board Budget Report:
  + projected operating surplus
  + projected expenses to be paid out of projected operating surplus (itemized by amount and general description)
  + projected surplus eligible for allocation.

**I will be officially withdrawing from this process, tonight.**

Any of my members are free, of course, to stay and present their victim impact statements, with the absolute blessing of NOSTA.

However, myself, as President of this Union, will now be leaving.