

## **Update re: First Class and Occasional Teachers**

The Board has advised that they currently have only one staff member administering all of the Board email accounts. Adding an additional 1000-1300 accounts (# of occasional teachers) would be difficult for their staff to support. There are also annual user license fees and storage capacity costs for each account that could not currently be absorbed by the IT Department.

Occasional teachers can use any free email system (i.e. Hotmail, Gmail) to correspond with Board staff. These accounts actually offer greater storage and redundancy features than the Board offers its staff members.

The advantages of the First Class system are not the email features but the conference features. For example, a school can have a conference site and the principal would determine who has rights to that site. Unless the principal has given someone permission, they would not be able to access it without both a First Class account and permission being granted. The information contained within the school conference is private and not intended for anyone other than those working within the school on a regular basis. The Board does provide accounts to occasional teachers on long term contracts at our schools but not to those who are in the school only from time to time.

Access to job postings would be another area of prime concern to occasional teachers. It should be noted that having a First Class account would not provide any additional service or advantage in obtaining jobs. The SEMS system allows for phone access to determine unfilled jobs. This is distinct and separate from First Class.

The Board feels that adding all occasional teachers to the First Class internal mail system is not justified at this time.

Tom D'Amico at the Board offices would be pleased to answer questions from any member who requires further clarification.

*Mary Major, President  
Occasional Teachers*