



News and Information

June 12, 2014

RE: WITHDRAWAL OF SERVICES

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: Teacher Job Action

We have been informed by the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) that they will be engaged in another round of rotating strikes and will be **withdrawing teaching services in the Central Okanagan School District on Monday, June 16th**. The BCTF have also informed us that teachers will be participating in study sessions province-wide on this date, where they will be gathering together off school property. Apparently schools will not be picketed on Monday, however **teachers will not be on-site**. Based on this information, we have to once again ask parents to keep children at home on June 16th, or make alternate arrangements for them. It is also important to note that school buses will not be operating on this date.

We have also been informed by the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and the BCTF, that there is a plan to continue with negotiations at the bargaining table throughout the weekend. We are hopeful that an agreement can be reached, and schools may be able to reopen shortly thereafter. **If an agreement is not reached, the BCTF have also issued notice that they will escalate strike action starting on Tuesday, June 17th**. This will involve the full withdrawal of teaching services throughout the province.

The Labour Relations Board (LRB) also made a ruling on June 12th with regard to upcoming Provincial Examinations for Grade 10, 11 and 12 students. These exams, taking place between June 18 and 24, will be going ahead according to the established schedule, even if teachers are on strike and a picket line is in the vicinity. (The LRB has indicated that the teachers will not "picket entrances designated by the Local Union for students who attend school to write examinations...") The LRB order further clarifies that final grades for grade 12 students will be submitted no later than June 20, 2014. Based on this, we anticipate being able to provide the Ministry of Education with the necessary information so that transcripts can be finalized for Grade 12 students.

The details regarding how marks and report cards for all other grades will be produced and distributed are still being determined. We will have further information to share with parents and students in the near future on this subject.

For future updates please check the local media outlets and/or go to the school district website at www.sd23.bc.ca. All bulletins will be posted to this site.

Once again, we thank you for your patience during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Hugh Gloster
Superintendent of Schools

For comments, please contact:
Moyra Baxter, Chairperson of the Board of Education, 250-767-6153 or 778-214-5588
Hugh Gloster, Superintendent of Schools, 250-860-8888
