



"Together We Learn"

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23
(CENTRAL OKANAGAN)

1940 Underhill Street, Kelowna, B.C. V1X 5X7
Tel. 250-860-8888 Fax 250-860-9799
Website: www.sd23.bc.ca

April 23, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: Teacher Job Action

Teachers will be starting limited job action effective Wednesday, April 23, 2014. This is considered Phase One of a legal strike by the B.C. Teachers' Federation (BCTF).

The BCTF have issued a News Release indicating that:

"There will be no immediate school closures or disruptions to students. This first stage is administrative in nature only. Teachers will continue to teach, write report cards, communicate with parents, and participate in their volunteer extracurricular activities."

During Stage 1 job action teachers will not:

- *Undertake any mandated supervision of students outside of regularly scheduled classes, except as set out by an essential services order.*
- *Attend any meetings with management other than meetings of the worksite Joint Health and Safety Committee.*
- *Provide principals or administrators with any routine printed, written, or electronic communication.*
- *Receive any printed, written, or electronic communication from an administrator.*
- *Be at worksite prior to one hour before commencement of instructional time and one hour after the end of instructional time, other than for pre-arranged voluntary activities."*

While noon-hour supervision will be provided by each school's student supervisors, recess breaks require significant involvement of teaching staff. As the District has limited exempt personnel to cover supervision, it will be necessary to change the traditional timetable of each elementary school by eliminating the recess break. **This measure is being taken to ensure that each school can adequately supervise students and ensure safety. Accordingly, starting on Monday, April 28th and continuing until job action is over, all schools will conclude their day 15 minutes early, including middle and secondary schools.** District bus transportation schedules will be adjusted to align with this dismissal time.

The School District is asking parents' cooperation with the following:

- If your child does not ride a bus, please arrange to have your child arrive at school close to the school starting time and to leave immediately after dismissal, since there will only be limited supervision of students at the school during these times.
- Please understand that your school Principal and Vice-Principal may be limited in their availability to meet with you while they are performing their supervision duties.

The School District sincerely hopes that this labour dispute will be resolved as quickly as possible. We will keep parents informed through whatever means possible, including updating our website regularly (www.sd23.bc.ca) as new information is available.

If you have any questions about the specifics of this job action, please contact the school office, your Principal, or the School District Administration Office at 250-860-8888.

Sincerely,



Hugh Gloster
Superintendent of Schools

Copy to:

Central Okanagan Teachers' Association (COTA)
Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3523 (CUPE Local 3523)
Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (COPAC)
Central Okanagan Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association (COPVPA)
School Parent Advisory Councils
District Student Council (DSC)