



April 22, 2014

Dear Parents,

Late Friday afternoon the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA), the public education bargaining unit for the BC government, officially received notice that the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) will be initiating Job Action as of Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

The president of the BCTF has indicated that during Stage 1 of this teacher job action, "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...but 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 a 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."

BCTF also previously made application to the Labour Relations Board (LRB) related to what constitutes an 'essential service'. The LRB essential services order, referred to above, indicates that supervision of students is an essential service and thus, teachers must provide supervision wherever exempt staff (administrators and senior management) are unable to be deployed to replace them.

As such, regular classroom instruction for all students will continue. As well, all students will be supervised but districts will be making adjustments to scheduling and deployment of staff, and further adjustments to student groupings for maximum student safety outside of scheduled instructional time. Your school principal may have specific requests for you, as parents, to assist with planning for student safety that are unique to your school site. Our senior management team will also be available to assist at any school site in the event of any emergent issues.

Under this Labour Relations Board ruling, there should not be picket lines, therefore, all other programs taking place on school sites (StrongStart, Pre-School, Evening rentals, etc.) should also be able to continue. Please contact those service providers directly for any clarification.

It is the sincere hope of the Board of Education and our school district administrators and senior staff that this dispute will be concluded quickly and that normal school operations will resume as soon as possible.

There may be further communication forthcoming. We will endeavour to keep you informed. Please continue to check our school district website for more information (www.sd48.bc.ca). We will also send notices directly home via email and in paper copy where more suitable. The local media will also be apprised of important information to share with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Lisa McCullough", written over a horizontal line.

Lisa McCullough
Superintendent of Schools