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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[COQUITLAM, BC – October 7, 2014] – School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) has passed a motion to meet with the Ministry of Education to resolve the recent issue regarding teacher payment for the September 19th preparation day. In an effort to fulfill the commitment made to teachers by the government, the Board has made a decision to provide payment for a full day to all full-time teachers. Part-time teachers had already received payment for that day.

Although, School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) applied the local collective agreement to the payment of the additional day as it has done in the past, provincial inequity resulted from the application of local collective agreements. To further complicate the matter, the collective agreement article was designed to address the issue of pro-rating salary rather than days not worked due to labour disputes.

Board Chair Melissa Hyndes said, “The Board is committed to supporting and valuing the work of teachers in our school district. The application of local collective agreements resulted in an inequity across the province. It is our expectation that the Ministry of Education will fund all school districts equally under the provincial agreement.”

BACKGROUND:

When the recent labour dispute ended as a result of the agreement reached between the provincial government and the BCTF, teachers were scheduled to return to schools on Monday, September 22nd. The back to work direction from the provincial government included a preparation day on Friday, September 19, 2014 and information that all teachers would be paid for that day. School districts were subsequently informed that the monthly teacher pay calculation must be based on the language in local school district collective agreements. This resulted in an inequitable application across the province, as language in local collective agreements is not exactly the same on this issue.