



Learning for a Lifetime

August 29, 2014

550 Poirier Street, Coquitlam, BC, Canada V3J 6A7 • Phone: 604-939-9201 • Fax: 604-937-6758

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Thank you for your patience during the current education dispute. The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the dispute and its impact on school opening on Tuesday, September 2.

As of this moment the dispute has not been resolved. A number of scenarios are being circulated in the media including a 2 week cooling off period and the involvement of mediator Vince Ready. At the writing of this letter we can only speculate as to whether or not there will be a ratified agreement by Tuesday or whether there will be a "cooling off" period.

This Board will continue to advocate for a negotiated settlement and hope there is an agreement quickly. The Board has again written to the government, the Premier, the Minister of Education, and the BCTF and are arranging meetings with local MLAs urging them to reach a settlement. Please continue to check our website at www.sd43.bc.ca, social and print media and the radio regarding any announcements over the long weekend. Should there be a settlement we will inform parents of the opening procedures and protocols immediately. This information will be posted on our website.

If we face a continuation of the strike/lockout on September 2, daycares will be open and we advise that parents will be allowed to cross picket lines to escort their children to daycares and pre-schools. Please contact your provider to determine if their facility will be open.

Student safety continues to be our first and highest priority. Schools will be open and supervised by our administrators, however we will not have the capacity to offer instructional programs. Respectfully, we ask that parents not bring students to schools and find alternate arrangements for their children during the strike.

For more information please check the following websites:

BC Ministry of Education Newsroom: <http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/ministries/education/>
BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA): <http://bcpsea.bc.ca/>
BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF): <http://bctf.ca/>
Coquitlam Teachers' Association (CTA): <http://www.coquitlamteachers.com/>

If you wish to contact the Minister of Education, your local MLA, or the BCTF to express your thoughts and concerns please review the following:

Minister of Education Peter Fassbender Minister.Educ@gov.bc.ca
MLA Mike Farnworth, Port Coquitlam mike.farnworth.mla@leg.bc.ca
MLA Douglas Horne, Coquitlam-Burke Mtn douglas.horne.mla@leg.bc.ca
MLA Linda Reimer, Port Moody-Coquitlam linda.reimer.mla@leg.bc.ca
MLA Selina Robinson, Coquitlam-Maillardville Selina.robinson.mla@leg.bc.ca
BC Teachers' Federation President Jim Iker presidentsoffice@bctf.ca

Again thanks for your cooperation and your patience.

Sincerely,

Tom Grant, Superintendent
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (Coquitlam)

cc: Board of Education
Coquitlam District Parent Advisory Council
Coquitlam Teachers' Association
CUPE Local 561