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June 12, 2014

Dear Parents,

Rotating and Province-wide Teacher Strike – Coquitlam School District

Tomorrow, Friday, June 13, 2014, the BCTF has indicated that our schools will be behind picket lines due to the rotating strike. Further, the BCTF president, Jim Iker, has announced that BCTF members, including our teachers, will be escalating their strike. This morning we learned from the BCTF that there will also be a “rotating strike” on Monday, June 16, 2014. On this day, teachers will be attending a study session and will not be in attendance at schools. On Tuesday, June 17, 2014, and into the future, Mr. Iker has stated that all public school teachers will be on a full scale province-wide strike. We remain hopeful that the parties will resolve their differences at the bargaining table over the weekend. We appreciate the patience and understanding of our parents and school communities during this time.

Impact on Students on Friday, June 13 – Rotating Strike in Coquitlam School District

Parents are asked to keep children home from school and Strong Start Centres on Friday, June 13. There will not be sufficient staff in buildings to provide adequate supervision for students. While school facilities will remain open under the supervision of school district administrators, we will be unable to provide students with instruction. Schools will be behind picket lines on Friday, June 13.

School field trips, extra-curricular activities, and most facilities rentals will be cancelled on June 13. Daycares and pre-schools housed in our schools will notify parents of their intentions for the period of the strike.

Impact on Students on Monday, June 16 – Rotating Strike/Study Session in Coquitlam School District

Parents are asked to keep children home from school and Strong Start Centres on Monday, June 16. There will not be sufficient staff in buildings to provide adequate supervision for

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students. At this time, we understand that our schools will not be picketed on Monday, June 16 but teachers will not be in attendance to provide instruction.

School field trips, extra-curricular activities, and most facilities rentals will be cancelled on June 16. Daycares and preschools housed in our schools will notify parents of their intentions for the period of the strike.

Impact on Students on Tuesday, June 17 and beyond – full Provincial Strike

Parents are asked to keep children home from school and Strong Start Centres from Tuesday, June 17 until the end of the provincial teacher strike. There will not be sufficient staff in buildings to provide adequate supervision for students. While school facilities will remain open under the supervision of school district administrators, we will be unable to provide students with instruction. Schools will be behind picket lines on Tuesday, June 17 and beyond until an agreement is reached at the bargaining table.

School field trips, extra-curricular activities, and most facilities rentals will be cancelled during the strike. Daycares and pre-schools housed in our schools will notify parents of their intentions for the period of the strike.

Essential Services and Marks for Grade 12 Students

Today, the Labour Relations Board has ordered that grade 12 marks are an “essential service”. Teachers will provide the school principal with marks for grade 12 students by June 20.

Provincial Exams

The Labour Relations Board has deemed that Provincial exams for grades 10-12 are an “essential service” and will proceed as scheduled. There will be a designated entrance to the school for students taking a provincial exam so that students will not have to cross picket lines. Students requiring modifications due to their special needs will be accommodated as needed for their provincial exams. Students should continue to check with their school principal or vice-principals and check the school web-site for up-dates on what they need to do to be fully ready to take their provincial exams on the scheduled day (bring appropriate identification and supplies).

Report Cards

At this time we are not in a position to provide clarity on report cards for students in Kindergarten through to grade 11. When more information becomes available from the Labour Relations Board and/or the Ministry of Education about report cards, we will communicate this with parents.

Grade 12 Commencement and Graduation Dinner and Dance

These events will continue and will be supervised by school administrators and school district management staff.

Further Information

Further information will be provided to parents through the media and our school district website - Coquitlam School District www.sd43.bc.ca

Parents may also wish to consult the following websites:

Coquitlam Teachers' Association (CTA) www.coquitlamteachers.com

BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) www.bctf.ca

BC Public Employers Association (BCPSEA) www.bcspea.ca

BC Ministry of Education www.gov.bc.ca

The parties, BCPSEA and the BCTF, are negotiating this weekend in an attempt to conclude a collective agreement.

We hope that the parties arrive at a collective agreement this weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Thomas Grant

Superintendent of Schools

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)