



550 Poirier Street, Coquitlam, British Columbia V3J 6A7 ● Phone 604-939-9201 ● Fax: 604-939-7828

August 22, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians, and Students,

I am writing today to share important information about the provincial education labour dispute and its impact on our September 2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled start of the school year.

As you may be aware, the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the BC Public School Employers' Association have not yet reached a negotiated settlement that would end the current strike, though talks between the parties continue.

At this time we can contemplate three scenarios for September 2.

- The parties will reach a settlement and we will open schools on time on September 2.
- There will be no agreement and we will be in a strike/lockout situation with pickets at each school.
- Teachers return to job action where schools are open and their duties are limited.

During this period of uncertainty, many parents/guardians have questions about school district services and developments in the labour dispute.

Below you will find a list of the most frequently asked questions about the teacher labour dispute and school registration for students new to the school district that I hope you find helpful. If you do not find the information you require below, please contact a member of our district staff team via email at [information@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:information@sd43.bc.ca) or call us at 604-939-9201.

I also encourage you to visit the SD43 website regularly where you will find the latest school district information as well as links to developments in teacher collective bargaining negotiations at [www.sd43.bc.ca](http://www.sd43.bc.ca).

If we face a strike or lock-out on September 2, we have been advised 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 during the strike/lockout.

Finally, I would like to assure you that our SD43 Board of Education and senior staff team have worked very hard during the summer months to remind those directly involved in negotiations that the needs of students are our shared priority. Like you, we hope for a rapid resolution at the bargaining table that would allow students and staff to begin our school year on a positive note.

Thank you for your understanding during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Tom Grant, Superintendent

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (Coquitlam)**

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

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **If the strike ends soon will schools open on September 2<sup>nd</sup>?**

School district staff have worked hard during the summer months to prepare schools to welcome students September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

If the two parties reach a negotiated settlement by Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, schools will open on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **How will parents/ guardians and students learn about the start of school?**

The school district website ([www.sd43.bc.ca](http://www.sd43.bc.ca)) will provide the latest information regarding a settlement and the start of school. Please visit the website regularly.

Please look for email updates from your school principal.

In addition, an end to the teachers' strike will be widely reported in regional and provincial news media.

### **Where do I find all of the latest updates about developments in the Labour Dispute?**

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: <http://bctf.ca/>

Coquitlam Teachers' Association: <http://www.coquitlamteachers.com/>

### **If the strike continues and schools do not open on the scheduled start date of September 2<sup>nd</sup>, can I still drop my child (children) off at their school?**

Student safety is our highest priority. Should any student arrive at school while picket lines are in place, our school administrators will be on-site to ensure that they are cared for until they can be safely returned to the supervision of a parent or guardian.

### **I am new to my area. When does school registration start?**

Registration for students new to the district starts the week of August 25, 2014. Parent(s) and/or legal guardians are encouraged to register early. Registrations beyond September may result in there not being space in your child's catchment school as classes may be full. Early registration is highly recommended.

### **Is there a closing date for registration of new students?**

Parents and legal guardians can always register their students at any time during the year although early registration is highly recommended.

### **Where do I register my child (children)?**

For registration at any grade level you will need to contact your catchment school. To determine the school designated for your catchment area, please access our [School Locator](#) tool; simply type in your street name and follow the instructions. Once you have found the correct school, please arrive at the designated school the week of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

### **What do I need to bring to register my child (children)?**

When registering your child you will need to bring proof of citizenship for parent and child (i.e. birth certificates, PR Cards, Passports) and proof of residency in B.C. (e.g. [1] rental contract or property purchase agreement; AND [2] tax notice, telephone bill, or utility bill, etc.). Parent(s) or legal guardian must live in the same permanent address as the student. See [Funding Eligibility Checklist](#).

### **Am I able to register my child during the strike?**

Yes. If teachers are picketing at your school, school Principals will be able to assist you with registration.

### **Looking for more registration information?**

If you're still unable to find the answer to your question please email [information@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:information@sd43.bc.ca).

### **Who should I contact to voice my concerns regarding the education dispute?**

If you wish to contact the Minister of Education, your local MLA, or the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) to express your concerns, please view the following contact information:

Minister of Education Peter Fassbender [Minister.Educ@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Minister.Educ@gov.bc.ca)

MLA Mike Farnworth, Port Coquitlam [mike.farnworth.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:mike.farnworth.mla@leg.bc.ca)

MLA Douglas Horne, Coquitlam-Burke Mtn [douglas.horne.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:douglas.horne.mla@leg.bc.ca)

MLA Linda Reimer, Port Moody-Coquitlam [linda.reimer.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:linda.reimer.mla@leg.bc.ca)

MLA Selina Robinson, Coquitlam-Maillardville [selina.robinson.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:selina.robinson.mla@leg.bc.ca)

BC Teachers' Federation President Jim Iker [presidentsoffice@bctf.ca](mailto:presidentsoffice@bctf.ca)