



550 Poirier Street, Coquitlam, BC, Canada V3J 6A7 • Phone: 604-939-9201 • Fax: 604-939-7828

June 17, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

RE: Teacher Job Action – escalation to full strike

As you are aware, the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) are continuing to negotiate a new collective agreement and stemming from these negotiations, the BCTF began job action at the end of April and has now escalated this to a full strike involving a full withdrawal of service across the province.

As of Tuesday, June 17, all Coquitlam School District schools will be behind picket lines. As a result of the strike action, teachers will not be reporting for duty until further notice. While school district facilities will remain open, we will be unable to provide students with instruction and supervision. **We are therefore requesting that parents keep their children home from schools and StrongStart Centres until further notice.**

We have been advised that parents will be allowed to cross picket lines to escort their children to daycares and preschools. Please contact your provider to determine if their facility is open.

School events and facilities rentals are cancelled until further notice.

Bus service is not available until further notice.

Provincial Exams

Parents should also be aware that, as a result of a recent Labour Relations Board ruling, the Coquitlam Board of Education will continue with Grade 10, 11 and 12 Provincial Examinations. According to the June 12, 2014 LRB Order, Provincial Exams are designated as an essential service: "The following services required for the completion of Grade 12 report cards in accordance with student report order M191/94 including:

- a) invigilation of Grade 10-12 Provincial examinations..."

We will be ready for students to write exams at their high schools on June 18th to 25th, according to the published provincial exam schedule. Please check the provincial exam schedule on your secondary school's website. The Labour Relations Board Order Issued For All Support Staff Unions, states that supervision of and support for special needs students, including support to enable special needs students to write Grade 10-12 Provincial Exams, will be provided. Administrators and management staff will be deployed to assist school administrators with the invigilation of the Provincial Exams.

In accordance with the Labour Relations Board Essential Services Update 2014-05 of June 12, 2014, "...the Local Union will provide unrestricted access and egress for persons covered by this Order or any other essential services order (e.g. the support staff order) and that they will not picket entrances designated by the Local Union for students to attend school to write examinations covered by this Order. Districts should address which entrances will be free of pickets with their Local Union." In consultation with the Coquitlam Teachers' Association, **the following is the list of "picket free" access points for each of our schools hosting Provincial Exams:**

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Riverside: Side parking lot between the gym and the sports fields – students will enter at the door between the gym and Gates park, on the north side of the building.

Dr. Charles Best: Staff parking lot entrance. West side of building (by Math and Business Ed wing).

Heritage Woods: Entrance at Heritage and David roundabout. Students will enter via the main entrance doors.

Gleneagle: Entrance off Glen Drive.

Port Moody Secondary School: Lower parking lot and drop-off.

Pinetree: Main entrance off Pinetree Way using the Community Centre roundabout.

Centennial: Parking should be at Dogwood lot and entrance will be main entrance at front of building near portables

Terry Fox: Entrance off Riverside Drive by portables next to the large parking lot.

CABE: Main entrance.

Montgomery Centre: Entrance off Kugler Avenue.

Vanier: Main entrance off King Albert Avenue.

Students and their parents should enter the building by this identified entrance point. Students and their parents may drive onto the site for drop-off and/or parking. Students and parents will not be required to identify their intent.

Report Cards

In the last update, we stated that more information would be coming on report cards. According to the June 12, 2014 LRB Order, class marks for Grade 12 students are designated as an essential service: "The following services required for the completion of Grade 12 report cards in accordance with student report order M191/94 including:

- b) compilation and submission of final grades for grade 12 students in a form ready for entry into BCeSIS no later than June 20, 2014."

The development of reports cards for Grades K to 11 is under review.

Summer Learning

At this time, we anticipate that Summer Learning will proceed as planned. If anything changes on this front, we will update parents through our website and by letter/email.

In closing, we appreciate that the situation is uncertain for families and for children. We hope for a resolution to this labour dispute at the bargaining table before the end of the school year.

We encourage all parents to visit the School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) website at www.sd43.bc.ca for further updates regarding the job action and to keep up to date through the news media. Please continue to monitor our website for the most current information we have.

For more information about the strike and lockout, you may wish to refer to the following websites:

Coquitlam Teachers' Association (CTA) www.coquitlamteachers.com
British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) www.bctf.ca
BC Public Employees Association (BCPSEA) www.bcpsea.bc.ca
BC Ministry of Education www.gov.bc.ca

Yours sincerely,



Thomas Grant
Superintendent of Schools
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM)