

September 1, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with deep regret that we inform you that mediator Vince Ready has declared an impasse in the current dispute between the provincial government and the British Columbia Teachers' Federation. We had hoped that with the pressure building toward September 2nd and with Mr. Ready's involvement, a deal might be possible before the start of school but clearly that is not the case. This announcement means we expect all schools in Surrey will again be behind picket lines on Tuesday, September 2nd and be closed as a result.

We wished we were posting different news today and we acknowledge the incredible pressure the impasse puts on parents and our community. The routines of school are deeply rooted in people's work lives and daily schedules and such a disruption is significant to all concerned. The disruption is especially unsettling when there appears to be no end in sight. We have heard many questions from parents about the government putting in place legislation to end this dispute; however, the government has communicated it is not prepared to do that. Both parties have stated that a resolution needs to be found at the bargaining table and with Mr. Ready's continued involvement, hopefully that will come sooner rather than later.

Schools are far more than places of learning to our children and community. The places we call school are central to the health and well-being of our society. We look forward to when we can post positive news and whenever there is any suggestion of an impending settlement or a return to school we will certainly update parents immediately. At this point, we suggest parents make alternative arrangements for the coming week and look to the very real possibility that a resolution may take much longer.

Sincerely,



Jordan Tinney
Superintendent of Schools/CEO

LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING