

August 26th, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As summer draws to a close, we look once again toward the opening of school for the fall session. Unfortunately, the current labour dispute between the provincial government and the BCTF is still unresolved and we are now looking at the real likelihood that schools will not open on September 2nd. While we continue to hope for a resolution at the bargaining table, a deal does not appear to be likely this week.

In the current context, we are left with few options but to suggest that parents begin to make alternate arrangements for the care of their children. The nature of bargaining is that the pressure necessary to reach a resolution builds as major timelines get closer. Maximum pressure in the current context will not likely occur until very close to September 2nd when parents across the province hope to take their children to school for opening day. If we receive last-minute notice of a resolution and are informed that schools can open, we have routines in place and while there would certainly be issues to tackle such as appropriate timetabling of students or building classes, we would like nothing more than to open as quickly as possible. Opening times and details would be communicated to parents via our website and social media.

The district is committed to preschool programs that operate on our school sites and is working to determine which pre-school providers will offer services during the continuation of job action. These preschools are independent operators and parents are encouraged to contact them directly. A list of service providers can be accessed via the following link: <http://ow.ly/AKA8P>. We will continue to update the information as more becomes available.

The situation is likely to be quite fluid this week and we will be updating our website if there is any significant news. Parents are also encouraged to continue following the media for updates. For other information including any questions about registration processes, parents are asked to contact their schools, or our district education centre, given the likelihood of pickets at schools.

We wish that we had more positive news to share though there is still time for schools to open on September 2nd if a deal can be reached before then. In the interest of our children, we remain hopeful that the two parties can find a resolution.

Sincerely,



Jordan Tinney
Superintendent of Schools/CEO

LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING