



Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you are probably aware the BC Teachers' Federation served 72-hour strike notice on Wednesday August 31, 2011 and is now in a legal position to take Phase 1 job action in BC schools.

All the main issues in this contract negotiation will be settled at the provincial level between the BCTF and the BC Public School Employers Association, which represents 60 public school districts at the bargaining table.

Our job here in Langley School District is to ensure a safe learning and working environment in our schools, to fulfill our obligations under the School Act to teach the K-12 curriculum and to preserve the respectful relationships essential to student success between all the education partners in our community.

During Phase 1 job action teachers are 'not required' to perform duties that have been declared 'non-essential' by the Labour Relations Board. These include: preparation of report cards; supervision of students before and after school and at lunch hour; meet-the-teacher nights; and organization of assemblies.

This is not a full list but is reflective of Phase 1 job action. The LRB decision can be accessed from a link on the 'Teacher Contract Negotiations' web page, which can be accessed from a QuickLink on the Langley School District web site at www.sd35.bc.ca. You can also access a Question & Answer document from the Teacher Contract Negotiations web page.

Most importantly, I want you to know that student safety will not be compromised and the school community will do its utmost to provide a welcoming learning environment. Administrative staff at your child's school will ensure lockers are assigned and all necessary functions of the school year start up are attended to, although there may be some delays and inconvenience. Students will be assigned to blocks and schedules will be provided so their learning will not be disrupted.

It is also important for you to know that teachers will be teaching, taking attendance, marking and assessing students so that when a contract settlement is achieved we will be able to normalize the learning environment as quickly as possible.

Information updates about teacher job action as it affects Langley schools will be posted on the district web site. Your patience and understanding during this period are appreciated. The Board of Education and Senior Management of Langley School District hope a resolution of the issues can be achieved quickly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryle Beaumont".

Cheryle Beaumont
Superintendent of Schools