



SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 (GULF ISLANDS)

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August 25, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the provincial education labour dispute.

As you are aware the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) reached an impasse regarding contract negotiations and on June 17, 2014 the situation escalated to a full-scale strike. As we approach the end of summer vacation a negotiated settlement has not yet been reached. Resultantly, the opening of schools on September 2, 2014 is uncertain.

We continue to be hopeful that the parties will reach a negotiated settlement before schools are due to open.

- If there is a settlement prior to September 2nd all public schools in SD64 will open as scheduled.
- If a settlement is not reached prior to September 2nd public schools will likely be behind picket lines and the start of the school year will be delayed.

Updates regarding the labour dispute can be accessed through the news media and information is available for review on the following websites:

- BC Public School Employer's Association (BCPSEA): <http://www.bcpsea.bc.ca/>
- BC School Trustee's Association (BCSTA): <http://www.bcsta.org/>
- BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF): <https://www.bctf.ca/>
- BC Ministry of Education Newsroom: <http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/ministries/education/>
- School District 64 (Gulf Islands) website: <http://sd64.bc.ca/>

This is a frustrating and worrying time for everyone. It is unfortunate that the normally exciting beginning of a new school year is now one of uncertainty. We have an outstanding public education system in British Columbia and are proud of the hard work and support provided by all of our staff.

Thank you for your understanding during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Lisa Halstead
Superintendent of Schools