



Message from the Superintendent

Wednesday, June 29, 2011

As you may be aware the BC Federation of Teachers and the BC Public School Employers' Association are presently engaged in contract negotiations. The current collective agreement with BC's approximately 41,000 teachers expires on June 30, 2011. Teachers throughout the province have voted in favour of job action and operations at Langley schools may be affected when school resumes after summer break.

The Board of Education and district are hopeful that a resolution of issues can be achieved quickly and without disruptions to programs and services. However, negotiations on major issues take place at the provincial level and are beyond the district's control.

Langley School District will provide a safe learning environment for students and staff for as long as job action permits. The district will not compromise on school safety. Every effort will be made to maintain respectful, professional relationships between all partner and stakeholder groups as a provincial resolution is reached.

As information becomes available it will be posted on the Langley School District web site at www.sd35.bc.ca. Any time you wish to check on the status of Langley Schools, click on the School Status QuickLink from the district homepage. Information will also be posted on the district hotline at 604-532-1453.

To provide some context for school communities wanting more information about negotiations between the BC Teachers Federation and the BC Public School Employers Association an information sheet is attached.

Thank you for your understanding.

Cheryle Beaumont
Superintendent of Schools



INFORMATION SHEET

Teacher Contract Negotiations

June 29, 2011

OVERVIEW

Contract negotiations on major issues are conducted at the provincial level between the BC Federation of Teachers and the BC Public School Employers' Association.

Langley School District will provide a safe learning environment for students and staff for as long as job action permits. The district will not compromise on school safety.

Every effort will be made to maintain respectful, professional relationships between all partner and stakeholder groups as a provincial resolution is reached.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

When will job action begin?

School Districts anticipate some level of job action in September and Langley School District will provide its communities with information as it becomes available.

When will job action end?

Negotiations to resolve issues between the BC Teachers' Federation and the BC Public School Employers' Association take place at the provincial level. Langley School District hopes a settlement can be achieved as quickly as possible.

What kind of job action might be taken?

The types of job action that may occur will to be determined at the provincial level. Langley School District will be prepared to respond in ways that ensure a safe learning environment for students and staff. Student safety will not be compromised.

Why are the teachers taking job action? What are they asking for?

The BC Teachers Federation is exercising its right to bargain in the interests of its members. Those negotiations are taking place at the provincial level with the BC Public School Employers Association and information about the negotiations will be provided at the provincial level.

Will my child be taught the full curriculum during job action?

Langley School District expects that its teachers will continue to teach the full curriculum even if they exercise their right to take job action in other areas. Langley School District will provide a safe learning environment for students and staff for as long as job action permits. The district will not compromise on school safety.

Will my child be adequately supervised while at school?

Langley School District will provide a safe learning environment for students and staff for as long as job action permits. The district will not compromise on school safety.

Where can I get information about job action at my school?

As information becomes available it will be posted on the School Status page, which can be accessed from a QuickLink at www.sd35.bc.ca, and on the district hotline at 604-532-1453.