



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

September 1, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This letter is to provide you with the latest information on the current provincial labour dispute and, in particular, with respect to school operations that would normally begin tomorrow – September 2nd.

Along with parents and students, we began this weekend cautiously optimistic that the two parties would achieve a settlement in time for school to open on Tuesday.

With the involvement of a very skilled mediator we were encouraged that we would see a long awaited breakthrough. However, as you have likely heard through the media, talks between the parties broke down on Saturday. The mediator, Vince Ready, has declared an “impasse” which means that he does not believe that the parties are currently in a place to reach agreement. Unfortunately, that means that all of our schools will remain behind picket lines across the province tomorrow morning and likely beyond.

This is a very disappointing time for everyone and in particular for our students who are eager to begin their classes. This week administrators will be in schools should you have any questions but they will be unable to offer any supervision or instruction. As such, we are asking families to not send their children to school on Tuesday, September 2. At this time we are unsure if classes will resume later this week. However, we will continue to provide updates and post information on our website (www.sd5.bc.ca).

We very much appreciate that this labour dispute has created uncertainty, frustration and inconvenience for everyone. I look forward to being able to welcome everyone back to school. I thank you for your continued patience during this very difficult time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Hauptman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn Hauptman
Superintendent

Parents are encouraged to keep up to date through the news media and review information on the following websites:

- BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA): www.bcpsea.bc.ca
- BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA): www.bcsta.org
- BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF): www.bctf.ca
- Ministry of Education: www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/ministries/education and <http://bcparentinfo.ca/>
- School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay): www.sd5.bc.ca