

Update 1:30 p.m. December 5, 2012

Current Status

- 🍎 All schools are open with regular classroom instruction
- 🍎 Eight of nine bargaining units are in a legal strike position
- 🍎 Effective Monday, December 3rd all eight bargaining units will be operating under partial withdrawal of services
- 🍎 The Elementary Teachers Union has indicated a one day walk-out is possible in December - 72 hours notice will be provided
- 🍎 In the event of a one-day walk-out, the district will close schools and the extended day programs for the day of the walk-out
- 🍎 The tentative agreement with OSSTF (secondary teachers) has been ratified by the Board of Trustees, who have offered to extend the deadline for union ratification to December 21st

Elementary

Elementary teachers and occasional teachers are in a legal strike position and started a work to rule campaign on Monday, December 3, 2012. Our administrative and support staff are also in a legal strike position and continue to work under partial withdrawal of service at the elementary and secondary levels.

Under the elementary work to rule strategy, parents of elementary students can expect that regular classroom instruction will continue as usual; teachers will be in the classroom performing their instructional and supervisory duties. However, teachers will not participate in administrative and non-instructional duties such as extra-curricular activities, field trips, meetings, professional development, provincial assessments, and any activities that occur outside of the regular school day. School principals will communicate directly with parents about the impact on specific activities within your child's school.

The elementary teachers union (ETFO) is planning to hold a one-day walk-out in every school district across the province. To ensure student safety in the event of a one-day walk-out, our elementary schools will be closed for that school day. We expect to have 72 hours notice of any walk-out and will communicate information through the media and via telephone voice message. Parents should make childcare arrangements for their child(ren) as students will not be able to attend the school.

In the event of a one-day walk-out, extended day programs operated by the district will be closed on that day. Before and after school programs operated by other service providers may also be affected on that day. Parents should contact their service provider/program coordinator to confirm whether their program will operate.

Secondary

On November 22, 2012 the OCDSB and OSSTF (secondary teachers) reached a tentative agreement which was negotiated in good faith. On December 4, 2012, the Board of Trustees ratified the tentative agreement exactly as agreed to by the parties and passed a [motion](#) encouraging the union to hold a ratification vote and encouraging the Minister of Education to respect the outcome of locally bargained agreements.

The Board is hopeful that OSSTF will reconsider their previous statement which indicated that they will not take the tentative agreement between the OCDSB and OSSTF to their membership for ratification. In support of that, the Board has offered to extend the timeline for ratification to December 21, 2012. Throughout this process the Board has been committed to local bargaining. In our school district, we teach students that the best way to resolve issues is to work out a solution between the parties directly involved. We believe the tentative agreement is a locally developed solution.

At this time, OSSTF has halted all local negotiations and has reintroduced sanctions across the province. OSSTF has announced that they will not undertake a complete withdrawal of service, however they have implemented the following:

Members will continue to deliver curriculum and ensure students are safe;

Teachers and support staff will report to work 15 minutes prior to scheduled duties;

Volunteer duties and/or extra-curricular activities will NOT be undertaken as of December 10th;

Members will engage in more political action to make public aware of Bill 115;

If the Minister orders union members back to work, they will comply but will not continue extra-curricular activities; and

OSSTF will conduct an all member vote during week of December 17 to determine level of support for political protest.

We continue to be in contact with both the OSSTF provincial office and local representatives in an effort to bring more clarity to this situation and will provide more detail as it becomes available.

This is a challenging and rapidly changing situation. I would like to thank the Board, our administrators, parents and students for their patience and understanding. While there is much public discussion about the labour disruption, I want to reassure parents that our focus during the school day continues to be student learning.

If you have any comments, concerns or questions, do not hesitate to email me at director@ocdsb.ca.

Sincerely

Jennifer