

Update 2:30 p.m. December 7, 2012

Current Status

- 🍎 All schools are open with regular classroom instruction
- 🍎 The Elementary Teachers Union has indicated a one day walk-out will be held on Wednesday, December 12th
- 🍎 The district will close elementary schools and all extended day and before and after schools day programs on December 12th
- 🍎 As of Monday, December 3rd all eight of our nine bargaining units are operating under partial withdrawal of services
- 🍎 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 - NEW *

The Elementary Teachers' Federations of Ontario (ETFO) has advised the district that a one-day walk-out will take place across the district on Wednesday, December 12, 2012. All students in JK-8 will be affected, including special education students. All elementary schools will be closed to students on that day. The closure is a result of a walk-out by elementary teachers and elementary occasional teachers. They are in a legal strike position. Parents should make alternate childcare arrangements for the day as elementary students will not be able to attend school.

More detailed information is contained below.

Elementary Schools closed – In the interest of student safety, all elementary schools will be closed to students on December 12th. Parents should make alternate childcare arrangements as students cannot attend school.

Secondary Schools open – All secondary schools will be open and a regular school day is planned. Students and staff are expected to attend school. Secondary schools should not be affected by the elementary strike action. However, in school sites which house both elementary and secondary students or which are adjacent to elementary schools, students and parents may encounter picket lines and should review the guidelines for crossing [picket lines](#).

Extended Day (Before and After School) Programs – All extended day programs in elementary schools will be closed on that day. Before and after school care and recreational programs operated by third party service providers will also be closed on December 12th.

Childcare programs – Daycare programs operated in schools by third party service providers may continue to operate. Parents should contact their service provider to confirm the status of operations.

School buses – Bus service will NOT be operating for elementary students on December 12th. Bus service will continue as usual on that day for secondary students. Parents and students should be aware

that bus delays are possible. Information on busing is available from the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority website (www.ottawaschoolbus.ca).

Community Use Permits – Community use permits for activities which operate in elementary schools after 6 p.m. will continue as usual.

More information – Stay informed through the district website at www.ocdsb.ca. We will also communicate any major announcements through the media and directly to parents via telephone message.

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