

Jennifer Adams - Director of Education & Secretary of the Board

I would like to begin by extending my sincere thanks to parents, students and community partners for your patience and understanding as we worked through the challenges of the week.

As you know by now, early this morning the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) rendered a [decision](#) that the one day walk-out planned by the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETF0) was illegal. As a result, teachers were in schools today, notwithstanding our decision to keep schools closed to students for regular instruction. Our teachers are dedicated professionals and they reported to work this morning and did work connected to our focus on instruction in the classroom.

In Ottawa and across the province there have been many questions about the decisions to open or close schools. These aren't easy decisions and they are not decisions that are made lightly, but they are made with all the information available at the time. I want to reassure you in every decision we made, student safety was always our first priority. We also worked hard to ensure that parents had up-to-date information as quickly as possible. Not surprisingly, there were a few confusing moments as we worked with our schools and community partners to communicate early morning messages about middle of the night decisions. This was a particular challenge for some of our early start schools. I apologize for any confusion that you may have experienced.

Parents will be happy to know that today, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) announced that they will not be proceeding with the planned one day walk-out proposed for next Wednesday.

There have been some questions about the elementary Professional Activity Day scheduled for next Friday, January 18th. PA Days are established on the school year calendar. The school year calendar and the number of PA Days in the school year are regulated by the Ministry. There are also provisions in our collective agreements regarding PA Day. The PA Day will continue as planned.

Today's decision by the OLRB is another step in the journey of this labour situation. My hope is that may be a step towards greater stability in our schools. All of our schools will be open on Monday, January 14th and our staff will be there to welcome students and to support student learning.

Have a great weekend.

Jennifer

Executive Assistant - Marie Bulgin

Background Information:

-  [Background](#)
-  [Labour Disruption Fact Sheet](#)
-  [One Day Walk-out Fact Sheet for the Community](#) (Updated January 9, 2013)
-  [Bill 115](#)
-  [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (Updated November 20, 2012)
-  [Links to related information](#)