

**Dr. Jennifer Adams - Director of Education**

**Update November 30, 2012**

## **Director's Blog**

### **Labour Relations Update**

Elementary teachers and occasional teachers are now in a legal strike position and we expect a work to rule campaign to begin 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.

We also understand that 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.

Extended day programs operated by the district will be closed. Before and after school programs operated by other service providers may also be affected. Parents should contact their service provider/program coordinator to confirm whether their program will operate.

On November 22, 2012 the district and OSSTF (secondary teachers) reached a tentative agreement which was sent to the Minister of Education for approval, and which requires ratification by the union membership and the approval of the Board of Trustees. The Minister has deemed the agreement "workable". However, OSSTF has halted all local negotiations and has advised that sanctions will be reintroduced on Monday, December 3rd, 2012. We are seeking clarification from both the OSSTF provincial office and local representatives. We will provide more information, as it becomes available.

Throughout this process, our first priority continues to be student safety. 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](mailto:director@ocdsb.ca).

Sincerely  
Jennifer

Executive Assistant - Marie Bulgin

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