

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 22 (VERNON)

September 1, 2011

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
1401 - 15th STREET
VERNON, BRITISH COLUMBIA
V1T 8S8
TELEPHONE (250) 542-3331
FAX (250) 549-9200

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: Teacher Strike Action

This is to advise you that the union representing the teaching staff in School District No. 22 (Vernon) has served 72-hour strike notice to the school district.

Phase 1: (Commencing September 6, 2011)

During Phase One, teachers will be in classrooms providing instruction, assessing student progress and taking attendance. We have been advised that while there will be no picket lines, teachers will not be performing certain duties:

Specifically, during job action, teachers have indicated they will not:

- participate in meetings or interviews with parents/guardians and/or district teaching staff outside of instructional time, or during instructional time unless coverage is provided
- participate in meet the teacher activities outside of instructional time, or during instructional time unless coverage is provided
- prepare or distribute report cards
- provide any student assessment data to Administrative Officers or the school office, except Grade 12 marks required for graduation, post-secondary applications and scholarship purposes
- complete and submit student referral forms outside of instructional time
- attend staff meetings
- attend staff committee meetings
- attend any meeting called by School District Management
- participate in any standing or ad hoc District committees
- attend school based meetings called by an Administrative Officer, unless the meetings are related to an emergency
- provide Administrative Officers with any routine printed, written or electronic communications
- accept any printed, written or electronic communication from an Administrative Officer, unless it relates to an emergency
- participate in the preparation or the organization of assemblies outside of instructional time, or during instruction time unless coverage is provided
- participate in any School District or Ministry in-service
- participate in any professional development that is not teacher directed
- participate in any school photo organization
- provide coverage for a teacher who is absent, except for a Teacher on Call hired specifically for that purpose
- administer or supervise the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) or any District or Ministry test
- collect money from students or participate in fundraising
- order supplies, textbooks etc., unless needed immediately to effectively maintain ongoing instruction
- assist the Administrative Officer in administrative tasks like building timetables or computer organization
- do inventory



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- organize textbooks
- answer school office phones
- supervise detention before, during or after instructional time
- prepare overviews or previews for the Administrative Officers, except when associated with a teacher evaluation process
- distribute School District or administrative letters, newsletters, memos or announcements to students, unless it is health and safety related
- pack up classrooms to facilitate painting, renovations or maintenance
- perform department head/position of responsibility duties except during allocated time in the timetable
- perform before school, recess, noon-hour or after school supervision, unless there are not enough management and exempt staff resources to provide this coverage

While noon-hour supervision will be provided by each school's student supervisors, recess/morning breaks require significant involvement of teaching staff. As the District has limited management personnel to cover supervision, it will be necessary to change the traditional timetable of each school by eliminating recess/morning breaks. This measure is being taken to ensure that each school can adequately supervise students and ensure safety. **Accordingly, all schools will conclude their day 15 minutes early.** District bus transportation schedules will be adjusted to align with this dismissal time.

Extra-curricular activities are expected to continue provided that the teacher continues to volunteer to sponsor the activity. In addition, teachers will respond in an emergency where a student's health or safety is at risk.

The School District is asking parents' cooperation with the following:

- If your child does not ride a bus, please arrange to have your child arrive at the school close to the school starting time and to leave immediately after dismissal, since there will only be limited supervision of students at the school during these times.

The District regrets any inconvenience that these changes may cause and will be doing everything possible to minimize the impact on your child's educational program, while providing the highest level of student safety possible. We sincerely hope that this labour dispute will be resolved as quickly as possible and we will endeavour to keep you informed of developments as additional information is received. While we may not always be able to send information updates home with students, we will be regularly updating our School District website at www.sd22.bc.ca.

If you have any questions about the specifics of this job action, please contact your school principal or the School District Administration Office at 250-542-3331.

Sincerely,



Bev Rundell
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Vernon Teachers' Association (VTA)
Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 5523 (CUPE)
District Parent Advisory Council
Vernon Principals and Vice Principals' Association
School Parent Advisory Councils