



Thursday, September 26, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to provide our families with an important update on labour relations.

About 55,000 Ontario school board support staff represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) will be in a legal strike position on Monday, Sept. 30 including about 800 support workers at Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington (PVNC) Catholic District School Board.

In our Board, CUPE represents support staff such as custodians, maintenance staff, secretaries, educational assistants, early childcare educators, learning commons specialists, paraprofessionals and central IT employees among others.

Our understanding is that the first phase of job action beginning Monday, Sept. 30 will be “work-to-rule” actions. CUPE staff during this time may not be completing additional duties beyond their normal responsibilities or hours of work.

All PVNC schools will remain open, and learning will be happening in our classrooms. We are working diligently to minimize any impact on our students and school communities. However, employees represented by CUPE provide many important services within our schools and board, and despite our best efforts, the withdrawal of these services will cause some disruption.

Student and staff safety is always our top priority and that will be a major factor in determining how continued job action may affect the operation of schools.

As a Catholic school board, we remain committed to the labour negotiations process and we are hopeful a new central agreement with CUPE will be reached in the near future.

We will be posting labour relations updates on our website - www.pvnccdsb.on.ca - and parents are encouraged to follow us on Twitter @PVNCCDSB. Significant updates will also be communicated to families via our School Messenger system.

We very much appreciate your understanding and patience as we work together to support our students and school communities during this time.

Sincerely,

Michelle Griepsma
CHAIRPERSON

Michael Nasello
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

MN/ab