

October 22, 2024

Dear Parents, guardians, and families,

We are writing to provide an important update regarding the potential strike action by CUPE Local 3550, which represents support staff.

Disputes Inquiry Board (DIB) appointed

The Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade has granted approval for the Division's application for a Disputes Inquiry Board (DIB) to assist in resolving the ongoing contract negotiations with CUPE Local 3550. A DIB is a neutral third-party process that helps both parties to explore all avenues available to them and explore potential solutions to avoid a strike.

The DIB process may take approximately 30 days depending on the circumstances.

Strike action postponed

As a result of the DIB appointment, the strike action by CUPE 3550 that was scheduled to begin this week will **not** proceed as planned for Thursday, October 24, 2024. This additional time allows a focus on the DIB process, working towards a negotiated settlement. A DIB does not affect the ability of CUPE Local 3550 to take strike action after the process is complete.

Our commitment

We remain committed to reaching an agreement with CUPE Local 3550. We value the incredible work that support staff do every day in schools, classrooms, and central offices. They are important members of our team, contributing to the success and well-being of students.

We are hopeful that the DIB process will be helpful in resolving the outstanding issues and reaching an agreement that avoids any disruption to learning.

Next steps

We will continue to keep families informed about any further developments in the negotiations. In the meantime, we encourage you to contact your school principal if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DR', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Darrel Robertson
Superintendent of Schools

