

January 17, 2025

Dear parents, families and guardians,

As we complete the first week of the CUPE Local 3550 strike, I want to express my sincere appreciation, on behalf of everyone in the Division, for your patience, understanding, and collaboration during this challenging time.

We deeply value the work of support staff, which includes administrative assistants, administrative assistant mentors, clerks, educational assistants, educational assistant mentors, food preparers, interpreters, library technicians, licensed practical nurses, speech language pathology assistants, supply educational assistants and technicians. They are all incredibly important members of the team that supports student success.

But I know that learning environments look and feel different right now, and that schools may not be able to respond as quickly as they normally would. I am grateful for your continued support and understanding as we navigate these challenges together.

I also acknowledge that this strike is having an impact on many families, particularly those who rely on specialized supports provided by our educational assistants and other support staff. I understand the difficulties this situation presents, and we are committed to providing as much support as possible to your children and families, based on individual circumstances relating to safety.

We have repeatedly engaged with CUPE Local 3550 and have put forward everything we can, which unfortunately falls short of their expectations. We remain committed to working with CUPE Local 3550 to explore all possible options we can to reach an agreement and end the strike.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding. I will continue to provide updates and information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,



Darrel Robertson
Superintendent of Schools