



June 25, 2014

Mike Roberts, Interim CEO
BC Public School Employers' Association
#400-1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6H 4C1

Jim Iker, President
BC Teachers' Federation
#100 – 550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P5

Re: Teacher bargaining

Dear Sirs,

We are sending this letter to add our voice to that of BCSTA President Theresa Rezansoff in indicating our disappointment that we have arrived at the last week of school and are still at impasse. We agree with Ms. Rezansoff that your mutual agreement to use a mediator is a positive step forward. We also agree that our students cannot wait while you search for one. We confirm that relationships in our district are fractured, and our students are caught in the middle. This is damaging, unnecessary, and unacceptable in the face of this mutual agreement. For the benefit of all students, teachers, administrators and parents we wish to whole heartedly endorse Ms. Rezansoff's request for you to immediately commit to non-stop, face-to-face bargaining away from the media.

We also agree with the request that both BCTF and BCPSEA immediately suspend all strike and lock-out actions not only until a mediator is found but while mediation is proceeding. We agree such a move would be an act of good faith by both parties and significantly increase public trust in the public education system.

Of course we are hopeful the parties will make progress to end this impasse before the end of the regular school year. Should bargaining not be successful over the next few days and the impasse carry on into the summer, at the very least, we request both parties agree to suspend strike and lock out activity in relation to both summer school and the balanced calendar schools, one of which is located in our community (Kanaka Creek Elementary). Our most vulnerable students rely upon summer school to achieve some measure of success in their school year while students attending the balanced calendar schools stand to lose a full month of their education beyond that of other students which seems to us to be terribly unfair. Moreover, the teachers involved in those schools stand to lose an additional month of their salaries beyond the level of salary lost by other teachers.

For the sake of our students please give our request every possible consideration.

Sincerely,



Mike Murray, Chair
Board of Education

Cc:
School District No. 42 Board of Education
Laurie Meston, Acting Superintendent
Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer
Maple Ridge Teachers' Association
Canadian Union of Public Employees' Local 703
District Parent Advisory Council
Maple Ridge Principals' and Vice Principals' Association