

April 30, 2015

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR FAMILIES:

Potential job action by elementary teachers province-wide

The purpose of this letter is to update Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) families on the status of labour negotiations with elementary teachers. It's important for you to be aware of how this situation may affect your child(ren).

At the provincial/central bargaining table, the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) filed for conciliation and made the request for a *No-Board Report*. On April 24, 2015, ETFO announced that they are in receipt of a *No-Board Report*. **As such, elementary teachers across the province are in a legal strike position as of May 10, 2015. This may include any labour action or withdrawal of service, up to and including a strike.**

Please note that this **does not** mean a strike will happen in HWDSB elementary schools as of May 10.

As per the *Ontario Labour Relations Act*, five days' notice must be given before any strike action can be taken. We are committed to keeping you informed and will communicate with you immediately, if and when we become aware that strike notice has been provided at the provincial/central bargaining table. **Please note that should a strike occur, all HWDSB elementary schools (kindergarten to grade 8) would be closed to students.**

We know a potential labour disruption can create anxiety for our students, parents and staff. We want to assure you that should there be any job action, we will immediately communicate with our families to ensure you have as much notice as possible

If you have questions, or want to know what is happening in HWDSB schools related to negotiations:

- Look for updates on **social media**—follow @HWDSB on Twitter and/or like our page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hwdsb.
- Visit HWDSB's website at www.hwdsb.on.ca.

Our priority during any job action is the safety and well-being of our students. We value our elementary teachers and their work with our students and remain committed to reaching fair, negotiated agreements with all of our employee groups.

Sincerely,



Todd White
Chair of the Board