

HWDSB

October 3, 2019

Dear Families,

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) received official notice that on Monday, October 7, 2019, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), which represents about 500 HWDSB caretakers and maintenance workers, may take strike action in the form of a full withdrawal of service.

The strike is a province-wide job action taken as a collective agreement has not been reached between the Government of Ontario and CUPE. HWDSB is planning to implement contingency measures to keep schools safe, clean and open.

Families can expect the following starting on Monday, October 7, 2019:

- **OPEN:** HWDSB schools will remain open for teaching and learning during the instructional day. This means that doors will open 15 minutes before bell time and will close 15 minutes after bell time. Please check your school's website if you are unsure of bell times.
- **MODIFIED:** Existing Early Learning and Child Care centres (Birth to age 3.8) will be open on a modified schedule to align with the school bell times. Please speak with your child care operator for more details.
- **CANCELLED:** To keep schools safe, clean and open during the school day, the following programs are cancelled:
 - EarlyON Child and Family Centres
 - All licenced before- and after-school programs
 - All authorized recreation programs
 - All rental permits on any board property, board meetings, school council and Home & School Association meetings, professional learning, training and athletics, from October 5 to 20 inclusive

Effective Monday, October 7, all extra-curricular activities in HWDSB will be cancelled until further notice. Excursions that take place off of school property and during the instructional school day will continue, as these are teaching and learning opportunities. Please speak with your principal about the impact on specific events.

HWDSB

Families may wish to help keep our schools clean by packing “boomerang” lunches, which use reusable containers and minimal packaging to bring any waste created back to a student’s home.

As HWDSB implements contingency measures, we will monitor the conditions of schools during the job action. We will communicate with families if we are unable to maintain learning environments and need to close schools. We will also keep families informed as labour developments occur, including the lifting of job sanctions.

Please visit our Labour Updates web page located at: www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/labour-update/

We recognize that strike actions put families in a difficult position. We trust that our contingency plans focus on safety and allow students to continue to learn during this time of uncertainty.

Sincerely,



Alex Johnstone
Chair of the Board



Manny Figueiredo
Director of Education