

HWDSB

January 27, 2020

Dear Elementary School Families,

Collective bargaining is still proceeding with the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO).

ETFO is scheduled to take part in a one-day walkout at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) on **Friday, January 31, Thursday, February 6 and Friday, February 7**. ETFO represents our permanent and occasional teachers as well as designated early childhood educators.

As a result, all HWDSB elementary schools will be closed to students on Friday, January 31, Thursday, February 6 and Friday, February 7 as there will not be sufficient supervision to ensure their safety.

Parents/guardians are required to make alternate childcare arrangements for their children.

Notification has also been given that ETFO members will not participate in extracurricular activities at any time as of Monday, February 3, 2020.

In addition, families and community members should be aware of the following notices:

- Licensed child care centres in all elementary and secondary schools will be open.
- Before- and after-school programs in elementary schools may be open. Parents/guardians are asked to contact their child's program operator for details.
- EarlyON Child and Family Centres will be open.
- Elementary schools will remain accessible to rental permit holders for community use.
- The child care fee subsidies for families who currently receive them will increase to cover extended hours. Child care subsidies will not be available for new families at this time. Programs will have a limited ability to accept new families on this day. Learn more at www.hamilton.ca/childcare.
- Parents and community members may experience picket lines at some school locations. Information is available on the HWDSB website to help you should you encounter one.

Unless progress is made in the provincial collective bargaining process between the three parties, ETFO has indicated that the walkout will continue.

HWDSB

Should there be any changes to the planned walkout, we will communicate directly with parents/guardians in a timely manner.

For more details, please visit the Labour Update section on our website at www.hwdsb.on.ca and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

Sincerely,



Alex Johnstone
Chair of the Board



Manny Figueiredo
Director of Education