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April 14, 2023

**\*\*REVISED\*\***

Dear Families and School Community Members:

As shared with you earlier this week, we are in contract negotiations with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Local 4682. As part of that process, members have voted in favour of a strike. That said, work continues to reach a fair, negotiated agreement that would avoid this strike, and **the earliest a strike could happen would be Friday, April 21, 2023.**

In South Shore, the employees involved are bus drivers, janitors, custodians, mechanics, tradespeople, groundskeepers, and the inventory clerk. We value and respect these employees, as they do important work for our students and in our schools.

At the same time, our priority must be to ensure students can continue their learning safely and on schedule. We want to share as much information as possible, so you can plan and know what to expect, if a strike occurs:

- Grades **Pre-Primary - 6** students will continue to attend classes at their school.
- Learning for most Grades 7 - 12 students will shift to online. The exceptions are those students who regularly attend class in the learning center. They can continue to do so.
- Bussing will not be available for any students, unless previous arrangements are in place for your child to be bussed privately.
- Schools will not be available for before or after school use, except for any existing child care programs.
- Extracurricular activities that require the use of the interior of the school or school buses are suspended. However, class trips or other activities that do not involve interior school use or buses, as well as sports on fields and school grounds, may continue.

It is important to remember that CUPE is in contract negotiations affecting schools provincewide. You may see or hear media reports and social posts about services affected in other parts of the province that are not affected in our schools. For example, Pre-Primary will continue and our education program assistants remain at work.

We know these changes will be disruptive for all of our students, but some students will face unique challenges. Your principal, teachers and other school staff will work with you on how to meet those challenges.

We all hope that we can reach an agreement to avoid a labour disruption. However, we must continue to develop plans to ensure that student learning can continue, if a strike occurs.



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I know you must have a lot of questions. Principals will share more school-specific information with you early next week. Thank you for your co-operation.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pynch-Worthylake  
Regional Executive Director of Education