



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

"Together We Learn"

## SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23

(CENTRAL OKANAGAN)

1940 Underhill Street, Kelowna, B.C. V1X 5X7

Tel. (250) 860-8888 Fax (250) 860-9799

Website: [www.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.sd23.bc.ca)

August 7, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender  
Minister of Education  
PO Box 9045, Stn. Prov. Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Mr. Jim Iker, President  
BC Teachers' Federation  
100 – 550 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6H 4P2

Mr. Michael Marchbank, Public Administrator  
BC Public School Employers' Association  
400 – 1333 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2

Dear Sirs:

### **Re: The Current Labour Dispute**

The Central Okanagan Board of Education held a Special Public Board Meeting on August 6, 2014 to discuss the BCSTA's *Back to School Action Plan* and the meeting planned for August 8, 2014 between BCTF and BCPSEA.

The Board has endorsed the BCSTA's *Back to School Action Plan*, and in particular wishes to emphasize that any monies saved during the strike/lockout should remain within the public education system and not be used for any other purpose.

The Board is pleased that the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting is occurring, and is hopeful that a resolution to the current impasse can be found so that schools will reopen, as scheduled, on September 2, 2014.

The Minister has said that the government is prepared to bring some additional concepts to the table, and the BCTF has indicated they will bring some new ideas forward. These statements leave us feeling more optimistic that a settlement will be reached. We urge the parties to reopen negotiations, bargain in good faith behind closed doors, and come to an agreement.

It is unthinkable that the strike/lockout situation will continue into September. Our students need to be back in school where they belong. We believe their parents value the education system and want their children in school to learn and grow, not just to be "baby-sat". On the other hand, parents do not need to be struggling to find child-care spaces in safe, licensed facilities. We know that these child-care places are almost impossible to find at the best of times, so the pressures that will be placed on families should the dispute continue past the end of August are unacceptable and we believe unnecessary.

### **Board of Education - Trustees**

Moyra Baxter  
Julia Fraser

Joyce Brinkerhoff  
Christopher L. Gorman

Deb Butler  
Murli Pendharkar

Rolli Cacchioni



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

"Together We Learn"

## SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23

(CENTRAL OKANAGAN)

1940 Underhill Street, Kelowna, B.C. V1X 5X7

Tel. (250) 860-8888 Fax (250) 860-9799

Website: [www.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.sd23.bc.ca)

Our public education system is seen as one of the best in the world, but the continuing labour strife is causing a loss of confidence in our public schools. Everyone involved in our schools, including administrators, teachers, support staff, parents and students, has suffered during this dispute. We want to get back to working together to provide the best possible education for all the students we serve.

We ask that you consider the BCSTA's *Back to School Action Plan* as you enter new negotiations, and that you work together in a spirit of mutual respect to come to a timely agreement.

Yours sincerely,

Moyra Baxter, Chairperson  
Board of Education

cc: Central Okanagan Board of Education Trustees  
All BC Boards of Education c/o BCSTA  
The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia  
The Honourable Norm Letnick, MLA  
The Honourable Steve Thomson, MLA  
Dan Ashton, MLA  
Central Okanagan Teachers' Association  
CUPE Local 3523  
Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council

### Board of Education - Trustees

Moyra Baxter  
Julia Fraser

Joyce Brinkerhoff  
Christopher L. Gorman

Deb Butler  
Murli Pendharkar

Rolli Cacchioni