



Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board

Shannon Binder, Chair of the Board
Sean Monteith, Director of Education

Possibilities
TODAY & TOMORROW

October 4, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians and Families:

Subject: CUPE Strike Action

This is an update to my letter of September 30, 2019 about provincial job action at schools and offices by employees represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). At Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board (HPEDSB) these unionized employees consist of secretaries, educational assistants, early childhood educators, library technicians, IT staff, custodians and maintenance workers, among others.

We have been advised that CUPE members will be on strike beginning Monday, October 7, 2019 if a provincial agreement is not reached or progress towards an agreement is not made by midnight on October 6, 2019.

In light of this pending provincial strike, **all schools will be closed to students on Monday, October 7, 2019 and possibly longer.** If you access child care services in HPEDSB schools, please take direction from your child care provider.

This decision is being taken for safety and security reasons, and involved the following considerations:

- supervision and reporting student attendance;
- medical supports and care;
- safe operation of water and sanitation systems, including required water flushing;
- conditions of school buildings and classrooms; and
- overall safety and security.

In preparation for next week, I encourage you to make the necessary arrangements to support your family needs. I recognize that keeping your children home from school is incredibly disruptive. Job action, such as full withdrawal of services, is part of the collective bargaining process.

As both the Director of Education, and more importantly, as a parent myself, I understand and empathize with the difficulty this creates for families. We are committed to all parents/guardians, families, staff and especially our students, to be as responsive and forthcoming with accurate information as we possibly can.

Updates will be posted on our website at HPEschools.ca, and shared through our Twitter feed at @HPEschools. **Please check these feeds and local media on Sunday evening for a status update about whether schools will be open to students on Monday.**

We appreciate your patience and understanding. If you have any questions, please contact your child's principal.

Sincerely,

Sean Monteith, Director of Education