



## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UPDATE

### UPDATE – May 26, 2016

Late last week the School Board received further correspondence from Paul Elliott, who is the provincial President for the OSSTF. In his letter, Mr. Elliott advised the Board that secondary teachers would be continuing with their labour disruption and it would further include teachers not participating in graduation ceremonies for our grade 12 students.

The Board will continue to work to try and minimize the impact of this labour disruption on our students, while administration will provide the necessary support for graduation ceremonies to take place.

It is for our students that the Board refuses to compromise on the issue of teacher qualifications. The issue is in regards to the qualifications of those teachers who have been placed on the Board's redundancy list. The Board is insisting that those teachers selected from the list must be qualified to teach the course in question; the Union is proposing that selection be based solely on the seniority of the teacher.

The redundancy wording that the Union is proposing does not exist in other school boards in the province; our Board would be the only Board who has agreed to it.

We have been in negotiations with our secondary teachers since April 30, 2015 and the union has initiated a labour disruption since December 9, 2015. We know that this is a difficult time for education bargaining in Ontario. It has been the goal of the Board to reach agreements that are fair to our teachers and reflect the bargaining that is occurring in education across the province.

Throughout the course of bargaining, the Board's Bargaining has proposed a number of different options to try and resolve the outstanding issues including binding arbitration, which was rejected by the Union's bargaining committee.

On May 31, 2016, the lead mediator for the province will be meeting with both bargaining committees and we are hopeful this meeting will restart the discussion and ultimately result in a collective bargaining agreement.

Mission: ***"Together, we empower all students to believe in themselves, to achieve, and to dream."***

Vision: ***"The Rainy River District School Board is an innovative community, nurturing hearts and minds, to build a foundation for tomorrow, today."***

*This publication is available in accessible formats upon request.*