



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Rainy River District School Board requests the union take latest offer to membership vote

In an effort to resolve the current labor disruption, the Board has requested, that the union take the Board's final offer to the membership for a vote before the school year begins.

The Rainy River District School Board and OSSTF, the union representing our secondary school teachers, have been engaged in collective bargaining for the last 16 months. On January 19, 2016, in an effort to reach a settlement, the Board removed all of its requests to change the agreement. Since then, the Board has made many proposals to address each of the union's concerns. The only demands now under discussion are union demands.

Over the course of the last school year, the union has engaged in rotating one day labor disruptions, has refused to participate in graduation, and has taken steps to cancel extra-curricular activities. The Board believes that our students and their families are best served when there is stability in the classroom, as opposed to cancelled extra-curricular activities and threats of further job action.

In an effort to arrive at a negotiated collective agreement in May, the Board reached out to the lead mediator for the province for assistance with negotiations.

While the parties have reached agreement on a majority of issues, key issues still remain outstanding. The union is proposing that teachers declared redundant shall be placed in vacant temporary positions until permanent positions become available. While the Board has agreed to such access in principle, the OSSTF continues to insist that re-timetabling of schools must occur where necessary to allow such placements.

The union is also proposing that all disciplinary sanctions, however serious, will be removed from the teacher's record after two years except for disciplinary suspensions of more than 4 days concerning a limited number of matters. The Board is willing to accept a clause but strongly believes that issues related to harassment or violence, and matters related to physical, emotional or psychological harm to students or employees of the Board should remain on file in case such incidents arise again.

The Board believes its offer to the union is fair for our teachers. We hope that a vote will resolve the issues.

As the school year approaches, our students and their families are best served by a Board and teachers who have a collective agreement in place.

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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.”*

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