



November 16, 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) has been notified that members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 1238 will join their colleagues across the province in a legal strike involving a full withdrawal of services in Ontario schools, **effective Monday, November 21, 2022** unless there is progress at the central bargaining table with the Ministry of Education and the trustees' association.

Student safety is the top priority for the LKDSB. If the strike proceeds, CUPE staff will not report to work. In our schools and across our system, CUPE represents custodians, early childhood educators, educational assistants, secretaries, library and computer technicians and other school-based and central staff members. A full strike would mean none of these important supports for schools would be in place and the LKDSB will not be able to safely operate our schools.

If an agreement is not reached, all LKDSB schools will be closed to students on Monday, November 21, 2022.

Secondary students: All students in secondary schools who are enrolled in in-person learning will transition to synchronous teacher-led remote learning on Monday, November 21, 2022 and for the duration of the strike action with a full withdrawal of services.

Elementary students: All students in elementary schools who are enrolled in in-person learning will transition to asynchronous learning on Monday, November 21, 2022 and to synchronous learning on Wednesday, November 23, 2022 for the duration of the strike action with a full withdrawal of services.

Synchronous remote learning includes live, online teacher-led lessons. Students will receive instructions about their transition to synchronous virtual learning as per their typical means of school communication.

LKDSB elementary and secondary virtual learning programming will continue as scheduled, as well as off-site and online learning programs.

Please continue to check the LKDSB website up to and including Monday morning for updates regarding whether schools will be closed to students beginning Monday, November 21.

Please contact the school to discuss any concerns related to your child's learning, including access to a device or reliable internet. Please note: Due to limitations related to the full withdrawal of services by CUPE staff, LKDSB devices may not be available for all students and other arrangements may need to be made to support the continuation of students' learning.

On Thursday, November 17, students should take home any personal items (e.g. eyeglasses, medications, etc.) or materials needed to participate in synchronous remote learning.

We appreciate that there may be significant impacts on your family. Families are strongly encouraged to explore alternate child care arrangements in the event a strike occurs. If you have any mental health and well-

being concerns about your child, please contact the LKDSB Mental Wellness Team (MentalWellness@lkdsb.net) or contact the Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868 (toll-free).

LKDSB is hopeful a fair agreement can be reached and the full strike action will be avoided.

We will provide an update to families, staff and students as more information becomes available.

Visit the LKDSB website for up-to-date information regarding contract negotiations (www.lkdsb.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Howitt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Howitt
Director of Education