

Labour Relations Board Order Issued Today Regarding Student Supervision

Background

On Friday, June 6, 2014, BCPSEA filed an application with the Labour Relations Board (LRB) to include the designation of additional essential services required for supervision of students, including special needs students, in the Maple Ridge School District during picketing by members of the local Maple Ridge Teachers' Association during the school day (recess and/or lunch hours). BCPSEA sought to have certain support staff represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 703 (CUPE, Local 703) designated essential in relation to their supervisory duties over students during these times.

The LRB, in a decision released on Saturday, June 7, granted the Order.

Today's Order

BCPSEA proceeded to apply to have the Order extended to cover all school districts (see Note below). The LRB has this morning issued a further Order (attached) amending the June 7 Order to cover all school districts that have CUPE noon hour and recess supervisors and/or CUPE employees who provide support and supervision to special needs students. The Order states as follows:

"...The Labour Relations Board amends the June 7, 2014 Order and designates the following services provided by members of CUPE as essential:

1. All services required for lunch hour and recess supervision of students, being all non-teacher employees who regularly perform such supervisory duties during the lunch hour break.
2. All services by non-teacher employees regularly required to provide supervision and support to special needs students at any time pickets are placed at any school, and when those members of CUPE are regularly required to be working."

The unions did not object to the BCPSEA application. It is also important to note that this Order specifically covers noon hour and recess supervision and supervision/support for special needs students regularly provided by those CUPE employees.

NOTE: Ten school districts will not be covered by this Order as their employees are members of unions other than CUPE. If any of those districts experience similar issues, please contact Karen Jewell (604 730 4518; kareni@bcpsea.bc.ca) immediately.

If you have any questions regarding essential services or strike activity, please contact your BCPSEA liaison.