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September 18, 2014

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

We remain optimistic regarding the outcome of the ratification process of the tentative agreement reached between the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA). The agreement requires ratification not only by the BCTF but also by Boards of Education across the province. Teachers will vote on Thursday, September 18, 2014 and Boards have been asked to complete their ratification by Friday, September 19, 2014. It is possible that we may know the outcome of the ratification by teachers by the end of today (Thursday, September 18, 2014) and teachers and support staff may return to work tomorrow. This will provide an opportunity to ensure that preparation is complete for a positive return to school by students and staff on Monday, September 22, 2014.

Opening Day (Monday, September 22, 2014)

If there is a ratified agreement, the first day of school will be Monday, September 22, 2014. We have well established routines in our schools and we plan to follow our normal opening day procedures with an early dismissal. Buses will run accordingly. Schedules for individual schools will be provided on school websites and our district website (www.sd78.bc.ca). This first day with students is important as it allows us to greet students and set preliminary classes and schedules. Following the opening day, regular school hours will be in effect.

A gradual entry plan for kindergarten students will be described and outlined on your school website. This gradual start allows time for students to adjust to a new school environment and provides an opportunity for families to meet with teachers and develop relationships.

We look forward to welcoming the return of our students, staff and parents to our schools. We will provide further updated information as soon as it is available.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Nelson".

Karen Nelson, EdD
Superintendent of Schools