

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Chilliwack School District

SD33 Administration Proposes 2-Week Spring Break to Chilliwack Teachers' Association (CTA)

Chilliwack, BC – Over the past number of years, Chilliwack School District has had a two-week Spring Break. In order to accommodate this, and still meet the legislated minimum Ministry of Education Instructional Hours, the District has been required to add time to each school day. Because the Local Collective Agreement with the Chilliwack Teachers' Association (CTA) does not allow for this addition of time, an agreement must be negotiated each year. For the 2017/18 school year this adjustment resulted in an unresolved Agreement between the District and CTA.

The Chilliwack Board of Education believes it is important for the District and the CTA to work together effectively in the best interests of students. In order to avoid a dispute or disruption to students and parents around the 2018/19 Calendar and Spring Break, the District requested that the CTA bring forward a proposal that would include and accommodate a two-week Spring Break. When this did not occur, the District developed a proposal for resolution and presented it to the CTA on March 15 for agreement. The CTA Executive responded with an agreement “in principle” and will follow-up after the Spring Break with its Membership for confirmation. The Calendar that includes the two-week Spring Break will be considered for approval by the Board of Education at its next Regular Board of Education Meeting.

The proposed 2018/19 calendar includes a two-week Spring Break and would have all teachers instruct six minutes/day beyond their Hours of Work provisions contained in the Teachers' Collective Agreement. This would meet the legislated number of Instructional Hours for all students.

An on-line survey conducted by the District regarding the Local School Calendar had almost 3,600 responses from parents, students and employees, with 85% of respondents supporting a two-week Spring Break. The proposed two-week Spring Break would run from March 18 to March 29, 2019. Students would head back to class on Monday, April 1, 2019. We are pleased that this agreement “in principle” is consistent with the strong preference of the survey respondents.

For further information, please contact:

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