



Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board  
*Believing, Achieving, Serving*

Friday, September 27, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are writing you with an important update on provincial labour negotiations which involve unionized employee groups in the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. As you may already be aware, labour negotiations with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), which represents education support workers in school boards in Ontario, has served notice that they will be in a legal strike position as of Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

This means that CUPE members, who represent school and board office secretaries, educational assistants, early childhood educators, child and youth workers, social workers, speech language pathologists, psychometrists and IT staff, will partially withdraw some core services.

If CUPE does proceed with its job action on September 30<sup>th</sup>, our schools will remain open and regular classroom instruction will continue. The HWCDSB is working diligently to minimize any impact on our students and school communities. Saying that, however, employees represented by CUPE provide many important services within our schools and board and despite our best efforts, the withdrawal of these services will cause some disruption. We will not be able to completely eliminate all impacts.

Throughout this campaign, our schools remain welcoming Christ-centred environments. As always, the safety of our students and staff will be given priority and any changes implemented in response to CUPE's labour action will be considered through this lens.

As a Catholic school board, we remain respectful of the collective bargaining process and are hopeful that a freely negotiated agreement will be reached soon. While the HWCDSB is not directly involved in central bargaining, we can assure you that the parties involved are working hard on our behalf to achieve an agreement.

We thank you for your understanding and ongoing commitment to Catholic education, and ask for your prayers for a speedy and just resolution to this matter.

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Please visit the HWCDSB website for updates at <https://www.hwcdsb.ca/labourupdates2019/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick J. Daly', with a stylized, flowing script.

Patrick J. Daly  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hansen', with a stylized, flowing script.

David Hansen  
Director of Education