

Organization of Classes for the 2009-10 School Year

The BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) has sent out the following bulletin to their members with respect to teacher participation in organizing classes for the 2009-10 school year:

The BCPSEA is asserting that any discussion of class size and class composition constitutes consultation as required by Bill 33. In response, to ensure that we protect our ability to grieve class size and composition violations, and to protect our right to meaningful consultation and classes that are "appropriate for student learning," we need to take the following steps:

Participate in organizing classes for September as you normally would.

If it becomes evident that classes cannot be organized within the legislative limits, or are in any other way not appropriate for student learning (safety issues for example), document, and advise the principal of your opposition to the proposed organization.

Submit to the principal a simple and general statement of what is needed for an organization that is appropriate for student learning (for example: 90 Grade 4 students, 12 with IEPs to be organized into two classes of 22 and two classes of 23, with 3 students with IEPs in each class). You may also include information regarding where students should be placed, which students should be separated, the distribution of students with IEPs, and any additional pertinent concerns.

Withdraw from the process of organizing classes unless ordered to continue, and, if so, contact the staff rep in your school and notify your local president.

Regardless of the BCTF position, the school organization process should continue as it always has. There should be no change in school districts with respect to teacher participation in such processes and it is not appropriate for the union to attempt to undertake a concerted action during the term of the collective agreement. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Questions

Should any situations arise in your district in this regard or if you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact your BCPSEA labour relations liaison.