

Lethbridge School Division

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To the Lethbridge School Division Community:

We are writing to update you on the current status of the provincial collective bargaining process involving teachers. We recognize that many in our community have questions about what may unfold in the coming weeks and months. While we may not have all the answers at this time, we are committed to providing information as it becomes available and supporting our school communities as we navigate this period of uncertainty together.

To provide some background, the collective agreement with teachers expired in August of 2024. Since then, negotiations at the provincial level have been ongoing between the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) and the Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) which represents government and school authorities. Lethbridge School Division and the local ATA are not directly involved in those negotiations. In late March, a mediator recommended a settlement. However, the proposed agreement was not ratified provincially by teachers.

Today, we were notified that approximately 94.5 % of participating teachers across the province voted yes to potential job action in an official strike vote. This means the provincial ATA now has 120 days to initiate job action unless a resolution is reached. Per the Alberta Labour Relations Board, the ATA must provide 72 hours of notice before taking job action. Job action could include work to rule (which means withdrawal of voluntary services outside of regular duties), rotating strikes or a full strike.

At this time, Lethbridge School Division has not received details about possible job action and how that might impact our schools. If we get those details, we will share that information as soon as possible. It is also important to note that even with a strike vote, both parties can continue negotiating in hopes of reaching an agreement. The ATA and TEBA have committed to meeting and continuing to negotiate.

We understand this uncertainty can create concern and worry. Please know we remain focused on supporting our students and school communities and will provide you with updates as new information emerges.

Take care,

Mike Nightingale,
Superintendent
Lethbridge School Division