



July 13, 2020

Kamloops Thompson Teacher's Association

(via email)

Attention: President Macpherson
Vice-president Martin

Re: Spring Break Proposal

Dear Ms. Macpherson and Ms. Martin:

Our board of trustees (the "Board") carefully considered your letter dated June 25, 2020 and what follows is their reply.

Our trustees share the KTTA's desire for a collaborative, positive and trusting working relationship. The Board values the KTTA perspective on educational matters even when its priorities do not completely align with employee groups. Our educational staff make important contributions shaping the future of our students which is quite rightly acknowledged and appreciated. We sincerely value this relationship and look forward to a productive collective bargaining process with a view to achieving agreement on priorities which impact the employment relationship.

Your letter conveys disappointment with our Board not accepting your recent proposal for an extended spring break. Our staff advise that your proposal was modelled on the three-year trial school calendar for 2014 - 2018. Our Board and senior staff share the view that this proposal fails to address the priorities of the Board with respect to greater flexibility in determining school calendar.

In addition, our district is entering into uncertain times in the current pandemic and it impacts on the school system generally as well as our district in particular. It seems apparent that students will be spending less time in a traditional school setting in the coming year and I'm sure we share a concern with the KTTA over how that will impact our most vulnerable learners. In addition, there will be at least some impact on our non-teaching staff compliment that is yet to be determined.

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To be clear, the Board will seek further discussion with the KTTA on school calendar issues at the next round of bargaining in 2022 and the next school calendar consultation process in 2023. If the parties are able to reach mutual agreement the Board will direct staff to consult with the public and other employee groups before approving the changes to the collective agreement.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Karpuk, Chair
Board of Education, School District No. 73 (Kamloops – Thompson)

KK/daf

cc: Board of Education Trustees
Alison Sidow, Superintendent of Schools
Kelvin Stretch, Secretary-Treasurer