



EDMONTON
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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News Release

Board of Trustees Accepts Mediator's Recommendations

After reviewing the specifics of a mediator's proposed contract settlement for teachers, the Board has voted to accept the mediator's recommendations. The acceptance of the mediator's recommendations paves the way for administration to request the Labor Relations Board to conduct a vote and give all teachers the opportunity to express their views on the mediator's recommended settlement.

Teachers met on June 9th to discuss the mediator's recommended proposal but only 738 (40%) of the District's 1,828 teachers were at the meeting. Many teachers have indicated to Trustees that they were unable to attend the meeting due to a number of school year-end functions that were held the same night. Of the 738 teachers present at the meeting, 428 (**only 23%** of our teaching staff) voted against the mediator's recommendations.

"It is the Board's hope that this proposal vote will give us the opportunity to also hear from the almost 1,100 teachers who were not able to attend the meeting and resolve this issue before the end of the school year," Razzolini added.

If accepted, the mediator's recommended settlement would give teachers a health package and salary increase of 11.98 per cent at the end of the three-year term. The package includes an annual \$500 Personal Health Spending Account to help offset the cost of services once the maximum included in the Group Benefit Plan has been reached. The mediator's recommendation of an increase of 30 minutes in instructional minutes per week, from 1400 to 1430 minutes, would bring Edmonton Catholic teachers in line with the majority of boards in the province.

"As a Board, we believe it was crucial to work quickly in hopes of resolving this issue before children are out of school for the summer," said Mark Razzolini, Board of Trustees Vice Chairperson.

Edmonton Catholic School Teachers have been without a contract since September 1, 2004 and the settlement would be retroactive to that date. If approved, this contract would be in effect until August 31, 2007.

"This Board would never support a mediator's recommendation that did not give our teachers a fair deal. If accepted, Edmonton Catholic teachers will be the second highest paid group of teachers in the province by the end of the three year term of the contract according to information provided by the ATA local. The annual \$500 Personal Health Spending Account will allow teachers to pay for specific services above the maximum amount permitted in the Group Benefit Plan," said Razzolini.

- 30 -

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