

EDUCATION: Even if teachers vote against offer, board says second lockout unlikely

Board hesitant to lock teachers out

FROM PAGE 1

"I honestly don't know what I'm going to do. It has been a relatively passive situation up to now, but now I'll have to choose whether I stay home, picket or cross the line," said Lang, who doesn't feel the deal is entirely acceptable but wants a return to normalcy in his school.

"I don't like the deal. Certainly it is not what I would like to see and I do believe the board is treating us poorly, but I want to see an end to the anxiety and pressure in our school — it is like nothing I've seen before. I hope the vote will put an end to it," he said.

Lang knows he is in the minority but says he cannot bring himself to strike. He also knows crossing the picket line will mean tougher sanctions by the union.

"Philosophically, as a teacher, I can't walk a picket line," he said.

On the other hand, More has been solidly behind the union's decision to turn down the board's offer from the beginning.

"Throughout the entire process, the resolve of teachers has strengthened," said More.

"What is coming to a head here is five to six years of professional, emotional and intellectual abuse by the board. We feel discredited and demeaned," said More.

During the last round of contract talks, the union had to drop a grievance it filed against the board when a deal was struck at the last minute, which reduced prep time from 200 minutes to 160 minutes per week and

four PA days for a total of 190 minutes.

The disruption of the school year to date has included the postponement of a field trip to a rock climbing facility More had planned for Friday. The cancellation came as part of the union's work-to-rule stipulations.

The lockout has also cut into her time with students.

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"I have a fabulous group of Grade 8s this year so I resent the time away from them."

For teachers like Shari Campbell, a diagnostic and resource teacher at Park Avenue Public School in Holland Landing, it is time to take a stand.

"You can only be put down and slapped in the face for so long," said Campbell. "I've heard that a lot from teachers who were ambivalent before and are now 100 per cent behind the union."

Should the vote be rejected, the next step would be for the two sides to get back to the bargaining table, but with no help from the Ministry of Labour.

"We'd just have to keep at it — our indication from the province is this is our problem," said Brian Jamieson, the board's public affairs officer.

A rejection of the offer won't necessarily mean another lockout by the board, Jamieson said.

"We're really keen to find out what the vote is. We're deeply disturbed at what we are seeing with the work-to-rule," said Jamieson. "But it is absolutely erroneous to say we would automatically go to a lockout."

But if there are any safety concerns where strikes are occurring now, Jamieson said the board will close schools.

The recent escalation of work-to-rule action implemented by the union has placed stringent limitations on what teachers can do while at school.

It dictates that all teachers arrive at school 15 minutes before classes begin and leave 15 minutes after classes end.

Teachers are not expected to take any school-related work home with them. Lesson preparation, course planning, marking, evaluation or any other work must be done during regular school hours, excluding the 40-minute lunch break.

The union has also told teachers not to participate in extra-curricular activities, fundraisers or hot lunch programs, or participate in any trips.

The board is postponing release of school-by-school Grade 3 test results,

scheduled for next Thursday, because of the dispute. The five-day lockout, combined with the rotating strikes and work-to-rule, has meant delays in creating the individualized reports for each school and consultation with school councils and staff.

"In terms of the school's ability to create their own plans, they haven't had an opportunity to do that because of the work-to-rule situation and most recently the events of the last five days," Jamieson said.

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Page 3 48 Pc. Combo Bit Kit
54-3621-6

This is not a "Mastercraft" product as stated in the flyer.

Page 28 Black & Decker 6V Cordless Drill
54-2755-4

The illustration is incorrect. This drill comes with a keyed chuck.

75-Pc. Drill Bit Set
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This is not a "Mastercraft" product as stated in the flyer.

Page 31 Motomaster Leisure-vehicle Batteries
27-1000X

Copy reads: For 12V Snowmobiles, Motorcycles, Jets Skis, ATV
Should read: For 6V or 12V Snowmobiles, Motorcycles, Jet Skis, ATV

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Page 1 of Wrapper
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