
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 10:13 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Legislation of Teachers Contract

Dear Members

I have been teaching for 21 years in Elementary school. I have been a teaching VP for 8 years. I have administrative and teacher duties. So I see and experience what is going on in classrooms. Inclusion is by far the worst issue we are dealing with. It's a wonderful theory. However it has never been appropriately financially supported and up until now we have been told not to discuss it or mention it, especially in public. In a country that boasts about freedom of speech, I have been silenced. I have listened to news statements claiming that kids with special needs are properly supported. This is a lie. We have to document to death so the paperwork makes it look like kids are supported. So they can say look the supports are there. However without the man power or appropriate class size it's impossible to adequately implement proper programming for students with needs. I have had to tell countless parents who do not have private health care that they may needs to wait years before their child gets supported because the list ahead of him/her is so long. Most teachers are not trained or offered training to learn how to adequately support these kids. We had one course in exceptionalities in our Degree programs. The board gives principals snapshots of professional development and are told to take it back to school and find time in between the mandated school improvement PD to teach it to teachers. It's piecemeal at best because the money to provide proper training or trained staff is non existent. The students who need support are not getting the quality programming they deserve and then they are frustrated and often disruptive. I feel sad for these kids. I feel sad for the kids who have to sit patiently while I try to manage or calm the disruptions every day. We need improvements now. I am becoming burnt out and disillusioned more and more every day. If I could leave the job financially I would because I feel hopeless about the working conditions. I love teaching. I love the kids. I work hard to keep up with everything I am asked to do. I am a professional. I am currently re-enrolled in a leadership training program on Saturdays. Plus I am a single parent. I am tired. I am fed up. I represent my 9000 colleagues who have tried to fight for better education in Nova Scotia. With the passing of this bill I will be further demoralized. But I will continue to go to work and try and put bandaids on the problems. But I will go to work with a new frame of mind. I will work to my contract and I will do my best to teach kids but I will do no more! Not until we get what we need.

Yours in Education
Suzanne Mckenzie

Sent from my iPhone