Hello 8443 Members,

The last week of school is finally here! For some of you that means you are off for the summer, for others, it’s business as usual. Whatever the case may be for you, it is a time to recharge and reflect on the previous school year.

As everyone knows, we have entered into bargaining as of June 27th. Your negotiations team has met with our employer to exchange packages, and to discuss ground rules for the current round of Negotiations. The employer verbally presented a 3.5% rollback in compensation, as per the direction given to them by the Ministry of Education. We strongly declined. Your negotiations team will be meeting in August to discuss the employers proposed changes to the collective agreement. We will then meet in September with the employer over a day and a half to discuss the next steps in bargaining. Your negotiations team will keep you posted through the website and personal email as best we can of developments as they arise. If you haven't done so, please sign up on our website with your personal email address. If you do not have a personal email address and require help, please get ahold of Dene Nicholson, our VP of Communications and one of us will come out to your site and help you sign up to an account. It is very important we have communication with you outside of the employers’ email server in order to share information with you that we cannot on the employers’ email system. You can sign up here at this link, <https://8443.cupe.ca/>.

At a special membership meeting on June 24, 2017, we presented the same bargaining package that we presented to the employer and had a pretty good turnout. Many discussions were had and I think our negotiations team did a stellar job of overhauling our package. We had some good constructive suggestions from our membership and overall the package was well received. We have documented our members concerns and will be working towards addressing those concerns. A huge thank you to our membership, with your strength and courage during these tough times inspires us to do better at every turn. Keep up the good work!

Over the summer we will be working on a reporting form to track the changes in your work assignments and how your supervisors treat staff with the increased workload that will certainly come because of the cuts felt across 5 classifications. The idea is to have a once a month reporting back to the executive so we may address issues, as well as track any trends. Prior to the fall I will be sending out another communication outlining how we plan to do that through Site Representatives. If your building does not have a Site Representative, please consider becoming one for the upcoming school year. We will be hosting a Site Representative meeting in the fall, to give information to those who agree to the position. We will also be providing a full roster of Shop stewards for you to access when you feel like your rights are being infringed on. Please access the Collective agreement on our website. Know your rights! You can access the Collective agreement here, <https://8443.cupe.ca/files/2017/03/CUPE-Collective-Agreement-2013-16.pdf>

As summer fades and we are thinking about fall, I would like to ask each and every one of you to think about the changes that will be happening within your buildings. Will Bauer, our CUPE National Representative, and myself will be available to come out to your site and have some discussions on what the new changes will look like for you and how we can help. Your executive encourages you to email and request a meeting with CUPE 8443 members in your building. Typically, these meetings would happen after the school day. Organize your team at your site and put in a request, we would love to come see you! Please email your request to

barrettscott64@gmail.com or barrettsc@spsd.sk.ca

In closing, I want to assure you that your executive team is 100% committed to serving our members needs. With your participation and your confidence in our work, together we can overcome the current conditions we face as a union. Remember, we are all the union. You are the reason we do what we do. Thank you again for all your help, guidance and participation!

Scott Barrett

CUPE 8443

President