



School District No. 60

PEACE RIVER NORTH

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

November 10, 2011

Dear Parents and Students:

The teacher "job action" or "controlled strike" that started on September 6, 2011, continues here and throughout British Columbia. The purpose of this letter is to give you basic information about the job action and how it will affect the operation of schools in School District No. 60.

Schools throughout our district remain open and instruction continues.

Report card dates are rapidly approaching. This year's student reporting is complicated by the teachers' strike and associated Labour Relations Board (LRB) Essential Services Order (September, 2011) which does not require teachers to produce report cards.

On October 26, 2011, the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) made an application to the Labour Relations Board requesting the LRB vary the Essential Services Order to require teachers to prepare and distribute report cards. We are not expecting a decision before the end of November. Even if the decision is to order teachers to prepare the reports, the timeline does not allow for complete report cards to be distributed before Christmas holidays.

The School Act is the law that governs education in our province. The duties of superintendents and principals outlined in the School Act remain unchanged by the teachers' strike and it is a requirement of the law that three written progress reports must be forwarded to parents each year.

Therefore, by the first week of December, an adapted report will be sent home by administration that includes:

- a) student division, teacher(s)
- b) course(s)
- c) attendance
- d) reports or grades for any classes taught by administrators
- e) contact information to follow up directly with the teacher(s) if you wish to do so and to the extent possible.

Our schools continue to offer a safe and productive learning environment. Our administrative staff and principals continue to perform some of the duties withdrawn by teachers but you should not expect business as usual for the duration of this strike. We continue to ask for your understanding and patience. We all continue to hope for a positive resolution to the contract discussions underway between the BCTF and the BCPSEA.

Sincerely

Larry Espe,
Superintendent of Schools

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