



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 57 (PRINCE GEORGE)

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March 18, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of School District No. 57, I would like to start by sending our thoughts to those of you who have family members and loved ones who are directly impacted by COVID-19. We are in unprecedented times and what is clear is that it is time for us to pull together and to put our community's health and well-being at the forefront by stopping the spread of the virus.

As many of you know, the Minister of Education and Premier Horgan announced yesterday that effective immediately all K-12 in-class instruction will be suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, there will be no in-class instruction happening in School District 57 schools following spring break. At this point there has been no end date determined for this suspension of in-person classes. Please see the attached letter from Minister, Robert Fleming.

We recognize that the impact of this decision will vary from family to family. We are committed to doing all that we can to maintain safety and learning for your children. Our district staff will continue to use the remaining time of spring break to work with the Ministry and other school districts to develop a plan that is consistent with others across the province with our local contexts in mind. When we return from spring break, school staff will take time to solidify the plans and put them into action. Additionally, we continue to be concerned about our vulnerable students with the need for unique supports. We recognize that many families rely on our school system for a variety of supports and we will continue to work on our plans to provide the supports that are required during these challenging times such as nutrition/food programs.

What we know at this time is:

- Schools will be open following spring break but, students will not be going to school for instruction
- School districts across the province are working to develop plans for continued learning for their students following spring break. We can expect that school staff will need time to prepare, so we are working on timelines for implementation.
- Student learning will continue. It will look different.
- Every student will receive a final mark at the end of the school year. Students on track to move to the next grade will do so in the fall.
- Graduation assessments for our Grade 10, 11 and 12 students will be postponed.

- Every student eligible to graduate from grade 12 this year will graduate. As a school district, we will continue to discuss how and when we will be able to help our graduates celebrate this huge milestone.
- This situation is changing hourly. We will strive to keep everyone informed as we get up to date information. All information we have to share can be found on our school district website, www.sd57.bc.ca which will shortly include a question and answer section.
- We have a dedicated email address for COVID 19 questions as they relate to School District 57. We ask that you reach out to us at COVID-19Questions@sd57.bc.ca if you have questions that are not answered on our website.

We continue to work closely with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and Northern Health on the COVID-19 response. Please visit the Northern Health official website for updates www.northernhealth.ca

We know that you have many questions and we ask for your patience as we plan together with the Provincial Government and await further details from them.

Public institutions, such as our education system, have a responsibility to ensure every step is taken to address this pandemic in our communities. These are extraordinary times, yet, I know our school communities are places of deep connections and good will. I hope, like me, you find comfort in that sense of community amidst our current situation. Together we can stop the spread of the virus, support those who need it in our community and keep the health and wellness of those we love our top priority.

Yours Truly,



Anita Richardson
Superintendent of Schools, SD57



March 17, 2020

Ref: 218690

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff:

The health and safety of our students, staff and their families is our highest priority.

The global pandemic COVID-19 is moving quickly and its impact on British Columbians is growing.

We have followed the direction – daily – of public health officials and scientists in making fact-based decisions when it comes to B.C.'s school system.

Today, under the direction of the Provincial Health Officer we are directing all schools to immediately suspend in-class instruction until further notice.

While classroom lessons are suspended it is expected that schools will implement a variety of measures to ensure continued learning for students.

We are urging teachers, principals, school districts and independent school authorities to begin planning now to ensure continuity of learning and I have tasked Ministry of Education staff to work with our education partners to coordinate these initiatives.

We expect school districts and independent schools will develop plans to maintain some level of service for children of people who are performing essential services across our province – like medical health professionals, first responders, pharmacists and critical infrastructure workers.

We also know there are vulnerable students who have unique needs; important services like school meal programs, and child care services operating on school grounds that need to be addressed. We expect schools to consider these issues in their planning while we work together through these extraordinary times.

Every student will receive a final mark, and all students on track to move to the next grade will do so in the fall. For grades 10 and 11 students, graduation assessments will be postponed.

Every student eligible to graduate from Grade 12 this year will graduate. The only graduation assessment required for current Grade 12 students is the Grade 10 numeracy assessment. The Ministry of Education will ensure Grade 12 students who have not yet completed this assessment and who are otherwise on track to graduate are able to meet this graduation requirement.

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The ministry will also work with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training and with post-secondary institutions on admissions and the smooth transition of graduating students in this extra-ordinary year.

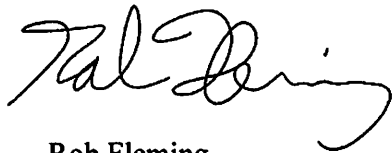
We will continue to work in consultation with our education partners as we plan for ongoing learning, including frequent contact with school districts to ensure we work through this together as plans are developed.

This is a very challenging time in B.C. and around the world. Please take necessary preventative measures to keep you and your families healthy. If you think you have symptoms the Ministry of Health has developed an online self-assessment tool at covid19.thrive.health. If you do have symptoms you can call 8-1-1 to pre-arrange health testing. While symptomatic, self-isolate.

The province has a launched a new non-medical information line for British Columbians who have questions about COVID-19: **1-888-COVID19**. Phone lines are open 7 days a week from 7:30 AM to 8 PM, and information is available in more than 110 languages.

These measures are temporary. But we must act together and act now to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Fleming". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Rob Fleming
Minister