



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 57 (PRINCE GEORGE)

2100 Ferry Avenue, Prince George, B.C. V2L 4R5

Phone: (250) 561-6800 • Fax (250) 561-6801
www.sd57.bc.ca

November 3, 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 is currently affecting the operation of schools in School District No. 57.

Schools throughout our district remain open and instruction will continue.

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 which does not require teachers to produce report cards.

The School Act is the law that governs education in our province. The duties of superintendents and principals, outlined in the School Act remains unchanged by the teachers' strike and it is a requirement of the law that 3 written progress reports must be forwarded to parents each year. Formal progress reports will be sent home to parents in our school district by December 9, 2011.

Parents need to know who their child's teachers are, what classes their child is enrolled in and if their child is on track to successfully complete course requirements. While the strike may interfere with the principal's ability to discharge the reporting responsibility fully, all efforts will be made to maintain normal reporting. At minimum this report will include:

- 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.

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. BCPSEA has asked for an expedited hearing and we are hopeful that a decision will be rendered by the LRB in mid to late November.

The Essential Services Order established by the LRB in previous bargaining rounds (2001, 2005) was brought forward to this round of bargaining as is the practice in such circumstances. A summary of this order is found on the back of this letter for those of you interested in the specifics.

In conclusion, schools in School District No. 57 will continue to be safe and to be good places to learn! 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,

Brian Pepper,
Superintendent of Schools

Labour Relations Board Summary (Order B132/2011)

Following is a complete list of work that teachers need not do, as defined by the BC Labour Relations Board Order B132/2011:

- Participate in meetings or interviews with parents/guardians and/or district teaching staff outside of instructional time, or during instructional time unless coverage is provided
- Participate in meet the teacher activities outside of instructional time, or during instructional time unless coverage is provided
- Prepare or distribute report cards
- Provide any student assessment data to Administrative Officers or the school office, except Grade 12 marks required for graduation, post-secondary applications and scholarship purposes
- Complete and submit student referral forms outside of instructional time
- Attend staff meetings
- Attend staff committee meetings
- Attend any meeting called by School District management
- Participate in any standing or ad hoc District committees
- Attend school based meetings called by an Administrative Officer, unless the meetings are related to an emergency
- Provide Administrative Officers with any routine printed, written or electronic communications
- Accept any printed, written or electronic communication from an Administrative Officer, unless it relates to an emergency
- Participate in the preparation or the organization of assemblies outside of instructional time, or during instruction time unless coverage is provided
- Participate in any accreditation activity
- Participate in any School District or Ministry in-service
- Participate in any professional development that is not teacher directed
- Participate in any school photo organization.
- Provide coverage for a teacher who is absent, except for a Teacher on Call hired specifically for that purpose
- Administer or supervise FSA or any District or Ministry test
- Collect money from students or participate in fund raising
- Order supplies, textbooks, etc., unless needed immediately to effectively maintain ongoing instruction
- Assist the Administrative Officer in administrative tasks like building timetables or computer organization
- Do inventory
- Organize textbooks.
- Answer school office phones
- Supervise detentions before, during or after instructional time
- Prepare overviews or previews for the Administrative Officers, except when associated with a teacher evaluation process
- Distribute School District or administrative letters, newsletters, memos or announcements to students, unless it is health and safety related
- Pack up classrooms to facilitate painting, renovations or maintenance
- Perform department head/position of responsibility duties except during allocated time in the time table.