



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY

June 24, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I would like to bring you up to date on the current teacher job action and some ongoing topics of interest.

Status of Strikes

All schools in School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay) remain behind picket lines and there appears to be no quick end in sight. As you are aware, through the media, little progress has been made between the two parties. At the moment we still appear to be a long way from a negotiated settlement. Unless there is some small miracle, the school year does seem to be all but over with the exception of writing the remaining provincial exams.

Report Cards

Before we were in full strike, report cards were going home although they would have been shorter than normal. Under full strike, we cannot produce report cards for Grades K - 9. The information that we need to produce report cards is in the hands of teachers and they are on strike. The CUPE support staff we normally have to help us develop and print report cards are also honouring the picket lines and are not at work.

We do want to draw some closure to the end of the year and I will be sending a district letter home to parents specifically on the topic of student progress. That letter will be mailed home towards the end of next week.

However, the Essential Service Orders by the Labour Relations Board have determined that marks are required to be provided by teachers for reporting to parents and post-secondary institutions for Grades 10, 11 and 12. A report card will be sent home for these students but will only include attendance information and school based final marks. These final grades will also be released to the Ministry of Education for students' graduation transcripts, ensuring that all graduation credits are documented and accessible by post-secondary institutions if requested.

Provincial Exams

We are busy supervising exams across the district. Students are writing and, where needed, students are getting the specific help they need from support staff. This is part of an Essential Services Order in our current context so it is legal and permitted. Teachers on the picket lines are providing access to students for exams as no teacher would want students to be prevented from writing their exam.

However, last evening we received information from Deputy Minister of Education, Rob Wood, that there were modifications made to some of the exams still to be written. Details of the changes appear on our website. It is important to note that students have the opportunity to re-write any provincial exam for a

one-year period as per the Handbook of Procedures. If students wish to the opportunity to write the portions of each of these exams that are not being offered during this June session, they will be able to do so electronically on the **November 2014 exam session only**. This will affect the student's final mark.

Summer School

Due to the likelihood of the teacher strike continuing, we have made the decision to cancel summer school.

Communications

Our district website www.sd5.bc.ca will continue to have all current information as it becomes available. Local media is also providing up-to-date information.

In closing, as I have mentioned in previous letters, we wish for a speedy resolution at the bargaining table.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Hauptman".

Lynn Hauptman
Superintendent

Cc: Board of Education