

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 22 (VERNON)

November 21, 2011

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
1401 - 15th STREET
VERNON, BRITISH COLUMBIA
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Dear Parents and Students:

Phase 1 of the teachers' strike action that started September 6, 2011 continues in our school district and throughout public schools in our province. The purpose of this letter is to give you some information about how this strike action is currently affecting the operation of schools in School District No. 22 (Vernon).

Report cards are rapidly approaching. This year's student reporting is complicated by the teachers' strike and the Labour Relations Board (LRB) Essential Service Order, which does not require teachers to "prepare or distribute report cards".

The School Act is the law that governs education in our province. The duties of superintendents and principals are outlined in the School Act and remain unchanged by the teachers' strike and it is a requirement of the law that three (3) written progress reports must be forwarded to parents each year.

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 expecting a decision toward the end of November.


Regardless of the outcome of the BCPSEA request, we understand that parents, students and administrators rely on report cards as a key source of information with respect to student progress. While we wait for the LRB decision, parents should know that a formal report card will be sent home to every student consistent with legislation. These formal report cards will be sent home during the last week of November and/or the first two weeks of December depending on the school. Please note for secondary schools, report cards will be available through Parent Connect.

If the LRB ruling remains unchanged and teachers are not required to prepare formal report cards, school administrators will be sending home an adapted report card that will include:

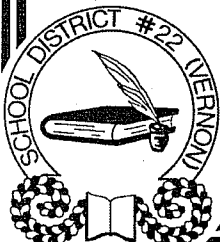
- a) Student division, teacher(s)
- b) Course(s)
- c) Attendance
- d) Reports or grades of any classes taught by principals or vice principals
- e) Contact information to follow up directly with the teacher(s) if you wish to do so and to the extent possible.

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

Sincerely,



B. Rundell
Superintendent of Schools



... a great place to learn