

What are Superintendents saying about report cards?

While many superintendents in BC districts have penned their own, personalized letters home to parents, several cut and paste from form letters that were shared around the province. One such letter stated reporting to parents is “complicated by the teachers’ strike.”

Although many 21st Century learning models question and even criticize our use of traditional, standardized report cards, some administrators appear set in their ways:

“The report card is an important communication tool providing the information parents and students need to reflect on learning and progress, to guide achievement, future actions, and lead to school success.”

-Michael Audet, Chilliwack

“We understand that parents, students and administrators rely on report cards...”

-Bev Rundell, Vernon

Some superintendents used their letters as an opportunity to praise district administration:

“Schools...will continue to be safe and good places to learn. Our administrative staff and principals continue to perform some of the duties withdrawn by teachers...”

-Brian Pepper, District 57

Others used the opportunity to praise their *teachers*:

“We recognize that Teachers are choosing to phone, email or send notes and informal reports home with students to parents.”

Jeff Jones, District 8

“During the current teacher job action, teachers have been communicating to parents via email, phone calls, notes home and meetings.”

Tom Grant, District 43

“Teachers are still carrying out their normal classroom work such as planning, teaching and assessing student progress. Teachers are also communicating student progress to the students through individual feedback on assignments, tests and other indicators of overall progress. In many cases parents will already have had the opportunity to speak with teachers or have received information from the teachers regarding their child’s progress.”

-Dianne Turner, Delta

Some superintendents convey frustration:

“Teachers are aware that there is a responsibility to keep parents informed regarding student progress... We appreciate your patience during this difficult time...”

-Karen Nelson, District 78

Others sound reassuring and calm:

“Parents should rest assured that teachers have continued to focus on instruction and assessment as per usual.”

-Kevin Godden, Abbotsford

Several superintendents even encouraged parents to inform themselves with both sides of the issue:

“I strongly encourage you to visit the website for the British Columbia School Employers’ Association (BCPSEA) to better understand some of the issues and challenges related to Collective Bargaining and the present Strike Action being taken by teachers... You may also wish to access the perspective of the BCTF by visiting their website (<http://www.bctf.ca/>).”

-Jeff Jones, District 8

What is *your* superintendent saying?