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December 9, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing to confirm details concerning the implementation of BC's new K-12 Curriculum. As you may be aware, the newly redesigned K-9 materials are available for Teachers to use in the current year, and will be required beginning in 2016-17. The Grade 10-12 materials are currently in draft form, will be available for use in 2016-17, and will be required in 2017-18.

The Ministry of Education and the BC Teachers' Federation have co-designed opportunities for teaching and administrative staff to engage with the new materials and to fully prepare for their implementation. Specifically, in Rocky Mountain School District there will be 18 Teachers released from their duties for a planning day, which will happen in January, 2016 (school will be in session as usual on that day). In addition, the Ministry of Education has asked Superintendents and the Local Teachers' Associations in each District to agree upon two additional non-instructional days to be added to the current school year so that all Teachers and Administrators in the District can come together to study the curriculum materials in-depth.

The Ministry has made a temporary amendment to the *School Act* reducing the required instructional hours for all students, to accommodate this change to local calendars. At the December 8th regular meeting, our Board of Education approved the recommended calendar adjustment, placing curriculum implementation days on **February 22** and **May 24**, 2016. Students will not attend school on those days. Otherwise, the calendar for the current school year will be unchanged. Here is the layout of the remainder of this school year with the calendar changes incorporated (changes are bolded):

- December 18 - last day of school before Christmas vacation
- January 4 - Schools back in session
- February 8 - BC Family Day – no school
- February 9 - Non-Instructional Day (was already scheduled)
- February 22 - Non-Instructional Day (added for curriculum implementation)**
- March 11 - last day of school before Spring Break
- March 14-25 - Spring Break
- March 28 - Easter Monday – no school
- March 29 - Schools back in session
- April 11 - Non-Instructional Day (was already scheduled)
- May 23 - Victoria Day (no school)
- May 24 - Non-Instructional Day (added for curriculum implementation)**
- June 29 - Last day of school for students
- June 30 - Administrative day

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In each of the next two school years, 2016-17 and 2017-18, there will be one additional non-instructional day added to the calendar to facilitate curriculum implementation work. Our Board of Education has approved the draft calendars for these upcoming school years. They are being circulated for input from December 9, 2015 to January 12, 2016.

I am attaching a FAQ document regarding the curriculum changes in BC. Please review it, and don't hesitate to call your child's Principal or my office if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Carriere". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul Carriere
Superintendent of Schools

Encl.

Copies: Board of Education
Rocky Mountain Teachers' Association
CUPE Local 440