



**SD 73 District Parent Advisory
Council**
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SD73 PAC Discussions](#)

February 16, 2026

Laurel Macpherson
Kamloops Thomson Teachers Association

Dear Laurel,

On behalf of our SD 73 families, I want to extend deep gratitude for the courage, professionalism, and compassion demonstrated by our district teaching staff in the wake of the tragic events that occurred in Tumbler Ridge.

As families in BC, we have been fortunate to have less exposure to the dangers that other school communities face around gun violence and mental health emergencies. Watching a school community close to us go through these events in real time was extremely heart-wrenching.

Many caregivers experienced a lot of fear, anxiety and uncertainty when heading to school in the following days. As did many children. We are deeply grateful that waiting there to meet their needs the very next day were our dedicated educators.

We recognize that walking into your schools that Wednesday was very hard. It took extraordinary strength and dedication to your students. Your commitment to guiding our children, while experiencing your own unique fears and grief, speaks volumes about the character and commitment of our teachers and their dedication to their calling as educators.

Please know how deeply appreciated you are. Our parent community stands with you, supports you, and thanks you for your strength and leadership.

With sincere gratitude,

Bonnie McBride
District Parent Advisory Council
School District 73