

For immediate release

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## **Teachers Call for More Leadership from School District 52 on Safe Schools for Students**

(PRINCE RUPERT) The Prince Rupert District Teachers' Union (PRDTU) president, Gabriel Bureau, made the following statement in response to the December 8, 2020 School District Board of Trustees meeting:

“Last night, the School District 52 Board of Trustees held its regular meeting and made some disappointing decisions in relation to school safety during COVID-19. The local teachers' union is requesting more local leadership on COVID-19 school safety. At last night's meeting, local teachers certainly did not see the kind of leadership that's required.

There were several motions at the Board meeting. If passed, these motions would have improved school safety. None of the school safety motions passed. By failing to act, the Board is failing its responsibility for the safety of its employees and the students in our schools.

The School District clearly has the authority to exceed the minimal standards already in place. In fact, it already exceeds these requirements in a number of ways. But more is needed. The School District should act now to require masks in schools and classrooms and to provide teachers, staff, and students with other safety improvements.

Most importantly, as an employer the School District has the responsibility to put the safety of its employees first and foremost, equal to the safety of students and other members of the public. Local teachers have recommended specific improvements, including a call for a mask mandate in School District 52 classrooms and schools.

Our students deserve safe schools. The time for action is now.”

To learn more about the PRDTU's recommendations to School District 52, visit <https://prdtu.com>.