



Prepared by:  
Victoria Miles  
Communications Manager  
Local: 1254  
[vmiles@nvsd44.bc.ca](mailto:vmiles@nvsd44.bc.ca)

October 14, 2010

## STATEMENT

### **Regarding criminal charges against former North Vancouver School District teacher**

#### **Overview**

This statement is provided to clarify the response of the North Vancouver School District in the 2009 investigation of misconduct, and subsequent resignation, of a former teacher in one of our secondary schools.

#### **Statement**

Regarding events prior to the October 12th criminal charges laid by the Crown against Victor Wiens, a former secondary school teacher in the North Vancouver School District, the District would like to provide the following statement.

Mr. Victor Wiens worked as a teacher in the North Vancouver School District between 1981 and 2009. In February 2009, he was working at Sutherland Secondary School when an interaction between him and a student was brought to the attention of the school district's administration.

Immediately following the initial report, and in accord with our Inter-Ministerial protocols, the School District informed the Ministry of Children and Family Services and the RCMP. Our Human Resources Department commenced an investigation regarding the employee's conduct. The School District's Employee Code of Conduct, the Collective Agreement and the standards of the BC College of Teachers were considered and applied. Within the week, the School District placed Mr. Wiens on leave. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Wiens resigned from the School District and relinquished his teaching certificate to the BC College of Teachers. In accordance with legislation, and acting in the public interest, the School District filed a report on the matter to the BC College of Teachers.



The School District has no record or knowledge of any prior incidents of inappropriate behaviour regarding Mr. Wiens towards other students.

From the day the initial report was made, our administration acted swiftly and in accordance with all procedures outlined in the North Vancouver School District Inter-Ministerial child abuse protocols, the School Act, and law enforcement requirements. These protocols have been in place since 2005 and are reviewed on an annual basis. Employees showed their full awareness of these policies in reporting the incident and immediately following through with the appropriate measures. This matter has been dealt with in a manner that respects the utmost confidentiality and sensitivity towards the student and the student's family.

It is essential that everyone respect and maintain the privacy of the student concerned. To this end, we ask that the media refrain from filming or recording on, or near the school grounds, or attempting to obtain further comment from our staff or our students.

We share the concern that parents will have in receiving this news. As a school district, we uphold the highest standards of conduct for teachers and all staff who work with children. We recognize they are in a position of great trust and that they must be responsible for maintaining appropriate and professional relationships with students.

As this is now a court matter, and in compliance with privacy legislation, this is the extent of comment the School District will provide.

-END-

<b>Contact</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Phone #</b>
Victoria Miles	Communications Manager	604.903.1254
Peter DeVries	Corporal, media relations, RCMP North Vancouver detachment	604.983.7433