



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

February 19, 2026

Dear Windrem Elementary School Families and Caregivers,

Following this week's Secure and Hold, we received a number of questions from families about what the Secure and Hold protocol means and how it differs from a Lockdown. We understand that this lack of clarity can heighten anxiety that is already understandably present in our community. We hope the following helps provide some clarity.

A Secure and Hold is a precautionary protocol used in response to a potential safety concern outside of a school. This may include a police situation in the school's neighbourhood or, in some instances, a threat or potential threat that is not immediate or proximate to the school but warrants a follow-up out of an abundance of caution. During a Secure and Hold, exterior doors are locked and movement in and out of the building is restricted, but normal activities continue inside while police carry out their work.

A Lockdown is a protocol used when there is a threat within or directly involving the building. During a Lockdown, students and staff shelter in place and the school operates in close coordination with emergency responders.

We recognize that in the context of this past week, receiving any alert about your child's school is especially worrisome. We hope that this explanation brings some measure of reassurance.

Sincerely,

Jan Proulx
Director of Instruction
School District 59 – Peace River South