January 9, 2024

Good morning GYPSD Families;

PowerSchool has notified Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) that their **PowerSource support portal/community** had been breached by way of compromised credentials of a *PowerSchool* employee who used the portal resources to access **SIS (Student Information System)** databases of many school districts throughout Canada and the U.S.A.

GYPSD immediately began an internal investigation and our technology team has confirmed that Division data was accessed and exported on December 20th, 21st, and 22nd.

Data potentially affected:

- *PowerSchool SIS* contains student information, including names, birth dates, addresses, and phone numbers.

Data not affected:

- Passwords, student grades, online registration.
- Please note banking information is **not** stored within *PowerSchool SIS*.
- *BusPlanner* is **not** a *PowerSchool* product and is unaffected.

PowerSchool has informed us they have contained the incident and deactivated the compromised credential, and there is no evidence of malware or continued unauthorized activity. They have taken steps to prevent further unauthorized access or misuse of the data and are proactively scanning the web for indicators otherwise. *PowerSchool* senior leadership is confident that the **data was not released publicly and has been deleted**. They are also strengthening their password policies and controls.

We want to emphasize our school division was not targeted individually. We are among dozens of Alberta school divisions and hundreds more across North America impacted by the break. We understand that news like this can be unsettling and we want to assure you that we are doing everything possible to address the situation responsibly.

In GYPSD, our cybersecurity procedures meet the highest standards of best practice.

We will continue to monitor our logs and have taken steps to mitigate any further risks to student data. As *PowerSchool* provides us with more information, we will share that with you.

Respectfully,

Dennis Parsons

Dr. Dennis Parsons
Interim Superintendent of Schools