



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Media Information

April 1, 2008

Disposal of Surplus School District Property

Kelowna, BC: To clarify any possible confusion surrounding the sale of surplus School District No. 23 properties, the District provides the following information:

- The Ministry of Education has stated that if a school district requires new buildings and they have surplus properties they must contribute money to help fund new projects. By law, the provincial government, through Accommodation and Real Estate Services (ARES), must determine if the surplus property is required for other government services. If a property is not needed by the government, then School District No. 23 policy states that local government has the option to purchase the property at Fair Market Value. The District is required to obtain fair market value for properties.
- In August 2006, School District No. 23 first announced that the Anne McClymont and Bellevue Creek properties would be sold to cover some of the costs of a new Upper Mission school (now named Chute Lake Elementary). Local newspapers covered the story on August 6, 2006.
- Senior District staff has informed Kelowna City staff of the pending disposal; however, no decisions have been made by Kelowna City Council regarding purchase of the property.
- Currently no action regarding the sale of the Anne McClymont Primary has been undertaken because the contract for the construction of the replacement school has not yet been awarded and as a result, there can be no strong assurance of a completion date. To sell the existing school without such an assurance would be a disservice to our students.
- Once the School District is ready to sell the Anne McClymont Primary property, an appraisal will be conducted. ARES will be informed that the property is available for sale. At that point, ARES will have 30 days to respond to the School District. Should ARES not want the property, then the City will have an opportunity to purchase the property. Should the City not exercise the option to purchase, then the property will be put up for sale on the open market. The Fair Market Value rule applies to all parties including the provincial and municipal governments and private parties.
- The Bellevue Creek property has already gone through the ARES review. The provincial government does not wish to retain the property for its own use. Therefore, the City of Kelowna has been advised that the property is for sale at fair market value.

For further information or comments, please contact:

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For background information: please contact Lisa Harrison lharriso@sd23.bc.ca or 470-3284.
