



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Media Information

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External Review School District No. 23 Educational System

Kelowna, BC: An overwhelmingly positive assessment and valuable insights are key components of a recently finalized report by the Ministry of Education's external review team that visited School District No. 23 in November 2007.

Ministry representative Dick Chambers presented the final report at the January 30, 2008 Board meeting. Chambers led a team comprised of two principals, two Ministry of Education staff, a teacher and an assistant superintendent. "The conclusion of the team is that SD23 is a high performing school district and has every possibility of being even higher performing," said Chambers. "We were also impressed with the degree of engagement. People weren't just talking about things but taking action"

The report concludes that several of School District No.23's initiatives are exemplary including:

- An alignment between district priorities and actions for students in classrooms;
- The critical analysis of results and examination of the effect of actions taken;
- A commitment to continuous improvement at the school level, exemplified by an initiative that has significantly increased course completion rates;
- The holistic philosophy of the Medicine Wheel embedded in the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement;
- The breadth and depth of career opportunities available to students.

Additionally, the Team believes that the District is poised to make further, substantial strides in student achievement as it challenges itself to deepen the focus on success for each child.

Some areas suggested for investigation include the reasons for improvement or lack of improvement in all areas including the increase in overall graduation rates in 2007, the six-year Aboriginal graduation rates, and the decrease in student achievement between Grades 4-7.

"We recognise that this report does not mark the end of anything and we cannot rest on our laurels," notes Moyra Baxter, Board of Education Chairperson. "It is a snapshot of where we are today and how we can work to improve the success rate for every student."

"We also recognise that the report acknowledges the teamwork of everyone in our district, from the Superintendent and senior staff, all our employees, our parents and our supportive communities. We live by our motto: *Together We Learn* and we are proud of this confirmation that SD23 is one of the top jurisdictions in BC."

For comments, please contact:

Moyra Baxter, Chairperson of the Board (250) 767-6153

Mike Roberts, Superintendent of Schools (250) 860-8888

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