



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Media Information

June 5, 2008

Upcoming Grade Configuration Survey

Kelowna, BC: School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) will be conducting a survey to obtain opinions on grade configuration throughout the District. The survey is part of a broader review being conducted by the Board of Education. With new schools being planned for the near future, there is some urgency to completing a review of grade configuration to ensure that the most appropriate long-term planning is in place. Earlier this year, a committee of parents, partner groups and District staff was formed. This Grade Configuration Review Committee will provide the Board of Education with information regarding grade configuration options and optimal applications.

The Grade Configuration survey data will become part of the 2008 Grade Configuration Review Committee information report, which will provide relevant research on grade configuration, the current capacity of District facilities, financial implications of changes, and the opinions of parents and partner groups.

Historically, the Board established middle schools in 1991 for those areas of the District with sufficient student population in grades 7 to 9. In 1997, the Educational Facilities Plan was developed to guide school organization and construction; it has, however, been since modified to allow greater flexibility in recognizing the unique needs of individual areas.

The recent and significant increase in the school-age population of the Okanagan Mission and the Westside areas presents current planning challenges for School District. Prior to completing long-range planning, the District has committed to a review of grade configuration. There is no mandate to close schools through this review process; nor is there a requirement for any changes to be made. It is an opportunity for the Board to receive information, including parent and staff opinions, as part of the District's commitment to regular review of all programs and structures.

Information obtained through the survey will be included in the report of the 2008 Grade Configuration Review Committee for presentation at a public Board meeting in October 2008. A full compilation of input data by geographic area will be included in the report.

The intention of the Grade Configuration Review is to identify the most educationally-sound grade configurations across the School District, while recognizing the unique needs of all area communities and their changing demographics.

For comments, please contact:

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