



LONGTIME OKANAGAN EDUCATION LEADER TO RETIRE

January 28, 2021

KELOWNA, BC – The Board of Education and Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent/CEO for Central Okanagan Public Schools, announce the retirement of Dr. Rick Oliver, Assistant Superintendent, after a career of over 28 years with the District.

"We are all grateful to Dr. Oliver for his exemplary leadership and years of service to our District," said Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO. "Rick is a kind, innovative, thoughtful leader and his dedication to students shows throughout his career - as a teacher, a principal, at the Ministry of Education and as an Assistant Superintendent. His work as a Principal was recognized nationally as he was named one of Canada's Outstanding Principals. In his capacity directing International Education, Rick has even been the face of our district across the globe, and we are proud of the leadership he consistently demonstrates. He was also instrumental in establishing the District's Welcome Center, supporting new immigrant and refugee families to the Central Okanagan, a legacy of service that benefits many families and students."

Rick began his career in Central Okanagan Public Schools in 1993, as a teacher at Rutland Senior Secondary, where he would later become Principal in 2004. In the intervening years, Rick taught and became the Vice-Principal at Mount Boucherie Senior Secondary (1995-1999), and served as Principal at École Dr. Knox Middle School (1999-2001) and Constable Neil Bruce Middle School (2001-2004). After leaving Rutland Senior Secondary in 2008, Rick became a Director of Instruction for the District and moved to his current position as Assistant Superintendent in July of 2016, where his portfolio included the West Kelowna Family of Schools, the Central Family of Schools, and International Education.

"Over the years Rick has made many connections throughout the communities he served," said Moyra Baxter, Chairperson of the Board of Education. "Both his leadership and his warm personality will be missed by all trustees."

Dr. Oliver will retire on June 30, 2021. We thank him for service to education and wish him well as he embarks on a new journey.

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For comments, please contact:

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