



**The Board of Education
of
School District No. 34 (Abbotsford)**

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May 8, 2008

Dear Parents:

I am writing to let you know that Des McKay, Superintendent of Schools has announced his retirement from the District as of August 31, 2008. The Board of Education reluctantly received Mr. McKay's announcement earlier this week.

Mr. McKay has been an outstanding Superintendent. The Board has a deep appreciation for his extraordinary leadership, direction, sense of purpose and wisdom. He championed the development of a strong vision for the District and leaves us well-positioned for the future. We have a clear vision and a five-year plan. The Board is committed to achieving our objectives for student learning.

Mr. McKay's career in education has spanned 35 years. He started in Abbotsford as a teacher in 1973 and also worked for 14 years in the Langley School District. In 1988 he returned to Abbotsford School District as a Vice-Principal. He then became Director of Curriculum-Instruction and then a Principal. Following an award-winning stint as principal of WJ Mouat Secondary, he became Acting Associate Superintendent of Human Resources and was then appointed Superintendent of Schools in 2005.

The Board thanks Mr. McKay for his many dedicated years of service, and in particular for the past three years as Superintendent. His integrity, sense of personal purpose and vision, commitment to education and student achievement leave a clear legacy – and set a standard as we embark on a process to fill the Superintendent's position.

The District recently received the verbal report from the provincial District Review Team, which described Abbotsford as a high-performing District with above-average provincial and national academic rankings. The review commended the District's excellent community relationships and passion and caring for students. It also noted that Abbotsford is considered one of the best Districts in the province.

While we will certainly miss Mr. McKay, he leaves us on solid footing, with a strong and talented staff fully committed to education. The Board will meet early next week to begin the process of recruitment and expects to have a new Superintendent in place for the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

Cindy Schafer
Board Chair