

## Learning Roundtable Report – January 29 2008

### Attendance:

<b>Government</b>	Shirley Bond, Minister and Deputy Premier
<b>BCSTA</b>	Penny Tees, President Connie Densiuk, Vice President
<b>BCCPAC</b>	Kim Howland, President Lori Tedrick, Second Vice President
<b>BCPVPA</b>	Les Dukowski, President Marilyn Merler, President Elect
<b>BCSSA</b>	Geoff Jopson, President Sheila Rooney, Past President
<b>BCTF</b>	Irene Lanzinger, President Susan Lambert, First Vice President Jim Iker, Second Vice President John Wadge, Member-at-Large
<b>Ministry of Education</b>	James Gorman, Deputy Minister Rick Davis, Superintendent of Achievement
<b>Staff</b>	Lisa Dominato, Ministerial Assistant Ron Broda, BCCPAC Larry Khuen, BCTF Stephen Hansen, BCSTA

1. Minister Bond called the meeting to order and welcomed the members of the Roundtable.
2. Minister Bond reported briefly on her recent meeting with parents from across British Columbia at the annual Parents' Congress. She commented that parents expressed the wish to keep politics out of the classrooms and the need for all to work cooperatively on behalf of children.
3. Continuing a discussion from the last meeting, Minister Bond raised the idea that discussion items of the Roundtable should include major issues in education. She noted there are other forums for discussion of educational matters but the Roundtable, because of its membership and the delegates at the meeting, presented a unique opportunity to discuss and resolve matters that could have significant impact on student achievement.
4. Further discussion of the data arising from the Class Size Report tabled at the last meeting was undertaken.

- a. BCTF delegates questioned access to the rationale given for classes enrolling more than three students with special needs. Members of the Roundtable were reminded of the decision made earlier that this rationale was not made available publicly in order to protect the privacy of individual students.
  - b. BCSTA asked if information was available regarding non-enrolling teachers as part of the class size report. Members were informed that district information exists as a result of ministry data collection but school by school information is not available.
  - c. BCTF suggested that we may study further the reasons in some districts for increases in the number of classes with more than three special needs students.
5. As follow up from the previous meeting, the regulation defining consultation was discussed.
- a. All members of the Roundtable with the exception of the BCTF, agreed with the draft definition provided by Minister Bond at the last meeting.
  - b. Minister Bond restated her view that the intent of the legislation was to create meaningful and professional conversation between teachers and principals regarding the organization of classes.
  - c. BCTF delegates indicated that this goal has not been reached and many teacher members of the BCTF did not view the consultation process as positive or resulting in any substantive outcomes.
  - d. The BCTF provided an alternate to the ministry draft of the definition of consultation. Minister Bond undertook to consider the suggested changes and come back to a subsequent meeting with her decision.
6. Future meeting discussions – the nature of future agenda items was discussed at length.
- a. The BCTF expressed the view that agenda topics should be limited to those that resulted from Vince Ready's recommendations to resolve the dispute that resulted in the teacher walk out in 2005. In the view of the BCTF, this was narrow and confined to concerns about working and learning conditions.
  - b. Minister Bond noted that Vince Ready did not commission the Roundtable but that the Premier and Minister of Education convened the Roundtable to engage education partners in resolving significant matter affecting students.
  - c. Other members of the Roundtable support a broad rather than narrow agenda while being cautious not to stray into the areas of discussion of other bodies such as the Education Advisory Committee.

d. Minister Bond noted that class size and class organization would continue to be a central matter for discussion at the Roundtable and would appear as an item on each agenda however, other matters of significance should also be on the agenda and she hoped that members of the Roundtable would suggest topics to her and engage in these important discussions.

7. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM