

## Learning Roundtable Report – January 27 2009

### Attendance:

<b>Government</b>	Shirley Bond, Minister and Deputy Premier
<b>BCSTA</b>	Connie Densiuk, President Stephen Hansen, Executive Director
<b>BCCPAC</b>	Kim Howland, Past President Ron Broda, President Fiona Delcourt, Director
<b>BCPVPA</b>	Les Dukowski, President Marilyn Merler, President Elect
<b>BCSSA</b>	Geoff Jopson, Past President Steve Cardwell, Vice-President
<b>BCTF</b>	Irene Lanzinger, President Susan Lambert, First Vice President Jim Iker, Second Vice President Jill McCaffery, Member-at-Large
<b>Ministry of Education</b>	James Gorman, Deputy Minister Rick Davis, Superintendent of Achievement
<b>Staff</b>	Lisa Dominato, Ministerial Assistant Carla Giles, Chief Operating Officer, BCCPAC Larry Khuen, BCTF

1. Minister Bond welcomed new members of the Learning Roundtable
  - Fiona Delcourt, Director, BCCPAC
  - Jill McCaffery, Member at Large, BCTF
  - Steve Cardwell, Vice President, BCSSA
  - Carla Giles - Chief Operating Officer, BCCPAC
  
2. 2008/09 Provincial Class Size
  - Samples of Provincial, District and School reports circulated.
  - Noted that this year's District report includes rationale for any classes that exceed 30.
  - Noted that School reports show the actual organization of classes including the composition of each class.
  - Minister Bond noted that all school districts have declared compliance with the legislation and that no classes exceed the maximum averages for cohort groups or class size maximums in the case of primary classes.

- BCTF expresses view that some districts are not necessarily in compliance and that this matter is the subject of an arbitration proceeding yet to be finalized.
  - BCCPAC asks about the large number of classes that have no students with special needs included and seeks more information regarding reasons for this.
  - Minister Bond reminded the Learning Roundtable that there are no maximum class size limits in grades 4 to 7. The legislation provides that certain processes be followed when classes reach certain thresholds.
  - BCTF noted that firm class size maximums seemed to work in grades K – 3 – why not in other grades.
  - In response to a request from the BCTF, the minister directed that a report be prepared that shows the class size and the number of included students with special needs on a grid.
3. A study of selected classes – Rick Davis reported on a study of classes exceeding 30 with more than three students with special needs.
- Study based on October 2008 data reports.
  - 716 classes in the study – approximately one half of these classes were activity or special interest classes such as Physical Education, Fine Arts, Band, Choir or non-traditional classes. These were removed from the study.
  - Further information was requested on 310 classes remaining in the study through a survey tool asking:
    - What consideration applied when the class was organized?
    - Has concern about the class size or composition been expressed by the teacher?
    - What supports are available to the teacher and students in the class.
    - Has the class size or composition been altered since reporting?
    - Does the composition vary during the day or the period the class meets?
    - What role do teachers have in determining class organization?
    - Other pertinent information.
  - Findings
    - In a majority of the classes considered, a re-organization had occurred to reduce the size and/or number of students with special needs such that these classes no longer were included in the specifications of the study.
    - In all but 24 of the classes, it was clear that appropriate supports were in place to support learning and that the teacher had provided input to the structure and supports available.

- In many cases it was evident that the size, composition or supports had been modified as a result of consultation with the teacher.
  - More information will be sought regarding the 24 classes remaining of interest.
4. Minister Bond thanked the members of the Roundtable for their participation and the meeting was adjourned at 10:30.