

Education Forum Report Tuesday, February 7, 2012

On Tuesday, February 7th, the Education Forum was held at Walnut Park Elementary. The focus of the Forum was The BC Education Plan and School District #54, seeking input and direction from community agencies. Superintendent Van der Mark led a large group of educators and community members through the new Education Plan and how it relates to the Bulkley Valley. The main focus of the presentation was making the point that our Education system is a good one, yet it is a system designed in the very different circumstances of an earlier century and can't possibly always meet the challenges students face - both now and in the future. In the social, economic and technological environment of the past, change was much more gradual than it is today. Many of the opportunities and jobs we're preparing our students for don't even exist today. So, while we enjoy a strong and stable system, we need a more nimble and flexible one that can adapt more quickly to better meet the needs of 21st century learners.

The school district believes now is an ideal time to engage in the change process as the Province's new education plan provides the framework for our district to determine what best meets the needs of our students here in the Bulkley Valley. The BC Ed. Plan has five key elements:

1. Personalized learning for every student
2. Quality teaching and learning
3. Flexibility and choice
4. High standards
5. Learning empowered by technology

The school district will be holding ongoing discussions to consider the possibilities that might emerge from this framework, share SD#54's connection with the 5 key elements, and gather input from the community regarding opportunities they see arising from the BC Ed. Plan.

The session was informative, engaging and we look forward to future sessions where we can expand the conversation.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Farrell
Chair, Education Forum