



News Release

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B.C. school superintendent chosen to lead province's largest school district

After an extensive search to replace retiring Superintendent Dr. Fred Renihan, the Surrey School Board has selected Michael McKay to lead School District No. 36 (Surrey) beginning August 1, 2005. Mr. McKay is currently Superintendent of Schools and Chief Executive Officer of School District No.63 (Saanich).

"The board is thrilled to be able to bring Michael McKay's solid experience, leadership skills and a strong educational vision to our district," says Surrey School Board chair Shawn Wilson. "Mr. McKay has a reputation as a collaborative and supportive team builder who is passionate about improving student learning. Trustees look forward to working with him."

Mr. McKay has been the superintendent for the Saanich School District since 2001 and assistant superintendent for the three years prior to that. He has been a school administrator in B.C. since 1986, except for two years when he was with the Ministry of Education as director of the Educational Innovation Division, responsible for provincial intermediate and graduation programs.

Mr. McKay was a member of the Provincial Working Group on Accountability Agreements and District Reviews and has developed a School Review Process and Workbook which are being used in his district. He has been active as an education and leadership consultant and speaker to school districts and educational institutions and forums in Canada, the U.S. and abroad.

"The Surrey School District has a well-deserved reputation for leadership and innovation in student learning and I am excited by the opportunity to build upon its successes and accomplishments," says Mr. McKay. "I look forward to the challenge and responsibility of leading the largest district in B.C."

Candidates from across Canada were considered for the post and the selection process included input from several Surrey School District stakeholder groups.

Meanwhile, a candidate is expected to be chosen by May to replace retiring Secretary-Treasurer Wayne Jefferson. Mr. McKay will be involved in that process.

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