

# School District #73 (Kamloops/Thompson)

## Parent Leadership Task Force

### *Terms of Reference*

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#### **Mandate:**

To develop a medium-term (2 – 3 years) strategy for increasing and supporting parent leadership in School District 73.

The completed strategy is to be presented as a recommendation to the Superintendent by March 2010. (Interim reports will be provided as required for additional district planning.)

#### **Process:**

Process will be determined by participants but may include:

- Research and review of best practices and successful strategies from other jurisdictions.
- Review of current literature regarding parent leadership strategies
- Identification of provincial context that impacts parent leadership (e.g. legislative mandates, statutory obligations, etc.)
- Identification of any current obstacles to parent leadership in SD73
- Identification of any current obstacles to parent involvement in SD 73
- Consultation with parents of preschool children and school age children and with educational and community partners
- Identification of benchmarks, milestones, measures, and recommendation for resources required to implement the strategy

#### **Rationale:**

When parents are engaged as genuine partners in education, parent leadership assumes importance. When parents are able to co-lead with children, teachers, administration and other partners for the success of all students; when they are able to genuinely participate in education practices; when they are willing to advocate excellence in public education to other parents, the community and policy makers then genuine parent leadership is realized. Parent leaders have a collective responsibility for and a vital role to play in the learning of all children.

Research shows that “students do better in school when parents are involved. This is true regardless of race, ethnicity, social standing, economic status, educational level of parents, and so on. Students with involved parents, no matter what their income or background, are more likely to achieve higher grades, attend school regularly, have better social skills and behaviour, and go on to post-secondary education.” (*Building Student Success in BC’s Public Schools; Abraham & Gram*).

By increasing and supporting effective parent leadership, student achievement is directly and positively impacted. It is also anticipated that this initiative will also assist Parent Advisory Councils and the District Parent Advisory Council in more effectively fulfilling their mandates.

**Composition:**

- The task force will be composed of parents.
- Although membership is not expected to exceed 10 members, all efforts will be made to have composition of the task force reflect the diversity that is inherent in the parent population of SD73. Specifically, consideration will be given to gender balance, urban/rural split, elementary/secondary representation, and ethnic background (particularly First Nations).
- School District Administration will play a resource and liaison role as required.
- Administrative support will be provided by SD 73.