



October 28, 2009

1. What is your reaction to these themes? Are they an appropriate foundation on which to build a new education act?

Holy Family Catholic Regional Division No. 37's reaction to the themes is that they are appropriate.

- Democracy could be considered a foundation theme.
- What are the qualifiers of "choice".
- Opportunity is a vague concept. Availability is a better theme for this idea.
- Wellness should be considered a theme – to enhance social, emotional and physical well-being.

2. What should be included in legislation to support the foundation?

To support the foundation, the following should be included in legislation:

- commitment for identified resources;
- guaranteed partnerships with other ministries;
- guaranteed opportunity for stakeholder participation; and
- mandatory kindergarten.

3. Is there anything in the existing legislation which would impede the application of these themes?

- Presently, transportation impedes the "choice" theme.
- School day and school year
- Age of entrance.
- The Boundary Expansion Process – 4 x 4 needs revision not elimination.
- Employment contracts and Board of Reference

4. What are the opportunities which these themes present? What are the challenges?

- These themes would create meaningful, alternative forms of education.
- Implementation and transition time will be a challenge.

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5. What additional policy areas should be considered?

Additional policy areas that should be considered:

- embedding the rights of Catholics to retain a separate school system in the area of “choice”;
- resources are portable – should follow child;
- adding strength to legislation and accountability;
- defining education;
- parents’ responsibility for education;
- recognition of global nature of education.

6. What are your top three priorities?

The top three priorities are:

- maintaining Catholic education;
- maintaining local governance;
- ensuring full participation of students in education.