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**School District No. 53  
(Okanagan Similkameen)**

## NEWS RELEASE

The Boards of Education of School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen) and School District No. 74 (Gold Trail) are pleased to announce a shared business service initiative between the districts effective August 1, 2010. Current Gold Trail Secretary Treasurer, Lynda Minnabarriet, will support both Boards as part of the senior management team. Ms. Minnabarriet has provided leadership in financial, human resource and facility management for over fifteen years and has proven experience in supporting Boards of Education during times of financial restraint. Ms. Minnabarriet is nearing the completion of her Certified General Accountant designation and she looks forward to continuing to support student achievement through focussed resource management.

The Boards believe that a shared business service model is an effective way of promoting cost efficient business services while ensuring effective levels of student services are maintained. In addition, the Boards have expressed a desire to be proactive in exploring alternative business models which would create opportunities to reduce administrative costs and enhance best practice. In the future, the Boards will be actively seeking opportunities to share services in other areas. Board Chairs, Valerie Adrian (SD No. 74) and June Harrington (SD No. 53) are excited about the opportunity to demonstrate strong fiscal management while maintaining a focus on improving student learning.

***“We have benefited so much from the leadership of Lynda Minnabarriet over the years, and we are pleased to be able to share her expertise with School District 53. There is so much we can learn from each other and we look forward to a good working relationship with Okanagan Similkameen.”***

***Valerie Adrian, Board Chair***

***“At a time when providing optimum service to students is becoming more difficult because of increasing costs, it is in the best interest of both boards to find creative ways to address our financial needs while maintaining our focus on the classroom. Lynda Minnabarriet will be a welcome addition to our administrative team and we look forward to a strong productive relationship with the Gold Trail School District.”***

***June Harrington, Board Chair***