



Renfrew County District School Board

Director's Report - April 27, 2009

Efficiency and Effectiveness

1. Teacher Learning and Leadership Program (TLLP)

Renfrew County recently learned that two of our Teacher Learning and Leadership Program (TLLP) proposals were accepted and approved for funding by the Ministry of Education. A team of Opeongo High School teachers will be looking at the critical expectations of the grades 9 and 10 math courses and will incorporate these expectations into computer-based technology to engage students. Specifically, the team will be investigating the use of online quizzes and tutorials to create a web of support that is intended to decrease the achievement gap and increase the achievement of all learners. The Madawaska Valley District High School teachers will conduct action research to measure the success of various teaching/assessment techniques as a means of closing the gender gap in learning. They will be collecting data on the effectiveness of the following instructional techniques: differentiated instruction; assistive technology; gender specific classes; cooperative learning; and 6+1 Traits. Opeongo teachers Matt Arseneau, Monika Sklepowicz, Ted Wren and Mike Neill will join the Madawaska team of Pam McCallum, Sue McCullough, and Germaine Parcher for two days of leadership training and project planning sponsored by the Ministry in early May.

2. Education Week

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne has advised us that the theme for Education Week - May 4-8, is 'Building the Best Education System for the World'. Ms. Wynne states, "Here in Ontario, people often talk about building the best education system in the world. This year, I would like to expand the notion to one of building the best education system *for* the world - because as we build an education system that is second to none, we are building a better education system *for* our students, *for* our province and *for* our world."

3. Teaching Learning Critical Pathways (TLCP)

On Tuesday, April 21, 2009, Dennis Maika and Elaine Hine from the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat visited Renfrew County to share their knowledge and expertise on the Teaching Learning Critical Pathways. Dennis and Elaine are well known across the province for their work on this topic and were recently featured in the monograph released by the LNS. Elementary principals and their co-chairs of their school improvement teams spent part of the day reviewing student work in order to build a common understanding for what constitutes Level 3 and 4 work. For the rest of the day, school teams that are implementing Teaching Learning Critical Pathways (TLCP) shared their knowledge on this process. The defining characteristics of TLCP are: teachers collaborate on planning and teaching a unit for six weeks; students participate in a baseline learning activity to determine their starting point for the unit; students practice the skills associated with the overall expectation or 'big idea'; students and the teacher predict each student's assessment level for the end of the unit; a common summative assessment is implemented at the end of the six weeks and moderated marking is used by the teachers to determine the growth of learning throughout the unit. Early results are showing that in the majority of cases, student learning improved over the six weeks, often exceeding both student and teacher expectations.