



Renfrew County District School Board

Director's Report - February 22, 2010

1. Funding for Parent Engagement

The Ministry of Education recently confirmed the transfer of funds to the RCDSB in the amount of \$5,340 for Parents Reaching Out Grants for School Councils. The following six elementary schools: Morison, General Lake, Highview, Pine View, Pinecrest and Herman Street received funding up to \$1,000 for applications previously submitted to the Ministry. While the range of topics varies across the six schools, the funding is intended to support parent engagement as strong parent engagement means improved student achievement. In addition, the Parent Involvement Committee received over \$19,000 for the second year in a row to support its plans. The Parent Involvement Committee is comprised of chairs from all of our school councils. This funding will support the Committee's regular meetings and the highly successful Parent Symposium held in the fall.

2. Funding for Student Engagement

Seven RCDSB schools received \$13,566 for projects submitted by students under the SpeakUp initiative. This is the second year of funding for this project and while the number of project applications has increased to over 2200, more projects were funded (approximately 1735) at a reduced rate level to ensure more students have the opportunity to SpeakUp. The successful student applications came from Arnprior District High School, McNab Public School, Renfrew Collegiate Institute, Killaloe Public School, Opeongo High School, Fellowes High School and Madawaska Valley District High School. Projects include the revitalization of student common areas, Anti-Bullying and Character Education presentations, and educational programs led by student leaders.

3. Numeracy Facilitator Position Continued

The Student Achievement Division of the Ministry of Education confirmed the continuation of funding for a Numeracy Facilitator into the 2010-2011 school year. Morison Public School teacher, Shelagh McCarthy was hired in the fall to support the implementation of numeracy strategies in our elementary schools as the Ministry recognized that small rural boards lacked the capacity to support this initiative on their own. Recently, Ms. McCarthy has been visiting schools assessing gaps in learning resources and will be allocating \$32,000 of Ministry money on a variety of resources including math manipulatives, technology that supports math programs, fiction and non-fiction books for school libraries and professional reading materials for teachers. The \$32,000 is one-time funding that will not be extended to school boards next year.

4. Strategic Plan

The RCDSB has embarked on a journey of revitalization by engaging the system in developing a new strategic plan. In preparing students for the 21st Century, the Board has recognized the need to identify new goals, and mission and vision statements for the system. At the core of the plan are the Board's three guiding principles: excellence in teaching and learning; safe, caring, and respectful learning environments; and wise use of resources. In addition, the Board recognizes that in the future our students will need to be literate in technology and, as a result, a strong emphasis of the plan will be enhancements to our information technology infrastructure with improved access for students and staff. Currently, principals are sharing the draft plan with their staffs and at a recent Parent Involvement Committee meeting, the Director presented the draft and invited school council chairs to provide feedback. A draft of the plan will be made available on the Board's website after March 1st, 2010 for further community input.