



Renfrew County District School Board

Director's Report - January 25, 2010

Administrative Transfers and Appointments

Effective February 1, 2010, several secondary schools will have some new yet familiar faces greeting students at the start of the new semester. John McIver, former Principal of Madawaska Valley District High School has been transferred to the principal position at General Panet High School. John returns to familiar territory as he was once head of the Physical Education Department and Vice-Principal at Panet. Replacing John at MVDHS is Lauren Wilson. Ms. Wilson has been the Secondary Curriculum Leader for the past two years and last year received the Outstanding Service Award from the Eastern Ontario Staff Development Network for her exemplary work in staff development.

Steve Blok has also been appointed as Principal of Opeongo High School, a position he held in an acting capacity for the past two years. Mr. Blok has been instrumental in implementing several Aboriginal initiatives at his school and has supported the successful collaboration of staff and students within the Opeongo Family of Schools. Neil Farmer has also been appointed Principal of Arnprior District High School, again a position he has held in an acting capacity for the past two years. Mr. Farmer has been instrumental in establishing Special Education programming at the school and strong connections with the community.

Mrs. Jacqueline Poirier, former Vice-Principal of Fellowes High School has been appointed Secondary Curriculum Leader. Ms. Poirier has been a long standing staff member at Fellowes and has established herself as a strong advocate for students and exemplary secondary programming.

As a result of these appointments and transfers, two vice-principal positions became vacant at Arnprior District High School and Fellowes High School. These positions will be filled this week.

Additional Funding for Secondary Programs

The Student Achievement Division of the Ministry of Education just recently announced additional funding of \$106,147 to advance the implementation of Specialist High Skills Majors. This is in addition to the funding the Board received in the fall and must be spent to offset costs schools are already incurring or will incur before March 31, 2010. The funding can only be spent on these three priority areas:

- additional capital equipment or resources required to ramp up an existing SHSM or SHSM program for next year;
- reach ahead experiences;
- opportunities for students to receive certification and training programs required for completion of the SHSM program.

An additional \$4,900 was received to support the Math Gains Project and is to be allocated specifically for the coaching of teachers.

Principal Congress 2010 Participants

In November 2009, school boards were invited to nominate candidates from their regions to participate in the second Principal Congress scheduled for February 10, 2010 in Toronto. We are very pleased to announce that Principal Jodie Barrett, from McNab Public School and Principal Alanna Emon, from Renfrew Collegiate Institute will be representing Renfrew County at this congress. Candidates that were nominated needed to be practicing principals and have demonstrated an ability to bring about positive changes to their schools.