



## Renfrew County District School Board

### Director's Report - June 15, 2009

#### Renfrew County District School Board Expands by Two Schools

On June 2, 2009 the Minister of Education, the Right Honourable Kathleen Wynne announced that the Ministry of Education was proceeding with a plan to amalgamate 20 school authorities with existing district school boards for September 1, 2009. As a result of this announcement, the Renfrew County District School Board learned that the following two school authorities will join our district in September 1, 2009; Airy and Sabine located in Whitney and Murchison and Lyell located in Madawaska. The combined enrolment of the two schools is approximately 60 students.

The Ministry of Education has established a 'Transition Support Team' to help with the task of amalgamating the school authorities with the various school districts; however, the Renfrew County District School Board has already been proactive in scheduling a series of meetings with administrative officials from the respective school authorities over the next few weeks and the Director and Chair of the Board visited the two school authorities on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. While the timelines are tight in order to facilitate the smooth transition of these school authorities to our school district, the cooperation we have received to date from the school authorities has been excellent and we look forward to having these two schools from the Eastern Algonquin Region join Renfrew County.

#### OSSLT Results

On June 10, 2009 the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test results from April 2009 were released to the public. Eighty-three percent (83 %) of first-time eligible students were successful compared to 85% for the province. This is a slight decrease from last year's results; however, we still continue to have a higher participation rate of 95% compared to the province's 93%. In addition, when you disaggregate the data, our academic, applied, locally developed, special needs students with Individual Education Plans (IEP), and previously eligible students did better than their provincial counterparts. Our secondary school improvement teams will analyze their own school data and generate plans to address their areas of relative weakness and celebrate their successes.

Some comparable data:

Gender gap - Board 5%/Province 6%

Special Needs Students with IEP - Board 71%/Province 56%

Academic English Students - Board 97%/Province 96%

Applied English Students - Board 73%/Province 62%

Locally Developed Students - Board 29%/Province 21%

Previously Eligible Students - Board 61%/Province 54%

#### Renfrew County District School Board Honours its Retiring Staff

On Monday evening, June 15, 2009 a retirement reception will be held at Fellowes High School to honour 31 staff members who have decided to retire from various positions within our Board. This group of retirees represents staff from a variety of employee groups including support staff, teaching staff, and administration.

This evening is our organization's way of celebrating the tremendous contribution these valued employees have made to our students and staff.

#### Action Research - Reducing Gaps in Education

The Student Achievement Division, formerly known as the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat is embarking on a number of research projects and has approached our staff to be part of these exciting proposals. One proposal involves researching the use of technology in determining if male students would benefit in the use of computers during the EQAO assessments. As male students generally lag behind their female counterparts in reading, writing and mathematics, this research will involve having grade 6 male students complete the previous year's EQAO assessment on computer and then compare those results with this year's assessment. The other research proposal involves students in our Summer Booster program and is designed to focus on the relationship between summer learning and student achievement gaps. Research in the United States has shown that disadvantaged students suffer a "summer setback" in which their literacy and numeracy skills decline on average over the summer months. This research project will be used to justify, design, evaluate, and implement a variety of future summer programs.