



Renfrew County District School Board

Director's Report - March 30, 2009

Monitoring and Accountability

1. School Information Finder

The Ministry announced a new tool to be available to the public on the Ministry of Education website. The School Information Finder will allow parents to search online for schools in a variety of ways, and it will provide profiles of each school with information about the school itself, its students and their achievement.

Each school profile will include:

- Basic information about the school (address, contact information, enrolment);
- Student Achievement information (EQAO scores and trends);
- Student information (language data, special education data, and information about parental income and education);
- Primary class size information (elementary schools only).

Each school profile will also include links to the school and school board websites. The launch of the School Information Finder will be at the end of this month.

2. Energy Efficiency

Our Board participated in an energy efficiency pilot project that took a 'snapshot' of the energy efficiency of 181 schools from across Canada. Utility data was provided for each school and compared to Total Energy Benchmarks for 2007 and 2008. Six of our schools were well below the median of 194 ekWh/m², which in itself is great news; however, of the schools that participated in the pilot project, Admaston Public School was identified as the most energy efficient school in the Province of Ontario.

3. Student Success Monitoring

On March 3rd, Ministry of Education officials visited our Board to monitor our progress in meeting provincial targets for student success. At our meeting, Michael Laurie and Phillip O'Brien complimented the RCDSB for its excellent results in all areas.

On every indicator of student success the RCDSB is exceeding provincial results. Overall, on the majority of indicators, the Board results are in the top third in comparison to all boards in the Province of Ontario. Specifically the following results were discussed:

Credit Accumulation - Grade 9

	June 2006	June 2007	June 2008	February 2009
Province	75%	77%	78%	
RCDSB	83%	88%	83%	88%

Credit Accumulation - Grade 10

	June 2006	June 2007	June 2008	February 2009
Province	66%	66%	67%	
RCDSB	73%	76%	78%	79%

Every compulsory course pass rate in both grades 9 and 10 is higher than the provincial pass rate. The overall RCDSB pass rate in June 2008 was 97.2% and in grade 10 it was 96.9% compared to the provincial rates of 90.8% and 88.8%.

The RCDSB has 16 Specialist High Skills Majors available for students. This is the highest number per capita in the province.

The Ministry officials also commented on the extraordinary number of Native Studies courses offered to our students. All secondary schools offer at least one Native Studies course and in many cases several different courses, (NAC10, NAC20, NDW4M, NBE3C, NBE3E, NBV3C, NBV3E).

Student transition programs (Link Crew) have been established in three secondary schools in 2008-2009. Staff from the remaining four secondary schools will be trained this year to allow for implementation of this program in all of our secondary schools.

All secondary schools have Student Success teams comprised of the Student Success teacher, a school administrator, a guidance counsellor, a special education teacher, a co-op teacher, and possibly a school support counsellor and/or classroom teachers. The pyramid of intervention developed by the Student Success team allows for all team members to work together to share their expertise and to assist a larger number of students.

The Ministry representatives were very complimentary of our RCDSB accomplishments.

4. Student Voice Projects

This past school year the Ministry of Education launched a new Student Voice program, which encourages students to SpeakUp and become more engaged in their education. Students are encouraged to participate in local projects, the Minister's Advisory Council and regional forums. In the first year of operation, students submitted over 1,300 applications to the Ministry. More than 850 schools received funding for projects and six schools in Renfrew County received \$11,015 for fourteen different projects. Opeongo High School was the big winner with a total of eight projects funded at a total of \$5,215. Projects approved include: \$1,400 for a Character Facelift for the ADHS cafeteria, \$1,500 for an Outdoor Learning Environment for RCI, \$1,500 for a pond and courtyard restoration at OHS, and \$1,500 for a Communication Kiosk for MVDHS.