



## **Renfrew County District School Board**

### **Director's Report - May 26, 2008**

#### **School Effectiveness District Review**

The Ministry of Education, through the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, developed the School Effectiveness Framework, a tool for assisting schools with the continuing work of school improvement planning, implementation and monitoring. Each of our schools has a school effectiveness team, with principal and teacher co-chair, that meets periodically to review progress made on the goals and targets for student achievement and to make revisions to the plan. The Renfrew County District School Board has provided training and time so that the SEF teams are supported in their work.

Eight of our schools were selected as OFIP schools and receive focussed support from our curriculum and special education consultants and additional resources from the OFIP project. Recently, the Director and school superintendents joined with the school effectiveness teams at AJ Charbonneau Public School and Champlain Discovery Public School to participate in a day-long district review. Both reviews revealed progress being made on the literacy, numeracy and character development goals set by the school teams as evidenced through samples of student work, data on student achievement, classroom visits, and school walkthrough. At the end of the day, the district team shared observations with the school staff. There will be a follow-up report based upon the four areas defined in the SEF: Student Learning and Achievement; Instructional Leadership; Assessment and Evaluation; Curriculum and Instructional Strategies.

The work associated with the School Effectiveness Framework will continue into the next school year, including more district reviews. Having a common tool is proving to be very helpful to the collaborative processes necessary for effective planning, implementing, and monitoring of improvement efforts in classrooms, schools, and the system.

#### **Leadership Assessment Program**

The Leadership Committee has revised the Renfrew County District School Board Leadership Assessment Program so that it incorporates the Ontario Leadership Framework and current research into effective leadership practice. The program includes activities related to the responsibilities of school administrators - school improvement planning, working with committees, staff supervision, dealing with issues, calls, and correspondence, etc. Candidates participate in these activities and each is assessed. Following the LAP day, participants meet with the assessor and develop a plan for further development that includes ongoing coaching. The new process is being implemented and a number of those aspiring to the roles of principal/vice-principal participated in the LAP day last week.

#### **Assessment and Evaluation**

The Ministry of Education has initiated a review of assessment and evaluation policies and consultations with and training for board teams have begun. As a result, the RCDSB Assessment and Evaluation document is in the process of being revised by secondary and elementary A&E teams, comprised of teachers, administrators, and staff from the curriculum department.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>, teachers and administrators from each RCDSB school serving students from grades 7-12 attended an assessment and evaluation workshop in Cobden. Damian Cooper, who is internationally recognized for his work in the area of assessment and evaluation, provided an overview of how assessment can improve learning for all students. He included the big ideas of classroom assessment and shared best practices that align with current ministry policies.

## **Careers Education**

Staff from the Renfrew County District School Board continues to meet with local industry representatives to discuss employment opportunities and to promote workplace experience for our students. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, guidance, co-op, tech, and careers teachers met to discuss career education with industry representatives from AECL, Renfrew County Homebuilders Association, Canadian Automotive Repair and Service Council, and several other local employers, including a solar energy company. It was clear that there are exciting employment opportunities for our student graduates here in the County, and the teachers who attended will be sharing this information with students in their schools.

Central staff recently attended a provincial meeting regarding planning for ensuring a future workforce in the skilled trades. Elementary and secondary education has an important role to play in preparing students for future employment in this area.

## **Reporting to the Ministry**

In April/May, there have been the following points of accountability:

- Report on Model Project to Promote Positive School Behaviour
- Progress Report on Activities Related to Implementation of OFIP Plan
- Monitoring Visit of the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat regarding Improvement Planning
- Monitoring Visit of CODE regarding Special Education Project
- Progress Report on CODE Funded Aboriginal Project
- Monitoring Visit of the Ontario Psychological Association Project Team
- Report Confirming Earned Credits for Students in Grades 9/10

## **Upcoming Events**

Meeting of RCDSB School Council chairs and representatives hosted by the Renfrew County DSB Parent Involvement Committee - Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Fellowes HS

Election for Student Trustee 2008-2009 - Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Board Office

Grades 3 and 6 Provincial Assessments in Reading, Writing and Mathematics - between May 26<sup>th</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup>  
Grade 9 Provincial Assessment in Mathematics - between June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup>

June Board Meeting - June 16<sup>th</sup> with Public Session beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Celebration of Retiring Employees hosted by the Renfrew County District School Board - Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Fellowes HS

School Graduations