



Renfrew County District School Board

Director's Report - October 27, 2008

RCDSB Recognized as Leader in Aboriginal Education

Recently officials from the Aboriginal Education Office of the Ministry of Education visited Eganville and District Public School and Opeongo High School to witness first hand the exemplary programs that are provided to students. They were impressed by how the Renfrew County District School Board has tailored its Early Literacy Intervention and Student Success Programs to support the learning of First Nation students in these schools. The Ministry also acknowledged the progress that each secondary school has made in serving the entire student body as evidenced by the availability of native studies courses and specialist high school major programs and the Board's impressive results on Ministry student success indicators. They noted that our efforts and results exceed those of the province as a whole.

During discussion with our Board Chair, Director, and school and system staff, the Ministry commended the Renfrew County District School Board for being a leader in the province in implementing the Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework, acknowledging in particular Steve Sliwa and Judy Ellis for their work in coordinating regional symposia and meetings, and Dennis Jenkins and school principals for their work in ensuring that schools have appropriate resources and offer programs. In turn, staff thanked the Ministry for the special project funding that has enabled our work to date and stressed how important such funding is to school districts like ours. We were pleased to learn that approval for our six submissions for approximately \$200,000 in total project funding is forthcoming.

Renfrew County staff has been asked to share our best practices at the Director's Council on Aboriginal Education, a provincial meeting for all school boards, on November 12, 2008.

RCDSB is Developing Leadership for Learning

With special funding from the Ministry of Education, the Renfrew County District School Board is embarking on a formal mentoring program for newly appointed school principals and vice-principals. Those new to the role will have the support of an experienced administrator who acts as mentor and the benefit of professional development sessions. The program will also provide opportunities for those who have completed the Board's Leadership Assessment Program to further develop their skills. Last week, seven RCDSB teachers who are gaining principal qualifications participated in the Board's LAP. These components of our leadership development strategy are coordinated by Jodie Barrett and Terry Hughes, principals within RCDSB.

Our elementary principals continue to be engaged in the Leading Student Achievement project sponsored by the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, coordinated through the provincial principal associations, and monitored by a research team from OISE. The project focus is on developing the capacity of school effectiveness teams to use data and information to develop and implement improvement plans, and to monitor the effectiveness of strategies in improving student achievement. Recently the principal and teacher co-chairs of five of our elementary schools and two of our central curriculum staff attended the first of two sessions on Teaching-Learning Critical Pathways, a strategy that has proven successful in pilot schools. Principals Kim Shoveller, Margaret Maloney, Brent McIntyre, Cindy Simpson, Lizanne Lacelle and Gayle Bishop are the RCDSB leads for this project and ensure that each meeting of ACES includes a professional development component related to this provincial initiative.

Reporting to the Ministry

In September/October, there were the following points of accountability:

- Monitoring Meeting with Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat regarding Board Improvement Planning, Schedule for School Reviews, and Plan for LNS Funding;
- Monitoring Meeting with Ministry Officials regarding Compliance with Aboriginal Education Policy Framework;
- OnSIS June School Report, PLAR Report, and Technology Report;
- Specialist High School Major Planning Template;
- Enrolment Template.

Upcoming Events

RCDSB System-Wide Professional Development Day, "Energizing for the Future", beginning at 8:30 a.m. on November 7, 2008 at Fellowes High School and Champlain Discovery Public School (for all staff).

RCDSB Character Champions Symposium, beginning at 8:45 a.m. on Monday, November 10, 2008 at the Best Western Conference Centre, Pembroke (staff member and student champion from each school).

Remembrance Day Commemoration - Tuesday, November 11th - times available from local schools.

Petawawa Accommodation Review Committee Meetings:

- Thursday, November 13, 2008, 7:00 p.m. at Herman Street Public School for input from Pinecrest and Herman Street school communities;
- Thursday, November 20, 2008, 7:00 p.m. at General Lake Public School for input from General Lake and Pine View school communities,
- Thursday, November 27, 2008, 7:00 p.m. at General Panet High School for input from General Panet school community and other interested community groups.