

Director's Monthly Report



Content * Design * Layout: Trina Henley, Executive Assistant to the Director of Education

Highlights:

- Trustees Tour PJP II School
- Progress is underway at the New CEC
- Trustees Receive Good Governance Certificates
- Positive Financial Estimate Results

We are a Roman Catholic school system dedicated to excellence in education, the Christian formation of youth, and meaningful partnerships with family, community and the Church.



Kenora Catholic District School Board (807) 468-9851

Trustees Tour Pope John Paul II School

On January 18, 2011 the trustees hosted their Regular Board Meeting at Pope John Paul II School and enjoyed a tour of the facility with Principal Maureen Frankcom. Prior to the tour Frankcom explained to the trustees that she didn't tell the faculty that the trustees would be touring the school as she didn't want the teachers to stop what they were doing in their classrooms and tidy up. Instead she wanted to show the trustees all the amazing things that the teachers and students are working on and sometimes that work is a little messy or a work in progress. But she wanted to provide the trustees with an accurate look into the classrooms.

Frankcom identified that while on the tour the trustees may notice all the teacher and student hand-made signs hung in the classrooms that relate to the language found in the School Improvement Plan such as *Steps to Success*, *Success Criteria* or *Learning Goal*. Frankcom explained that the school is currently working on implementing their School Improvement Plan, and identifying where they are today and where they want to progress to. *"It has really been a team effort by teachers and students alike. Vice Principal Michelle Sawa has played a pivotal part in the effort to move students forward."* says Maureen Frankcom.

Phyllis Eikre explained to the trustees that following an inaugural election the Regular Board Meetings are hosted in each of the schools as opposed to the Catholic Education Center. This allows any new trustees or members of the public to have a thorough tour of the schools, without being disruptive to student learning. Eikre explained that trustee Vaughn Blab from Red Lake will be toured through the schools sometime before the end of the school year.

The schedule for upcoming school-hosted Board Meetings is as follows:

- February 15, 2011 – St. Thomas Aquinas High School
- March 22, 2011 – École Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys
- April 19, 2011 – St. Louis School
- May 17, 2011 – St. John's Separate School





Progress is Underway at the New CEC

On January 3, 2011 the Executive Council Team toured through the construction site of the new Catholic Education Center. Over the Christmas holidays there was a tremendous amount of progress made with many of the interior office walls framed and ready for drywall.



Andrew Poirier, Operations Manager presented at the January 18, 2011 Board Meeting that the electrical component of the project is on target. Poirier explained that they are currently waiting on costs for the repositioning of power outlets and network drops as they want to ensure that there will be enough of both for the new Catholic Education Center.



Poirier explained that at the staff meeting of the Catholic Education Center next week staff will be discussing a moving committee to develop an action plan for moving and coordinate all the details associated with the huge undertaking of relocating to the new center.

Poirier identified that the dimensions of the new board room are different from the existing board room and new furnishings will need to be ordered. Poirier explained that the Director and the Trustees will be involved in selecting the new furnishings.

"At this point we do not have an accurate moving date targeted, but we do know that the center will be relocating in the spring", says Poirier.

Trustees Receive Good Governance Certificates

On January 14, 2011 KCDSB trustees attended the Professional Development Program for School Board Trustees hosted by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association and the Ontario Education Services Corporation.

The program was a certificate course that focused on the board's higher moral purpose: student achievement and well-being, building collective capacity, developing ethical leadership skills and understanding roles and responsibilities of the board, of its members and of its Director of Education. The program had 14 Modules and in order for the Trustees to receive their certificates they were required to complete 7 modules.

"The conference was very beneficial and informative with the option of attending different seminars. I would like to see the OCSTA explore ways to deliver the remaining modules via online training so we can complete all 14", says Frank Bastone, Vice Chair.



Positive Financial Estimate Results

At the Board Meeting of January 18, 2011 Erica Bailey, Superintendent of Administrative Services provided a presentation to the trustees on the Revised Estimates. Bailey identified that in the spring Executive Council starts working with the trustees and principals to get direction and goals for the budget development process. The team works together to build the board's budget. The budget is then passed at the June Board meeting and submitted to the Ministry of Education. Bailey explained that she then takes that budget and analyzes the changes that have occurred since the spring in response to enrollment and this creates the revised estimates. Bailey shared that the revised estimates show how the budget has changed from last June to today.

Bailey explained that the board has seen a significant increase in enrollment at St. Thomas Aquinas High School with an increase of 45 students or 35 FTE's more than anticipated. It's great news because that means we are educating more students than we anticipated. Bailey explained that because we are funded by the Ministry of Education based on enrollment this increase means we have more money in our budget, \$584K more in funding than we estimated. However, more students means more resources needed to educate and support these students. Bailey explained that the board has held back on resources to ensure that the board passed a balanced budget, but now we can add back these resources into the budget.