

Director's Monthly Report



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

Highlights:

- School Effectiveness Framework
- EQAO Results Are In
- Enrollment is Looking Good
- Key Challenges Facing Our Board

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



Kenora Catholic District School Board (807) 468-9851

School Effectiveness Framework

The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat developed the School Effectiveness Framework to support school boards across the province in working to identify strengths and next steps for school effectiveness and to enhance the life opportunities for all students from K – 12. The Ministry of Education mandated the School Effectiveness Framework Leader position for every school board in Ontario.

At the September 21, 2010 Board Meeting, Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education advised the Trustees that she was very proud and honored to introduce Mary Cunningham as Assistant Superintendent School Effectiveness for the Kenora Catholic District School Board effective August 31, 2010.

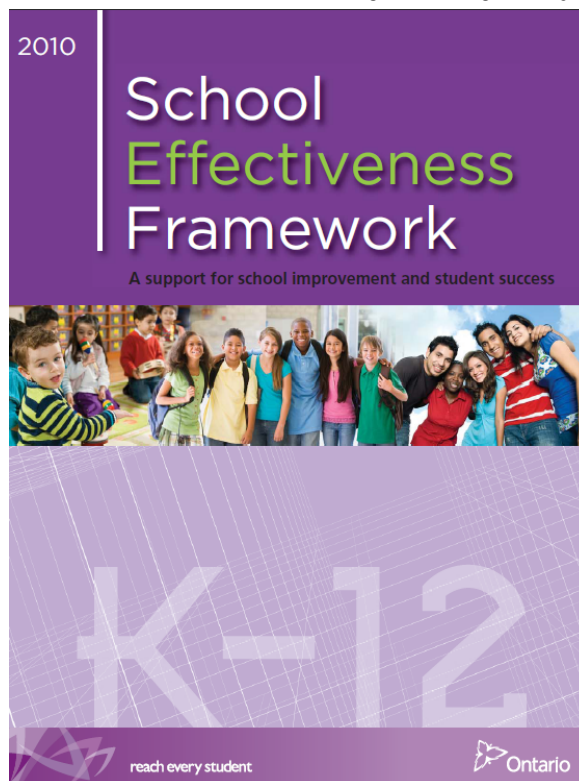
Mary Cunningham provided the trustees with a presentation on the board's School Effectiveness Framework (SEF) Plan explaining that the SEF is essentially an assessment tool that is based upon research about effective elementary and secondary schools, and examples of existing K-12 practices from across the province. Cunningham explained that the target is huge – to reach every single student across the board in every single classroom, but it's the only target worth working towards.

Cunningham explained that through the School Effectiveness Framework plans based on personalization, professional learning and precision will be created and monitored throughout the year.

Cunningham explained that the board is facing a moral imperative. The board needs to have 20/24 vision as opposed to 20/20 vision. The ability to imagine what life will be like in the future for our students. Our students will be facing something entirely different from today. They will need to be

prepared with Catholic Graduate Expectations, they will need to be 21st century learners, problems solvers, analytical thinkers, life-long learners and have the ability to adapt to change. Cunningham stated that if we do not prepare our students in this way we will miss the moral imperative.

Cunningham explained that School Improvement Teams, Coordinators and senior administration have recently completed the Board Improvement Plan with focus goals for the 2010/11 school year. The team developed a "skinny goal" that is skinny enough for teachers to keep in their minds and still be able to focus on and see movement with. The "skinny goal" is: *Students will be better able to extend their understanding while reading for meaning through the use of comprehension strategies. They will show their thinking and understanding in their writing by using form and style and developing and organizing content effectively.*



REGULAR BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The stories below are from the September 21st Regular Board Meeting. For more detailed information about this Regular Board Meeting please visit our website at www.kcdsb.on.ca and review the minutes of this meeting.

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



EQAO Results Are In

Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education shared that the EQAO results show that our students continue to do well and we are proud of them. Our teachers are working very hard and it's evident in our EQAO results. Our teachers are building in time to collaborate with one another and are looking closely at student work and individual students, taking results and breaking them down to very fine details to be able to modify teaching for individual student needs.

Eikre shared that specifically the board is making tremendous progress in grade 9 math results. Our grade 9 students continue to achieve above the provincial level. For more information on our EQAO results please read our [press release](#) online.

Enrollment Is Looking Good

At the September 21st Board Meeting Phyllis Eikre presented that she had some really wonderful news to share: the board has observed an increase in enrollment. Eikre explained that in September 2009 the board had 1,498 students and this year in September the board has 1,528 students.



Key Challenges Facing Our Board

On September 14th Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education and Darryl Michaluk, Chair participated in an annual conference call with executive members of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association to discuss challenges that face the Kenora Catholic District School Board – challenges that may be unique to our board and challenges that are similar to other boards in the province of Ontario.

The Ontario Catholic Trustees Association provides leadership, service and a provincial voice for Catholic School Boards in Ontario promoting and protecting Catholic education.

One of the issues presented during the call was the high capital costs to implement full day learning for 4/5 year olds, and the fact that the Ministry of Education has not addressed these concerns. Eikre stated that although the class at St. Louis is doing amazingly in terms of space for students and enrollment there will be significant challenges implementing the program at École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys as that school has reached capacity.

Student transportation is another significant challenge for the board. The board is currently showing a deficit in this area of the budget of \$56,000 since the Ministry of Education mandated that school boards join the Northwestern Ontario Student Services Consortium in 2010. In 2009 the board operated a balanced budget in transportation. In addition to student transportation increasing in costs, general travel for meetings and conferences and the high cost of travel in the North in general is also a significant challenge. The OCSTA was quite shocked to discover the cost associated with a typical trip from Kenora to Toronto is ~\$1,500 per person for flights and mileage – not including accommodations.

A huge concern for the board is the cost of delivering Special Education programs to our board's most vulnerable students. Even the Ministry of Education acknowledges that it's an issue but does not provide any solutions, so boards continue to run deficits in the area of supporting special education programs.

Eikre also identified that the board would like to have a larger gym and more up-to-date science labs in our high school. We feel our students should be treated to the same resources as the Southern Ontario students, despite the higher construction costs in the North.

