



Algoma District School Board

Director's Bulletin – 2007 09 12

**To: Principals, Managers,
Union and Federation Presidents**

At the Regular Board Meeting held on **September 11, 2007**, the Algoma District School Board (ADSB) trustees were presented with, and discussed a number of items, including the following:

1. ADSB BEGINS IMPLEMENTATION OF CAPITAL PLAN

The Board approved the identification of F.H. Clergue Public School and Rosedale Public School as "Under Review Status" to be reviewed for closure and to be consolidated into one new facility. The Board also approved the identification of Bawating Collegiate and Sir James Dunn Collegiate as "Under Review Status" to be reviewed for closure and to be consolidated into one new facility.

ADSB Director Mario Turco outlined that the first public meetings for the schools "Under Review Status" are as follows.

Public Meetings to outline "Under Review Status"

F.H. Clergue Public School	November 19, 2007
Rosedale Public School	November 21, 2007
Bawating C & VS	November 22, 2007
Sir James Dunn C & VS	November 26, 2007

Director Turco also outlined that, subject to public input, the expected date for completion of the new elementary school could be September 2009. Staff has recommended that F.H. Clergue Public School would be the preferred site for the new school. Rosedale Public School site would not be as suitable for new construction due to several ongoing safety issues such as bussing, site drainage and an existing easement on the property.

Again, subject to public input, the completion of the new secondary school could be September 2010. The preferred location for the new school would be on the Bawating Collegiate site because it is centrally located within the city and is suitably positioned to partner with community agencies/resources for future student programs. Two major subdivisions are being developed within close proximity of this site.

1. ADSB BEGINS IMPLEMENTATION OF CAPITAL PLAN - continued

“This is a very exciting time for our school board and for our community as we begin the implementation of our capital plan,” said Director Mario Turco. ***“It’s an opportunity to right-size, consolidate, renovate and build new schools for the students in our system. We welcome comments and questions from members of the community during the process. I invite everyone to become involved as we work together to build a successful future for our Board and our students.”***

The implementation of the Capital Plan follows the June 19, 2007 announcement by MPP David Oraziotti that ADSB was being provided conditional financing of \$10.4 million for one French Immersion elementary school (to replace FH Clergue and Rosedale) and \$34.4 million for one secondary school (to replace Bawating and Sir James Dunn).

A more detailed chronology of events and detailed information on next steps will be available shortly on the ADSB website at www.adsb.on.ca.

2. SYSTEM GOALS FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Administrative Goals for the 2007/2008 school year were reviewed outlining a plan to continue “advancing on course” and continuing to focus on building and improving on what has been achieved to date as a school board.

Director of Education Mario Turco in presenting the System Goals to trustees stated, ***“Over the summer our team reviewed the goals that we’ve set as a board. Many exciting programs and resources that support student success have been implemented. We’re very proud of and encouraged by the results we’ve seen and we want to continue to build on these successes. We believe that the goals we’ve set for this year will allow us to do that.”***

Algoma District School Board System Goals for 2007/2008:

- **Advancing on Course by Raising the Bar:**
 - ✓ identify and share best practices of high achieving schools which are improving student learning and teacher practices; Schools on the Move, Lighthouse Programs, Credit Recovery, High Skills Major and Dual Credit. Statistical neighbours will also be explored
 - ✓ continue to provide research-based professional development for staff to result in improved student learning in Literacy and Numeracy (i.e. differentiated instruction, jr./int. math, jr. literacy, shared reading, cross curricular writing and transition planning)
 - ✓ support professional learning communities both within the school and within the Family of Schools, focusing on instructional practice; assessment for and as learning, and school leadership
 - ✓ continue to support the New Teacher Induction Program
- **Advancing on Course by Reducing the Gap:**
 - ✓ utilize data to establish a system profile at the board level, school level and student level based on EQAO, DRA, CASI, CTBS, CCAT, etc. at the elementary level
 - ✓ utilize data to establish a system profile at the board level, school level and student level based on the 10 indicators of student success at the secondary level
 - ✓

2. SYSTEM GOALS FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR - continued

- ✓ focus on Safe Schools Policy and Procedures, School Code of Conduct, Healthy Schools, Anti-Bullying and Character Education Program and positive school environments
- ✓ pilot literacy success leaders at elementary and continue student success team at each secondary school to support students at risk
- ✓ pilot full day JK in selected areas of the Board
- **Advancing on Course by Improving the Retention Rate:**
 - ✓ offer innovative quality programs such as the Balanced School Day, Grade 7 & 8 Intermediate School, Spring Ahead Program, House Building, Automotive Apprenticeship, Late School, Field Schools, Coop & OYAP, Learning to 18 Programs, Individualized Studies, E-learning, Aboriginal Education, including a new focus on the Arts and the Environment
 - ✓ review our elementary and secondary programs (FSL, Special Education, LDCC)
 - ✓ support the Student Success Program
 - ✓ focus on students at risk, Aboriginal students and Special Needs students, introducing Premier Technology and Applied Behaviour Analysis for Students with Autistic and Behaviour Spectrum Disorder.
- **Advancing on Course by Building Public Confidence:**
 - ✓ communicate and celebrate student and staff success
 - ✓ strengthen relationships through effective internal and external communication
 - ✓ nurture and encourage new and existing partnerships with parents, School Councils, agencies, municipality service clubs, boards, Ministry of Education and other education providers
 - ✓ implement the Board's Capital Plan to right-size, consolidate, renovate and build new schools
 - ✓ consolidate policies, protocols, procedures and practices
 - ✓ review our Board's vision, mission and values statement
 - ✓ support leadership training and leadership succession planning
 - ✓ focus on Ministry and other legislated requirements such as Health & Safety, Accessibility, OnSIS, Transportation, etc.
 - ✓ upgrade Computer Wide Area Infrastructure and Communications Network

3. SELF-IDENTIFICATION FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

Superintendent Kime Collver provided an update to the Algoma District School Board (ADSB) on the Self-Identification for Aboriginal students. Earlier this year, the Algoma District School Board (ADSB) and the Huron Superior Catholic District School Board (HSCDSB) began the collaboration with representatives from the North Shore Tribal Council, the Indian Friendship Centre, and the Métis Nation of Ontario to discuss and seek input into the development of the Voluntary Self-Identification Policy.

A key part of this policy is to set the foundation for improving achievement among Aboriginal students in provincially funded schools. Self-identification is the first step to identify, collect and aggregate student achievement data for program enhancements.

3. SELF-IDENTIFICATION FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS- continued

The policy has been created to support the ADSB and Ministry of Education's goals for all students:

- High level of student achievement
- Reduce gaps in student achievement
- High levels of public confidence

It has also been designed to promote effective working relationships with the Aboriginal community and the Boards of Education through parent involvement and also to increase the awareness of others of Aboriginal history, culture and traditions.

All Aboriginal students and their parents are encouraged to voluntarily self-identify now, at the beginning of this school year, so that school boards may implement programs to better meet the needs of Aboriginal students. Superintendent Kime Collver confirmed that to date 649 students have identified and we expect more to over the next week.

Several information pieces have been distributed to Aboriginal organizations throughout the Algoma District including brochures, posters, flyers and magnets. In addition, a joint media campaign has been launched by ADSB and HSCDSB with radio and newspaper ads, all of which help to communicate the message requesting Aboriginal students/parents to voluntarily self-identify.

For more information on this policy, individuals are encouraged to contact their local school principal or Aboriginal Organization.

4. NEW FUNDING ALLOWS ADSB TO ENHANCE PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND STAFFING

Algoma District School Board (ADSB) Trustees approved additional expenditures to enhance programs and services for 2007-2008 of \$2.4 million in recognition of the additional funding from the Ministry of Education over the past months.

Trustees are responding primarily to program needs and support services. For the Elementary Program, this translates into additional staff to assist in capping primary class sizes. It will also allow hiring of an aboriginal lead teacher, an elementary literacy librarian and funds to continue a bullying prevention/character education position. The board will also be exploring the introduction of a Grade 8.5 transition class between elementary and secondary to support at-risk students.

For the Secondary Program, additional staffing will be available for the School College Work Initiative, an Outdoor Education program and Lighthouse projects to assist "at risk" students at Alexander Henry High School and to enhance First Nations programming.

Additional support will be provided for the Special Education Department. Supports will also be provided for the implementation of new suspension/expulsion policies under the Safe Schools policy. Additional secretarial support for both Elementary and Secondary programs is also anticipated.

4. NEW FUNDING ALLOWS ADSB TO ENHANCE PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND STAFFING - continued

The additional funding will also be used to upgrade computers, to provide technology enhancements, extra curricular equipment and video surveillance equipment. Dollars will also be put towards the ADSB Plant Department's building and grounds budget for painting, upgrading and implementing new water testing and flushing requirements.

ADSB Chair Wanda McQueen expressed her appreciation in being able to enhance programs at all levels throughout the board. ***“The additional funding that came to us in August and the Special Purpose funding made available totalling \$2.4 million dollars has really allowed us to focus on areas that previously were not possible to be addressed. It is a huge help to be able to place additional staffing in schools where students will really benefit and to be able to provide programs, resources and equipment that will be well used to benefit our students.”***

5. ADSB ENCOURAGED WITH CURRENT INCREASED ENROLMENT FOR BOTH ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY

The Algoma District School Board (ADSB) is pleased to have again experienced an increase in enrolment for the 2007-2008 school year.

Superintendent of Education Lucia Reece reviewed opening elementary enrolments for trustees at the Board meeting this evening. In Junior Kindergarten (JK), projected enrolment in April was 426 students, and actual enrolment this week was 555 students, which is an increase of 129 students. In addition, another 29 Senior Kindergarten (SK) students enrolled. A slight increase of approximately 10 students was also noted in Grades 1-8.

As a result of the enrolment increases and organizational changes, the Algoma District School Board will be looking to increase JK/SK classes at approximately 5 schools, and adding classes in Grades 1-8 at approximately 7 schools.

The JK enrolment is welcomed news at a time when most Northern Ontario school boards continue to deal with declining enrolment issues. Superintendent Reece reported that several schools have indicated that increases are a result of new families moving back or into the area. In other cases, it is a result of families waiting until September to register their JK students for school.

Superintendent of Education Bob Cole reported that the secondary enrolment showed an increase of 94 students over projected enrolment, which is based upon option sheets submitted during the previous spring.

Superintendent Cole reported ***“We are particularly pleased by the overall increase in enrolment and encouraged at the success of all our secondary programs including our “student success” initiatives.”***

6. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO GET NEW PROGRAMS THANKS TO NEW ADSB INITIATIVES

Superintendent of Education Bob Cole outlined for Algoma District School Board (ADSB) trustees a number of programs that will be implemented and/or able to continue at the Secondary level thanks to additional funding that was announced through the summer by the Ministry of Education.

LIGHTHOUSE PROJECTS

ADSB has received \$196,050 in new funding for Lighthouse projects and the Board will match the Ministry funds. Lighthouse projects are designed to support student success through innovative programs and ADSB will undertake two such projects this year:

1. *Walking in Harmony: Transitions for First Nations Students*

This initiative will provide support for First Nations students by placing an additional Educational Assistant (EA) and a First Nation mentor worker at both White Pines Collegiate and East View Public School in Sault Ste. Marie (SSM). Also, a transitional grade 7 and 8 technical education class will be implemented at White Pines Collegiate. Ministry funding will provide \$124,750 for this "Walking In Harmony" project.

2. *Saving Our Students (SOS)*

This initiative will be implemented at Alexander Henry High School in SSM. It will focus on providing an environment that is conducive to assisting targeted students with barriers to education. Ministry will provide \$71,300 of the funding which will support an additional teacher, an EA, and support resources.

Past Lighthouse projects that the ADSB will continue to sustain include the Late Schools, Motive Power, and the House Construction Project.

SCHOOL, COLLEGE, WORK INITIATIVE (SCWI)

The Algoma Regional Planning Team, which is a collaboration between ADSB, Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board (HSCDSB) and Sault College has been approved for funding of \$343,872.00.

Funding will be used to continue:

- Pathways Development
- Grade 9 Visits
- Grade 10 Shadow-a-Student
- Career Exploration – Dual Credit Pilot

It will also be used to fund a new initiative, the School College Connection. This is a new opportunity to re-engage students in learning that have left school prior to graduating. It will allow them to complete their high school diploma in a college setting and begin their college education and a pathway to success.

7. ADSB STAFF AND ADMINISTRATORS REMAINED ACTIVE OVER THE SUMMER

Superintendents of Education provided an overview to the Board of all the staff development that took place over the summer. Superintendents Kime Collver, Bob Cole and Lucia Reece noted that it was an impressive body of work that staff took on over the summer from acquiring Additional Qualifications to taking part in Professional Development (PD) or taking courses of personal interest, the content of which will be generously shared in our classrooms this year and in years to come.

It was also noted that in addition to staff PD, many other dedicated employees also worked tirelessly throughout the summer to ensure that ADSB schools, yards and administration buildings were safe, clean and ready for the start of school. A special thank you was extended to ADSB Care Staff, Plant, Transportation and IT Departments.

In addition to other activities yet to be confirmed, Algoma District School Board staff took part in the following:

Elementary Schools

- Four dozen (48) of our elementary school teachers took part in professional development of some sort over the summer representing over 20 of our elementary schools
- Many teachers doing more than one course or workshop over the summer
- Nearly 30 (26) Principals and Vice Principals took part in various PD over the summer not including the ADSB Summer Planning Session for Principals, Vice Principals and Senior Administration.
- For one workshop alone in Sudbury on Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) we had in attendance:
 - 13 principals; 11 teachers; 4 Special Education Coordinators; 2 Vice Principals; and one Superintendent
- Teachers attended training sessions or workshops locally in SSM and in Toronto, North Bay, Barrie, Sudbury and Orillia.
- Courses ranged from assessment to ABEL learning, upgrading in Math, Literacy and Numeracy, Writing, FSL, Phys Ed and First Aid, and Special Ed.

Secondary Schools

- Thirty-eight secondary teachers took part in professional development and/or upgrading over the summer
- Principals and Vice Principals from just about all ADSB secondary schools took part in the ADSB Summer Planning Session
- Sessions and workshops took place locally as well as in Elliot Lake, Kingston, Toronto and Thunder Bay.
- Courses taken ranged from Specialists in Art, Guidance, Physical Education, Science, English, Tech, History, Music, French and e-learning.