



Algoma District School Board

Director's Bulletin – 2007 10 10

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

At the Regular Board Meeting held on **October 9, 2007**, the Algoma District School Board (ADSB) trustees were presented with, and discussed a number of items, including the following:

1. TEACHERS LEARNING TOGETHER

The Teachers Learning Together (TLT) initiative is being offered by the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and is funded by the Government of Ontario. It is providing 50 teams of teachers throughout the province with an opportunity to work together and with facilitators from reputable Ontario faculties of education to explore an identified school-based issue, to research it, collect data, and to implement innovative practices into the classrooms of the school.

Two Algoma District School Board (ADSB) schools have been chosen to take part and each had representatives at the Board meeting to present information to Trustees. Both East View Public School and St. Joseph Island Public School have been partnered with OISE/University of Toronto and in particular two educators (Dr. Larry Schwartz and Shelley Peterson) who each have strong backgrounds in literacy. These instructors will help staff at East View's Junior Division research the question, *"What measurable impact will gender appropriate resources and active learning have on native boys' reading skills?"*

St. Joseph's Island will focus on positive communication between school and home, more specifically trying to build on the relationships that have already been established with the school's parent-community.

2. ABORIGINAL INITIATIVES

Superintendent of Education Kime Collver spoke to the Board about the upcoming Aboriginal Workshop taking place this Friday October 12 at the Garden River Recreation Centre.

The focus is on educating our system leaders on our Aboriginal students, their learning strengths and needs. The ADSB, along with Aboriginal partners, is committed to finding ways to best meet the needs of our Aboriginal students. Special Guests at the workshop on Friday

2. ABORIGINAL INITIATIVES – cont'd

include: Chief Lyle Sayers of Garden River First Nation, Etienne Brule student drummers who will begin the day with a prayer and smudge ceremony, Bryon Brisard of the Aboriginal Education office of the Ministry of Education, Shirley Roach Garden River First Nation Elder and Key Note Speaker, Dr. Pam Toulouse from Laurentian University. Also presenting during afternoon break out sessions will be John Hodson of Brock University, Marnie Yourchuk of North Shore Tribal Council, Catherine Longboat who for two years was the Traditional Mentor Worker at W.C. Eaket Secondary in Blind River, and from the Métis Nation of Ontario Brent McHale, Brenda Powley, Susan Labatte and Anne Trudel.

Our Aboriginal partners will have various display tables with information and a small number of publishers will have books and resources available for review and purchase.

3. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES INITIATIVE

For the 2007/2008 school year, twenty-five schools in the Sault and area, fifteen of which are ADSB schools, were selected to participate in the Northern Ontario Fruit and Vegetables Program. Superintendent Lucia Reece updated the board on the progress of the initiative which includes teaching children to develop healthy eating habits and which will provide the participating schools with nutritious snacks. Over 5,000 children within the Algoma region will be provided with two or three servings of fruit and vegetables each week at their school. The program will be in effect from October 2007 to May 2008.

The program is run in cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Grower's Association, the Porcupine Health Unit and the District of Algoma Public Health Unit.

The Algoma District was chosen to pilot the initial program which started in the Northern Porcupine Region. The program is based on statistics showing the lack of variety in children diets and the percentage of overweight two to six year olds in this region as well as the fact that 62% of children aged 12-19 do not eat five or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily.

4. SCHOOL COUNCIL COORDINATING COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

On Saturday October 27, School Council Coordinating Committee (SCCC) will hold its annual fall workshop at Sir James Dunn Collegiate from 9am to 2:45pm. All School Council members (new, returning and chairs) as well as interested parents are invited to attend. Workshops will be conducted that will focus on getting parents involved, proposal writing and a current hot topic, cyber bullying. Roles and responsibilities of school councils will also be reviewed at the annual workshop.

5. TEACHERS RECOGNIZED

Superintendent of Education Lucia Reece acknowledged three ADSB teachers who have recently been recognized by three separate organizations for individual accomplishments.

1. John Goulay, a long time JK/SK teacher at St. Joseph Island Central School has recently been awarded the 2007 Excellence in Teaching Award through the Heritage Education Foundation. John was nominated by a parent and is one of only 5 people awarded this honour. He is the only recipient in Ontario.
2. Richard Tomas, a grade 5/6 teacher at Ben R. McMullin P.S. was named Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year for Sault Ste. Marie. Sean Cook, a grade 6 student at the school, nominated Mr. Tomas, writing in his nomination letter *"I think my teacher should be Teacher of the Year because he believes in me, maybe even more than I do."*
3. Nancy Rancourt received the W.R. McGillivray Award from the Canadian Parents for French. Nancy is currently a Special Assignment Teacher-French with the ADSB. The McGillivray Award is presented yearly to an individual currently in a position of responsibility who has shown special leadership initiative and commitment in promoting the development of French as a second language (FSL) learning.

6. TRANSPORTATION CONSORTIA

Following an update from Superintendent of Business Bob Backstrom, the Board approved the Algoma Huron-Superior Transportation Services (AHSTS) consortia agreements between the full partners and between the consortium and the purchases services Boards.

The agreements have been prepared by and will be signed by both ADSB and Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board who make up AHSTS and by the Boards purchasing transportation services, which include CSD du Grand Nord de l'Ontario and CSD catholique du Nouvel Ontario. The agreements will next be forwarded to the Ministry of Education for their review.

All co-terminus boards are required by the Ministry of Education to submit joint plans/templates outlining the steps they will take to move towards the delivery of transportation through consortia. The objective of the transportation consortia is to build capacity to deliver safe, effective and efficient student transportation services, to achieve equity in funding allocations and to reduce the administrative burden of delivering transportation.