



Algoma District School Board

Director's Bulletin – 2007 11 07

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

At the Regular Board Meeting held on **November 6, 2007**, the Algoma District School Board (ADSB) trustees were presented with, and discussed a number of items, including the following:

1. APPOINTMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Asima Vezina to the position of Superintendent of Education for Operations and Planning, effective Monday, November 19, 2007.

As part of the senior administrative team, Asima Vezina will provide leadership in all aspects of operations, planning, organization, policies and procedures for the elementary and secondary panel, and will be reporting to the Director of Education. She is leaving her position as Superintendent of Schools with the District School Board Ontario North East, where she has held the position for the last five years, with responsibilities for elementary and secondary schools in Program, Special Education and Operations, including responsibilities for a family of elementary and secondary schools.

New funding recently provided by the Ministry of Education and directed at the Senior Administration level made it possible for ADSB to restructure the senior administration team to provide support toward student achievement. Asima will join Superintendents of Education Lucia Reece, Bob Cole, Kime Collver and Superintendent of Business Bob Backstrom as the ADSB's Administrative Council. With the addition of Superintendent Vezina, Superintendents Reece and Cole's duties will be reorganized to allow them time to work more directly with schools on student achievement.

Asima is a graduate of the former Central Algoma Board, having attended the former Bruce Mines Public School, now Arthur Henderson P.S., and then Johnston Tarbutt P.S., before attending Central Algoma Secondary School (CASS). She holds a Master's Degree, a Bachelor of Arts Degree and Bachelor of Education Degree, as well as specialist qualifications in Special Education and Guidance. In addition to Superintendent of Schools, Asima has been a secondary teacher, vice-principal and principal.

Recently, Asima has been instrumental in leading many initiatives, including the creation of a new high school in Kirkland Lake, the introduction of Student Achievement and Special Education Programs, and assisted in the development of her Board's mission, vision and values statements.

1. APPOINTMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION – Cont'd.

Asima has received awards for leadership and community involvement. She possesses strong communication skills and has conducted numerous workshops and presentations, both within and outside her previous Board.

Asima is described by her colleagues as energetic, positive and enthusiastic. She is someone who inspires by example and is respected by peers, board members, staff, parents and students. Asima is committed to undertaking projects that promote the best opportunities and success for all students.

Of her new appointment Asima said: ***"I am very pleased to be joining and working with the Administrative Team, Trustees, staff, students and parents of the Algoma District School Board. I am very excited about joining with everyone to improve student learning and ensuring success for everyone in our system."***

Director, Mario Turco is pleased with the hiring of Asima. ***"All ADSB Superintendents are student-oriented, responsible professionals whose superior leadership, interpersonal and communication skills motivate staff toward the realization of our Board's Mission, Vision and Values. I am aware of Asima's contribution in her previous Board and I know the level of commitment she brings to this position."***

2. APPOINTMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TRUSTEE

The Board appointed Harry Jones from Batchewana First Nation as the Native Trustee for the ADSB, after accepting the resignation of Mona Jones in September. Our Board appoints a native member to represent the interests of native students. The regulation permits the councils of the bands to name the member to represent them on the Board. First Nation communities in the Algoma District School Board have established the Anishinabek Unified Education Council to address common educational issues. They and the North Shore Tribal Council nominated Harry Jones to be their representative.

3. SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS FRAMEWORK

Superintendent of Education Lucia Reece provided the trustees with an overview of the new School Effectiveness Framework. The framework is a collaborative process that will help school boards build capacity with educators to ensure they have the necessary knowledge and skills to improve instructional practices and focus on improving student achievement. The framework is a compilation of current research and best practices from across Ontario schools.

4. APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

At this week's regular Board meeting, the Board appointed members to the local Accommodation Review Committees (ARC) as outlined in Section 5.1.4. of the Pupil/School Accommodation Review Policy.

Each ARC is required to include a school council chair or member, a community member, a municipal or council member, the principal and a staff member of the school, a senior board

4. APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE – Cont'd.

official and in the case of secondary schools, a senior secondary school student may be appointed. The committee members are as follows for the schools 'Under Review' for the possibility of closure and consolidation into two new schools:

- ▶ Bawating C & VS: Dan Reid, Ross Cutmore, Pat Mick, Michael McCabe, Seth Cond, Kaylee Reid, Kime Collver
- ▶ Sir James Dunn C & VS: Bob Taylor, Don Edwards, Don McConnell, Joe Maurice, Jared Klooster, Stephanie Kovala, Bob Cole
- ▶ Francis H. Clergue P.S.: Andrea Reibmayr, Melanie Mahler, Marty Wyant, Shelley Gold, Katherine Dowding, Sergio Iacoe
- ▶ Rosedale P.S.: Jennifer Zufelt, Jerry Dolcetti, Inspector Art Pluss, AnneLise Iacoe, Michelle Clement, Brenda O'Neill

Chair Wanda MQueen stated, *"We want to thank the well qualified members of the school community and the community-at-large for joining the local ARC's. This is an exciting time for our Board and community as we begin the implementation of our capital plan. It is an opportunity to right-size, consolidate, renovate and build new schools for the students in our system."*

Director of Education, Mario Turco, added, *"The Board is committed to developing a common understanding with school communities to unify our sense of mission, vision and values, and our strong spirit of teamwork. Our system is keenly focused on providing positive learning opportunities of the highest standard for all learners to realize their full potential. We believe that all students can learn and we are on course to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to experience success."*

The local ARC will be responsible for conducting a consultation process that will include input from a range of school and community members. A minimum of four public meetings are to be held as part of this process. The consultation meetings encourage the full involvement of an informed, local community and it is based on a broad range of criteria regarding the quality of the learning experience and environment for students. The Board has provided a Generic School Valuation Framework as part of the school valuation process. This framework asks school communities to evaluate their schools giving consideration to value to the student, school board, community and the local economy.

Based on the community consultation process the local ARC's will be presenting their findings in a report to the Algoma District School Board's Senior Administration. The Director of Education will present the ARC report to the Board, along with staff findings and recommendations to the trustees, prior to the decision of the Board.

We welcome comments and questions from members of the community about the Pupil/School Accommodation Review process. We encourage you to contact the Principal of the school or the Board office. We invite everyone to become involved as we work together to build a successful future for the students of Algoma District School Board.

The complete Board report and additional support documents are available at your school or can be downloaded from our website www.adsb.on.ca.

5. OUT OF COUNTRY TRAVEL

A number of school trip requests were reviewed and approved by the Board and one previously approved request was reviewed and rescinded.

- Approval was given for Elliot Lake Secondary School students to travel to China in March 2009. Students would see and experience the Great Wall of China, the Terra Cotta Warriors and Tiananmen Square as part of their studies from the Travel and Tourism Class which is a Senior Social Science credit.
- The Board approved the Out of Province travel for students from the Sir James Dunn Core French or French Immersion program to travel to Montreal and Quebec City in April 2008 to develop greater awareness and appreciation for the French culture in Canada and to celebrate Quebec City's 400th Anniversary.
- Approval was also given for the Sir James Dunn Hockey team to travel to Montreal at the end of this month (Nov. 29 to Dec. 2, 2007) to participate in the Canadian Cup Hockey Tournament.
- Approval was given in February 2007 for students from WC Eaket Secondary in Blind River to travel to Europe (Italy and Greece) in March 2008. At Tuesday night's board meeting, the Board rescinded its approval for Out of Country travel to Europe as some Board procedures relating to travel had not been followed as required.