



# Algoma District School Board

## Director's Bulletin – 2008 01 16

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

At the Algoma District School Board's first regular board meeting of the new year held on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, information and updates were presented on a number of initiatives and programs.

### 1. LOCAL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Board approved the final meeting dates for the local Accommodation Review Committees (ARC) at each of the following "Under Review Status" schools:

F.H. Clergue P.S.	April 2, 2008
Rosedale P.S.	April 1, 2008
Bawating C & V.S.	March 31, 2008
Sir James Dunn C & V.S.	April 3, 2008

As "Under Review Status" these schools are being reviewed for closure to be consolidated into two new facilities (one new elementary French Immersion and one new secondary school). Each of the schools is being reviewed by Local Accommodation Review Committees (ARCs). Each of the ARC's have had two public meetings to date.

The first public meeting reviewed the capital planning process to date, Ministry prohibitive to repair funding and the Board's Accommodation Review Policy. The second meeting saw committee members and public attendees begin the Valuation Framework for their identified school. The final meeting, as specified by Ministry guidelines and Board policy, must be a minimum of ninety days following the first public meeting. School holidays, Christmas and spring break must not be considered as part of the 90 day minimum period. At this meeting the ARC is to share with the public the report that will be forwarded to the Board.

### 2. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Finance Audit Committee Chair Susan Thayer and Superintendent of Business Bob Backstrom, updated the Board on the audit that was completed by our auditors, KMPG LLP, Chartered Accountants. The Board's Finance Audit Committee members and financial staff were on hand to outline highlights and to respond to trustees' questions. Committee members consist of trustee members Susan Thayer, Graham Lidstone, Larry Pallot and Jennifer Sarlo. Ex-officio members are Board Chair Wanda McQueen and Director of Education Mario Turco. Board staff, who are

## 2. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

present as a resource to the committee, are Superintendent of Business Bob Backstrom and Manager of Finance Joe Santa-Marie.

Following a question and answer session, the Board received the audited financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2007. The Financial Statements will be made available on our website at [www.adsb.on.ca](http://www.adsb.on.ca).

## 3. WIDE AREA NETWORK

Superintendent of Business Bob Backstrom provided the Board with an update on the Wide Area Network Agreement and recommended that the Board accept the Customer Agreement submitted by Ontera-PUC Telecom for the Wide Area Network. The Board accepted the Ontera-PUC Telecom proposal based on a five year contract effective August 1, 2008.

To provide background, a joint Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued in November 2006 with Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board (HSCDSB) for the Wide Area Network (WAN) and Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP). Proposals were received and vendor solutions were expected to address both Boards' current and future network needs.

A number of joint steering committee meetings with HSCDSB were held to evaluate proposals. Committee members consisted of staff from both boards as well as a Sault College resource person. The College had recently gone through a similar process and their experience proved very beneficial.

The Boards short listed and evaluated three proposals from Bell Canada, Wesbell and Ontera-PUC Telecom. A number of criteria were used including network media (fibre or copper), current technology, scalability, references and most importantly bandwidth and price. In June 2007, HSCDSB opted to move forward with the Ontera-PUC Telecom. VOIP solutions were deferred by both Boards for later consideration pending WAN finalization.

## 4. SAFE SCHOOLS BILL 212

Superintendent of Education Asima Vezina presented draft copies of:

- The Board's Code of Conduct for Safe Schools
- Bullying Prevention and Interactive Policy
- Progressive Discipline including Suspension and Expulsion

These policies will be brought back for approval at the Board's next regular meeting. Next week, Trustees will be attending a workshop provided by Ontario's Public School Boards Association (OPSBA) and will use the information provided there to assist with finalization of these policies.

## 5. TRAVEL REQUESTS, OUT OF COUNTRY, OUT OF PROVINCE

Staff and students from seven of our schools (both elementary and secondary) were requesting approval to travel.

- **Alexander Henry High School** teacher K. Wyslocky requested to attend two Train the Trainer Sessions, in Colorado over the next 10 months (one session in January and one in October 2008). The sessions are part of the Teacher Learning and Leadership Committee which provides professional development opportunities for experienced teachers.
- **White Pines and Central Algoma Secondary** schools requested board approval to travel to Montreal and Quebec City in April of this year. Students travelling are enrolled in the senior French curriculum along with their teachers. The students would learn about Quebec culture by taking part in a 17<sup>th</sup> century meal, an evening at Cabane a Sucre, visiting the Plains of Abraham, Chateau Frontenac and touring old Quebec, a UNESCO world heritage site.
- **Korah Collegiate** students from the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme and two staff members requested approval be given for travel to Spain with a one day extension to Morocco. The trip is unique with curriculum links in areas of the internationalism aspect of visiting two different continents and experiencing their respective cultures.
- **Mountain View Public School** grade 8 students and Vice Principal are requesting approval to travel to Sandusky, Ohio to visit Cedar Point and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. They would travel with the appropriate number of parent chaperones.
- **Northern Heights and Kiwedin Public School** grade 8 students requested travel to Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec City, Quebec to visit historical, scientific, artistic and geographical sites and to gain a greater awareness and appreciation for the French culture in Canada.