



# Algoma District School Board

## Director's Bulletin – 2008 01 31

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

Trustees at the Algoma District School Board's Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, heard about a number of upcoming events and initiatives being undertaken by ADSB schools, staff and students.

#### **1. MISS SAIGON**

Trustees and senior administrators were treated to a sneak preview of the musical Miss Saigon, presented by students from White Pines On Stage. White Pines On Stage is the name of White Pines' Music Theatre Credit Course, part of ADSB's Arts and Culture Special High Skills Major.

Miss Saigon was cast in June and students have been rehearsing since September 2007. The cast is made up of all grade levels from White Pines. Director Sue Barber pointed out that this is the first time that Miss Saigon has been presented anywhere (professionally or as a student production) outside of Toronto and Vancouver. As in previous ADSB productions, the production includes live musicians, among them ADSB Superintendent of Education Bob Cole and White Pines Vice Principal Roni Dal Cin.

Miss Saigon runs February 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> inclusive at the Kiwanis Community Theatre, show time 7pm. It is an intense story about a soldier and a Vietnamese woman and covers a number of mature story lines and issues (recommended audience, secondary school students and older). Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$14 for students, seniors and groups of ten and are available at Station Mall.

#### **2. DIRECTOR'S 2007 ANNUAL REPORT AND 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEARBOOK**

Director of Education Mario Turco presented copies of the Director's 2007 Annual Report, a review of the year's highlights and program initiatives. As this year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as an amalgamated board, Director Turco also presented a second publication – a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Yearbook that provides a review of the 10 years ADDBS has been an amalgamated board. The anniversary booklet also looked back at the history the six school boards that came together during amalgamation in 1998. The intent is that the Anniversary Yearbook will act as an important archive of the history of our six predecessor boards: Hornepayne, Chapleau, Wawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Central Algoma and North Shore. It will be provided to all public libraries in our district, as well as to all ADSB elementary and secondary schools.

## 2. DIRECTOR'S 2007 ANNUAL REPORT AND 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEARBOOK - Continued

Director Turco acknowledged the Anniversary Yearbook in particular, was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge our past, celebrate our present and build for the future.

***“The Algoma District School Board and its predecessor boards have roots in heritage, successes and accomplishments. We proudly build on the accomplishments of the past staff, students, parents and community partners who have led the way for those of us still in the system. And looking into the future, we are focused on developing a capital plan that will see new building projects and a rejuvenation of existing facilities. It’s a very exciting time for all of us.”***

The Director's 2007 Annual Report will soon be on the website ([www.adsb.on.ca](http://www.adsb.on.ca)) and copies will be made available through all of our schools.

## 3. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The 2006/2007 Joint Health and Safety Annual Report was received by the Board. The report provides a written summary of the Joint Health and Safety Committee's activities during the 06/07 school year. During the past year, the Joint Health and Safety Committee addressed numerous issues including Health and Safety Education and First Aid training, Indoor Air Quality, Clean Up Protocol of Chemical Spills, Shop Equipment Guarding and Maintenance, to name just a few. The Committee is also responsible for workplace inspections, collection of accident reports, and risk assessment. The Committee will continue to promote a healthy and safer working environment for all Board workers. To meet this objective, the Committee proposed a number of recommendations. Among them are recommendations to continue their program of communication and education sessions to heighten the general safety awareness of all workers and their responsibilities under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and to secure time during professional development days as required for health and safety education for all employee groups.

## 4. BOARD CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SAFE SCHOOLS POLICY

In June 2007, the provincial government passed Bill 212, the *Education Amendment Act (Progressive Discipline and School Safety)*. Its provisions take effect on February 1, 2008. Through an extensive consultative process with stakeholders and legal counsel, the administration team has reviewed and revised the current Board Code of Conduct to ensure consistency with the Provincial Code of Conduct. Thanks to the ongoing work of all involved, ADSB is well-positioned for the implementation of this bill, which amends, but does not completely repeal the “safe school” provisions of the *Education Act*.

#### 4. BOARD CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SAFE SCHOOLS POLICY - Continued

Superintendent of Education Asima Vezina reviewed a number of the policies and amendments. One of the key differences after implementation of these policies is that the Board is now expected to offer academic programming to student(s) who are on long term suspensions and/or expulsions to allow a continuation in their learning. Superintendent Vezina pointed out that the Algoma District School Board has supported continued academic programming for students on suspension or expulsion as part of their regular practice, but now it is being done in a more formal, legislated way. She added that a key partner continues to be the parents/guardians and students, as participation is still voluntary.

This material will be available online at: [www.adsb.on.ca/about us/ general information](http://www.adsb.on.ca/about-us/general-information).

#### 5. PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE POLICY, INCLUDING SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

Part of the ADSB Policy Statement reads:

To achieve a positive school climate for all students, the Algoma District School Board utilizes progressive discipline which includes a range of interventions, support and consequences for inappropriate behaviour including suspension and expulsion when necessary as outlined in the Board Code of Conduct Policy.

Progressive discipline is defined as a whole-school approach to address inappropriate student behaviour and to build upon strategies that promote positive behaviours. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, disciplinary measures will be applied within a framework that shifts the focus from one that is solely punitive to one that is both corrective and supportive.

The policy goes on to outline in detail: steps for dealing with inappropriate behaviour; circumstances in which a pupil may be suspended; exceptions or mitigating factors; the move from suspension to possible expulsion; circumstances in which a pupil shall be suspended pending an investigation leading to a possible expulsion; and considerations when deciding whether to recommend expulsion.

#### 6. BULLYING INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION POLICY

Ministry of Education Memorandum defines bullying as such *“Bullying is typically a form of repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person’s body, feelings, self-esteem, or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.”*

Part of the ADSB Policy Statement reads:

The schools of the Algoma District School Board are committed to establishing a positive school climate characterized by positive personal relationships founded in mutual acceptance and inclusion, and modeled by all. Given this, bullying will not be accepted on school property at school-related activities, on school buses, or in any other circumstances (ie: any electronic means) where engaging in bullying will have a negative impact on the school climate.

## 7. ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

This policy has simply been relocated, to stand as a separate policy. The policy was originally part of the Board Code of Conduct. It still reads as follows:

The Algoma District School Board prohibits the use of personal electronic devices such as pagers, cell phones, P.D.A.'s and digital cameras in restricted areas at any time and in other areas of the Board's Schools during instructional time. Restricted areas include instructional areas and any location requiring privacy such as washrooms, change rooms, dressing rooms, etc.

The Cell Phone and Electronic Devices Protocol sets out the standards and the processes for implementation.

Superintendent Vezina also confirmed that when the board begins to implement this new legislation, we will be building on current best practices (of which there are many) and the strong commitment to student success that has always existed within our board.