

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A Monthly Report to the Eastern School Board

June 2006

APPLAUSE FOR PHYS ED TEACHER

Our school district congratulates Physical Education Teacher, Kellie Baker, Macpherson Elementary, St. John's, who is the 2006 recipient of the Newfoundland and Labrador Physical Education Teaching Excellence Award and who has also been named one of three teachers from across Canada to receive the CAHPERD NATIONAL Physical Education Teaching Excellence Award.

NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Mr. Allister Dyke is the new Assistant Director of Education (Human Resources). Allister is the former principal of Prince of Wales Collegiate in St. John's.

Allister has over 20 years experience in education, with half of his career spent teaching in rural Newfoundland. Allister holds a Master of Education degree with a concentration in leadership and technology. He is also a part-time faculty member of the Faculty of Education at MUN where he teaches Education 6426 – Computer Applications and Leadership.

STAFFING

The Human Resources Division has been very busy working with administrators in identifying vacant and replacement positions. Hiring has been ongoing with two competition rounds progressing well.

The pool interview round has seen 2,245 applicants for 22 job pools. These job pools have been short-listed and interviews are ongoing. The Physical Education pool is now completed. Much of the work on the pool interviews has been accomplished through the assistance of our program specialists.

The transfer round has seen 83 permanent job competitions short-listed, interviewed and awarded. To date there remains 143 permanent positions to be filled. These positions have been re-advertised along with 142 replacement positions.

The senior management team has been busy interviewing for the 40 permanent and replacement administrative positions needing to be filled for next September.

LEADERSHIP AT WORK

The last *Leadership at Work* session for this school year concluded on June 2nd. Topics covered include financial management, mediation strategies, problem solving, best practices and policy management. Many thanks are extended to all participants, as well as those teachers who served on the district coordinating committee.

CEREMONY OF INDUCTION

On May 24th, I attended the ceremony of induction for new teachers hosted annually by the NLTA and Memorial University.

ONLINE APPLICATION SYSTEM

We now have a fully-functioning on-line job application system for teaching positions. We are utilizing the system and constantly improving its functionality. This system is an integral part of our operations and is resulting in better service for new teachers, more capacity on our part, and an overall improved and streamlined application process.

GRIEVANCES

We have been working to resolve outstanding grievances as they are presented. This month we have been successful in resolving a number of long-standing cases and we continue to work with all parties to resolve new issues as they come forward.

MULTI-YEAR PLANNING

Our public consultations continued during the month of May with public meetings held in Carbonear, Bay Roberts and St. John's. Your chair and I also accepted invitations to meet with the school councils of Harbour Grace Primary and St. Francis Junior High. I also made school visits to Baccalieu Collegiate, Cabot Academy, and Roncalli Elementary.

In preparation for the school closures slated for June 2006 on the Burin Peninsula, transition teams are in place and they have been working with administrators, teachers, and community members to help facilitate the smooth transition of students to their new school in Terrenceville.

PROGRAMS DIVISION UPDATE

During May, a major focus of the Programs Division has been on student achievement, teaching and learning, school growth and

development, professional development, policy development and program planning for 2006-07.

A number of policies were reviewed and three will be presented to the Board for approval and implementation: Smoke Free Environment, Kindergarten Registration and Volunteers.

MEETING WITH TREASURY BOARD

In the recent provincial budget, government announced additional administrative funding to address staffing needs at school district offices. On Friday, June 2nd, our senior administration team met with a representative of Treasury Board to discuss our needs and I am hopeful that some relief will be forthcoming in the very near future.

PUBLIC TENDERS

Tender packages for regular transportation are nearly complete. This includes route information as well as required tender documents to be advertised. The District is waiting for final approval from the Department of Education before proceeding with the tender process. Special transportation is also being reviewed for the 2006-07 school year and we will be meeting with the DOE to decide which contracts will be renewed or tendered.

VACANT BUILDINGS

We continue our efforts to dispose of vacant buildings. These buildings are uninsured and constitute a significant liability for the Board and Government. Progress is being made and a number of buildings have been disposed of while some have been demolished. Government has been funding this process and any associated environmental remediation costs.

PASTORS AND PRINCIPALS MEETING

On May 10th I was invited to a luncheon hosted jointly by the pastors and principals of the churches and schools in the Mt. Pearl area. It was a great opportunity to network with our community members and to outline the vision and challenges of the Eastern School District.



SCHOOL VISITS

On Thursday, June 1, I had the pleasure of having a pizza lunch at Bishop Abraham Elementary with students and volunteer mentors of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Mentoring Program. Judge Brown of the Courts in the Classroom program also joined the group.



During the past month, I had the pleasure of participating in high school graduation ceremonies at St. Lawrence Academy, Holy Name of Mary Academy, Holy Spirit High School, and St. Joseph's Academy. I also took part in the DARE graduation at Goulds Elementary and participated as a celebrity reader at Hazelwood Elementary during their literacy day event.

On Friday, June 2, I attended the grand opening of a new "outdoor" classroom at Bishop Feild Elementary. The outdoor classroom, which is an impressive addition to the school, was installed last fall with the help of various corporate sponsors and the school council grounds committee.

DISTRICT AND REGIONAL EVENTS

Congratulations to the many teachers and students who participated in the various school, regional and district events over the past month, including:

- ❖ Provincial Enterprise Showcase
- ❖ Provincial Senior High Mathematics Competition
- ❖ ARTS Work! Conference
- ❖ Vista Region Special Olympics
- ❖ Senior High Public Speaking
- ❖ District Band Spring Concert
- ❖ Choral Connections
- ❖ DARE Graduations

Thanks to all the volunteers who help make these events such a tremendous success!