

Director's Report - January 26, 2016

1. Building Leadership Capacity with our ETFO Partner

On January 15th, a training session was held with 18 lead teachers from our elementary schools. Lead teachers fill in for our principals on days when the principal is required to be away from their schools. The session was coordinated and led by Principal Craig Myers, Lead Teacher Marcia Knockleby and the Local ETFO President, Allison Ryan. The group received information on several key pieces of legislation and worked through case studies to develop a comfort level with many different scenarios. The annual training is facilitated jointly by the Board and ETFO. Vice-Chair Wendy Hewitt was able to attend the morning portion of the day and thanked our lead teachers for their willingness to serve their school communities in this important leadership role.

2. Leadership Training

As part of the RCDSB Leadership Program, training is provided to newly appointed and experienced leaders on a range of topics. On January 19th, 38 new and experienced leaders received training on how to effectively deal with workplace conflict. Participants identified their preferred conflict resolution style and learned which styles are appropriate in various contexts. The principals, vice-principals and managers also had an opportunity to practice various communication strategies that are used to help uncover non-competing interests in conflict situations. The session was led by John Curtis, a lawyer and mediator, who has extensive experience in dealing with workplace conflict. This training was well received and is an example of the Board's commitment to the professional learning of our leaders.

3. Tech X

On Tuesday, February 23rd, our Information Communication and Technology team will be hosting our first ever Tech X at Opeongo High School from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This technology exposition was created by our ICT Coaches to provide selected students with the opportunity to explore new resources and technology that will soon be available in their schools. Approximately 80 students from 7 schools will learn about robotics and coding as they collaborate in teams solving complex problems.

4. ICT Review

Through its current Information Communication Technology Plan ("ICT Plan 2013-2016"), the RCDSB has made substantial changes to its support services and infrastructure as well as adding coaching support for teachers in effective technology enabled teaching practices to support student learning. The RCDSB is currently reviewing the structure and services of the IT Department and how they support the delivery of the curriculum and effective pedagogy as well as the use of technology within both the classroom and administrative environments. On October 15, 2015 a contract was awarded to IBM Canada K-12 Education to assist the IT department staff in an extensive review of Educational Assessment, IT Infrastructure Assessment, and IT Organizational Review. The objective of the external review is to use the information provided in the creation of the RCDSB's next ICT Plan and future Strategic Planning.