

## Director's Report – August 31, 2016

### 1. School Renewal Projects

Over the summer, a lot of individuals have been working hard renovating and improving our school facilities across the district. Beginning in the northern reaches of our district, we completed structural repairs on Mackenzie Community School's basement near the cafeteria. In Petawawa, the long planned demolition of General Lake and Pinecrest Public Schools has started. Roofing projects took place at the following schools: Pine View, Champlain Discovery, Renfrew Collegiate Institute, AJ Charbonneau, Arnprior District and Walter Zadow. Renovations and expansion took place at Central PS and Beachburg PS (which will welcome students and staff from Westmeath PS this fall). At Cobden PS, we continued our path to be barrier-free and more inclusive to all students by creating an accessible washroom as well as a multisensory room.

Other projects included new ceiling installations in Arnprior District HS's cafeteria and Opeongo HS's gymnasium, new flooring at Walter Zadow PS and a rebuild of the Fellowes HS front walkway, stair lift and water main. I am happy to report that accommodation of Sherwood PS into the Madawaska Valley District HS campus is nearly complete.

All of these projects were identified by the Ministry of Education as candidates worthy of promotion under the Ontario Government's "ON Build" school renewal campaign. This campaign requires signs to be posted at schools currently undergoing – or soon to undergo – more than \$100,000 in repairs and renewal work. As a result, you may see blue signs posted at these sites promoting this Ministry initiative.

### 2. Rockwood Public School Selected for Innovative Research Project

Rockwood PS has been selected to participate in an exciting research project funded by the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) and Ministry of Education. This particular project will focus on technology-enabled learning and innovative practices that increase student ability and development of 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning competencies and the Science and Innovation strategy.

Students and staff will investigate the impact of "Makerspace pedagogies" in the structures and mechanisms strand of the Science and Technology curriculum and on facilitating the discovery, design and development of digital and tangible products for teachers, students and the school community.

Rockwood will receive \$25,000 in funding to create a Makerspace learning environment in the school and 3-4 representatives from staff will be trained at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) in the Fall on the Makerspace pedagogies.

### 3. Coaching and Mentoring Project

The Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) and the Ontario Supervisory Officers Association (OPSOA) have teamed up with the Ontario Principals' Council (OPC) to bring executive coaching to its mentoring program. In early August, Director Clarke, Superintendents Barrett, Bishop, and McIntyre received training at the OPC's Institute for Education Leadership. Kate Sharpe and Jeanie Nishimura, educators and professional coaches, facilitated the training. Mentor-coaching provides leaders with a set of concrete and transferable skills that help them engage, mobilize and build capacity within their professional settings. Fellow educators Superintendent Jenkins, Principal Burwell and Christine Mackechnie received similar training in July to add to the complement of trained mentor-coaches in the RCDSB.

### 4. New Assistant Superintendent

Jodie Barrett assumes the role of Assistant Superintendent of Mathematics K-12 and Early Learning with responsibilities for the Madawaska and Deep River families of schools. Jodie has been a student, teacher and administrator within the RCDSB. She has 17 years of principal experience and was recently Supervising Principal for Special Services supporting special education. She has been the key contact for our leadership development program and has been a coach for many aspiring and practicing leaders within our district. Jodie is an enthusiastic and passionate educator supporting student achievement and well-being.