

**Board Meeting
Director's Update - Pino Buffone
27 March 2018**

Acknowledgement of Students, Staff & School Communities

As always, there are a number of exciting activities, events and initiatives taking place in our schools as we transition from the winter to spring season. These include the continuation of our system-wide focus on mathematics-related tasks in the spirit of Saint Patrick's Day at Walter Zadow Public School and the syrup making process from sap at Eganville and District Public School just before and just after the March Break. The students engaged in the exploration of mathematical concepts and operational skills through baking cookies, determining the sap-to-syrup ratio, as well as other authentic, engaging tasks connected to everyday life. The tasks were shared enthusiastically on Twitter and other social media.

Most recently, on Monday, March 26th, 2018, as part of the Indigenous Education Action Plan, Mackenzie Community School welcomed guest speaker Johnny Issaluk – an Inuit athlete, film director and stage actor – who is a member of the community and parent of two children at MCS. The session was extremely engaging for both students and staff, as Johnny spoke about his life journey and experiences as an individual of aboriginal ancestry.

Stakeholder Outreach – Winter & Spring 2018

As an essential aspect of the development and implementation of the *RCDSB 2017-2020 Strategic Plan*, members of senior staff are leading a series of consultations with key stakeholders – including students, staff, parents/guardians and members of the broader community – regarding the 'actions' outlined in the plan...in order to ensure that next steps moving forward at the system level continue to build upon strengths and address areas of need. Examples of the consultations include:

- Motto Committee – to establish a 'motto' for the District in the branding/marketing of our school communities;
- Visioning Exercise Committee – to review and enhance the programs and/or services offered by the District at the elementary and secondary levels, including consistency of program delivery and equity of access to programs and/or services, system-wide;
- Creativity & Innovation Committee – to conduct a system-wide inquiry that looks at the conditions (or set of conditions) that allow the organization to continue to be healthy and vibrant, curious and imaginative; and,
- School Design Standards Working Group – to establish a set of guidelines for the building of new school sites, as well as the renovation of existing school sites, moving forward.

In addition, under the leadership of Superintendent McIntyre, the District will be conducting an 'Employee Engagement Survey' at the Professional Activity Day on 27 April 2018 to elicit input

and feedback, thoughts and perspectives from our staff related to their well-being and the well-being of their students.

Director's Dispatch – Latest Edition!

Earlier this month, the most recent edition of the 'Director's Dispatch' was released on the [website](#) related to the topic of mental health. Entitled 'Mental Health Awareness', the position paper shares my own perspective, as Chief Education Officer for the District, with respect to the constant interplay between achievement and well-being, as well as the collective value-added of our individual and team efforts in making a difference for our students, staff and school communities. The document was recognized by representatives of School Mental Health-ASSIST, a provincial implementation support team designed to help Ontario school boards to promote student mental health and well-being, as a wonderful exemplar for school boards to follow in planning for mental health/well-being across the province.

Update to Principal and Vice-Principal Assignments

There are no additional changes to principal and vice-principal appointments and/or transfers at this point in the school year.