

Board Meeting

Director's Update - Pino Buffone

25 April 2017

1. **Acknowledgement of Students, Schools & School Communities:** Congratulations to the band at Arnprior District High School for xxx...and...robotics award....school??.
2. **Labour Symposium – 21 April 2017:** On Friday, April 21st, 2017, our district held a Labour Symposium for Principals, Managers and Human Resource Professionals with representation from across Eastern Ontario. The event was coordinated by Former Superintendent Dennis Jenkins, and, supported by the Regional Equity Network. A total of 65 participants from eight district school boards attended the session. The information provided by guest speakers, including Michael Hines - Partner at Hicks Morley LLP, is very useful in guiding their work and helping ensure districts have met their due diligence in the area of fundamental management rights, including advice related to the accommodation process in cases of employee disabilities, as well as strategies and best practices for conducting workplace investigations. This capacity building leaves the region's districts in a stronger position in terms of liabilities related to investigations, grievances and arbitrations.
3. **Canada 150 Celebrations:** As part of the Canada 150 Celebrations, the district will be participating in the county's celebratory event on Wednesday, June 28th, 2017. Canada 150th Committee Co-chairs, Kim Love (Mayor of Madawaska Valley) and Janice Visneskie-Moore (Mayor of Killaloe-Hagarty-Richards), have confirmed that all school boards within Renfrew County will be provided the opportunity to include a photo of the students and staff from each school across the district in the time capsule which will be created to mark the occasion, and will include small artefacts from each of the 17 municipalities. Further, our district will be xxxxxx. Our district will also be creating a link to the Canada 150 events website, where additional information is available at <https://canada150renfrewcounty.ca/>.
4. **Education Week – 01-05 May 2017:** The theme of this year's Education Week is Ontario150...an opportunity to recognize the contributions of students, staff, and parents/guardians in public education, and, look forward to another 150 years of excellence in education. The Ontario 150 celebrations also provide an opportunity to move forward in the journey of reconciliation together with Indigenous peoples...continuing to build a relationship based on trust, understanding and respect. With this in mind, the provincial government has created resources to celebrate and reflect throughout the school year, including a song called *A Place to Stand*. Sheet music and lyrics in both English and French have been shared with districts and schools so that they may create their own version of the song, and, share on Twitter or Facebook using #Ontario150.
5. **Board Strategic Plan Renewal 2017-2020:** Executive Council will be continuing the important work of strategic plan renewal with representatives from each of the xxx bargaining units, including teachers, early childhood educators and support staff, at a professional learning session on 02 May 2017. As was the case with principals, vice-principals and managers, this session will be a design thinking activity related to the 'actions' that will accompany the guiding principles and goal statements approved by the Board of Trustees, focusing on the 'operationalization' of the strategic plan in our classrooms, schools, school communities and office spaces. The input/feedback/perspectives of these key stakeholders will be integrated

with the input from principals, vice-principals and managers and brought to the Board of Trustees – in draft form – for review later this spring. In addition, Executive Council is consulting stakeholders with respect to the metrics (commitment to measurement) to accompany the actions for each guiding principle in order to measure progress over time.

6. **Provincial Assessments of Reading, Writing & Mathematics – 23 May-05 June 2017:** Later this spring, our elementary students (primary-division students in Grade 3 and junior-division students in Grade 6) will have the opportunity to participate in the Provincial Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Our elementary schools have thoughtfully prepared our students to take part in these assessments through quality teaching and learning opportunities and experiences throughout the course of the school year. These assessments will be conducted through paper-and-pencil medium, with targeted supports and/or interventions (assistive technology, a quiet work space, for instance) provided to students if/as permissible and/or required. Our district holds high expectations for our students and a belief that all students can develop the literacy and numeracy skills for success in school and life.