

Board Meeting

Director's Update - Pino Buffone

29 August 2017

1. **Acknowledgement of Students, Staff & School Communities:** I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a number of important acknowledgements as our Board Meetings resume from the summer break...
 - First and foremost, a warm welcome and congratulations to Student Trustee, Sean McCloskey, as you begin your leadership journey with our district today! Your contributions, along with that of fellow Student Trustee, Nic Edge, in representing student voice will continue to be so integral to our work as a district. On behalf of the entire senior team, we are looking forward to working collaboratively with you!
 - Congratulations and welcome to the newest member of our senior staff, Stephen Blok! Working in collaboration with Superintendents of Education Bishop and Poirier, Superintendent Blok will be responsible for a number of central portfolios (including Early Years, Environmental Education, Information and Communication Technologies, and International Education), as well as the Petawawa, Deep River & Madawaska family of schools. Once again, on behalf of the entire senior team, we are very much looking forward to working with you, Steve!
 - I would also like to congratulate Principal Veletia Richards, our new Principal of Achievement and Well-being. Principal Richards will be working under the supervision of Superintendent Bishop in the roll-out of initiatives related to both the achievement and well-being of students, staff and school communities as part of the renewed strategic plan for 2017-2020.
 - In addition, our sincerest congratulations to Chairperson, Wendy Hewitt, for the successful completion of the Office Administration-Executive Program (46 weeks) at Algonquin College-Pembroke Campus earlier this month! We are very proud of your accomplishment, Wendy, as it exemplifies the true spirit of commitment, perseverance and lifelong learning!
 - Last, but certainly not least, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our entire staff in facilities, school-based and central, for their time, effort and dedication over the summer months as they have worked so diligently and tirelessly in preparation for the opening of our schools on 05 September 2017. We are incredibly grateful for your invaluable contribution to our district – thank you!

Note: The acknowledgement above includes the successful re-opening of Whitney Public School as a 'Shared Space Project' with the Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board at the Saint Martin of Tours site.

2. **Roll-out of RCDSB Strategic Plan 2017-2020:** I am very excited and inspired by the collaborative work done with stakeholders this past school year – students, staff (academic and non-academic), federation partners, and members of the broader community in the county – with respect to the guiding principles of our strategic plan: excellence in teaching and learning; safe, caring, inclusive and respectful environments; wise use of resources; and, commitment to measurement. As we move into the fall, details regarding the actions to 'bring the plan to life' will be shared with our Board of Trustees and the public, including key aspects of the board work plan. I am very confident that our strategic plan will continue to move us forward as a district with respect to the achievement and well-being of students, staff and

school communities, and, I look forward to discussing the actions therein further with you as the school year unfolds.

3. **School Year 'Start-Up' – 05 September 2017:** As I begin my first full school year with the Renfrew County District School Board, I have taken the opportunity to provide a renewed 'Message from the Director', welcoming all students, staff and school communities to the new school year. Over the course of the week, I will also continue to provide updates to schools regarding key aspects of the start-up to the school year, through our principals and vice-principals, including:
- an update on the guiding principles and actions of the RCDSB Strategic Plan 2017-2020;
 - an overview of the roles and responsibilities of RCDSB's Executive Council, a listing of all principal and vice-principal appointments, and, an organizational chart of all central staff; and,
 - a series of friendly reminders related to standards and ethics of practice, school fees policy, as well as copyright compliance guidelines.

Closing comment...On behalf of all members of Executive Council, I wish you all a wonderful start to the 2017-2018 school year!