

Horizon Highlights

Issue 07 -
November
Meetings

Horizon School Division No. 67 Board of Trustees -

Front - L-R: Audrey Krizsan - Board Chair, Ward 3, Sharon Holtman - Ward 3
Back - L-R: Marie Logan - Ward 1, Terry Michaelis - Ward 5, Jennifer
Crowson - Ward 2, Bruce Francis - Ward 3, Derek Baron - Vice-Chair,

Next Board Meeting:

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

1:00 pm

Division Office Board Room

The public is always welcome.

Next Admin. Meeting

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Horizon Learning Centre

Chair – Gil Farley,

Trustee – Jennifer Crowson



School Board elections were held October 18th with the official public school trustee election results as follows:

Ward 1: Enchant/Lomond Marie Logan

Ward 2: Hays/Vauxhall Jennifer Crowson

Ward 3: Barnwell/Taber Bruce Francis

Sharon Holtman

Audrey Krizsan

Ward 4: Grassy Lake/Warner Derek Baron

Ward 5: Coutts/Milk River Terry Michaelis

Audrey Krizsan was declared to be the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Horizon School Division No. 67 and Derek Baron was declared the Vice-Chair until the next Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Superintendent's Progress Report

Review of professional growth plans of all school administrators was completed. Administrators share their professional growth plans with the Superintendent during these visits and staffing, school accountability pillar reports, and school issues are also discussed. During the growth planning conferences strategies for growth plan implementation and school goals are reviewed and ways the division can assist with implementation are discussed. Follow-up meetings are held at mid-year.

Council of School Councils Meeting

The first Council of School Councils meeting was held with schools represented by a member of their School Council. Time was spent with round-table sharing of School Council operations and initiatives. School Council resources were reviewed. The superintendent shared initiatives within the jurisdiction as well as what is happening provincially. COSC discussed and proposed some issues for further development into Issues for Action for the spring Alberta School Council Association annual general meeting. A sub-committee was struck to develop the issues into proposals.

Admin Leadership Symposium

Administrators across the district participated in a learning symposium with the theme of "Following the Learner." Sessions delivered by members of the administrative council included best practice in staff selection and interview strategies, structuring learning environments for increased learner engagement and ownership of learning, strategies for instructional supervision of purposeful teaching, considerations for integration of technology, and English Language Learners (understanding our demographics). Thankyou

to the following planning committee members for delivering a quality learning experience: John Bronsema, Murray Brown, Brock Campbell, Holly Godson, Erin Hurkett, Todd Ojala, Scott Reiling, Dan Schindeler, and Bev Wilk.

Other

The superintendent had the opportunity to be the "sub for a day" at Taber Christian Alternative School. It was a wonderful morning among great citizens and learners in a warm and welcoming environment. A major highlight in schools this month was going to the Barnwell school and community fundraiser (Trim for Brynn). An incredible effort on the part of the organizers and unsurpassed support of the community concluded with over \$24,000 raised. The heart of the community was loud and clear at this event. The Senior Administrative Leadership Team (SALT) also engaged in strategic plan review and renew. Superintendent attended mentorship training with provincial CASS. The administrator meeting focused on renewing administrator capacity building strategic priorities. In addition,

the superintendent attended CASSIX fall meetings, Vauxhall projects capital planning meeting, Taber and District Community Adult Learning Board meeting, a high school principal's meeting and different school Awards Nights. Attention was also given to transportation and personnel issues.

Associate Superintendent Programs and Services Report

Dave Driscoll took the opportunity to acknowledge the Family School Liaison Counselling (FSLC) Program and Family Connections Team. Six students and two staff members travelled to Edmonton to attend an FNMI "Dream Catcher's" Conference. The students that attended came back with amazing stories. It was a very good learning experience for all and it was also noted that this conference fell on a weekend and that staff donated their time to make sure that these students had this opportunity to attend this very worthwhile conference.

Youth Mentorship Program

This program involves 26 high school mentors from W.R. Myers and Warner schools. They are working with 24 students from D.A. Ferguson, Warner & L.T. Westlake Schools with the goal of having the older students working as mentors in a positive manner with the younger students. These mentors have received training from Daelynn Takasaki, Clinical Team Leader and her FSLC team through a grant that was received through the Healthy Schools Initiative.

Opp Shop

Heather Brantner has been hired through the Opportunity Shop program, funded by the Rural Alberta's Development Fund (RADF), and has recently put on an information session for senior high principals on the Knowledge & Employability (K&E) program informing them on what options are available to students and schools in terms of work placement. The goal of this program is to ensure that students want to be good and corporate citizens with careers that stay in our local areas. A letter has

been sent to the RADF, MLA's and the Premier to formerly recognize and thank them for their contributions towards this crucial program.

Associate Superintendent Curriculum and Instruction

Wilco Tymensen spoke about the current AISI project. Horizon School Division is currently involved in a project where we are building capacity with technology with 21st century learning and dealing with smartboards. This project is the first of its kind in Alberta with six jurisdictions involved in one project. Holy Spirit School Division has also recently joined our project making the total number of jurisdictions involved at seven. The six other jurisdictions are Medicine Hat Catholic, Medicine Hat Public, Westwind, Palliser, Prairie Rose and Horizon. The intent is that by the end of the year (from PRE-K to Grade 10) we will have developed on-line resources using SMARTBOARD technology for the entire curriculum. We will continue to work with our teachers to make sure that they have the capacity to work and focus on new content and curriculum. It was also noted that AB ED is also very keen on this project and has requested that Horizon School Division present in Edmonton at the AISI conference in February.

Happenings from the November Administrator's Meeting

Administrators were informed about the upcoming conferences and professional development opportunities including the Banff Leadership Conference in March 2011, the NASSP (The National Association of School Secondary Principals Conference to be held in San Francisco in February 2011 and the ASCD conference which will be held in San Francisco in March of next year. The Western Canada Administrators Conference (which is held in October of every year) in Edmonton was also mentioned. It was noted that next year's conference will be highlighted with the attendance of all Canadian Education Ministers.

School-Wide Testing

Jesse Sadlowski is looking for input and suggestions for group assessment. He is looking for material that will give him an idea of what level his students are at in terms of mathematics, reading and writing in order to accommodate their learning needs. Jesse asked that you email him with any suggestions for material.

"Speak Up"

Alberta Education is providing all stakeholders with an opportunity to "Speak Up" (to share their viewpoints about key educational issues). This is for all Canadian Schools and can be done through an online survey (Wilco will send everyone the link) which is both on the Alberta Education Website and on the Horizon School Division website home page. It was noted that administrators should encourage teachers, staff, parents and stakeholders to participate in this survey. All schools in Canada can take part in this survey until December 19th after which time all survey results will be collated and data will then be provided for each jurisdiction. These results will in turn will be an excellent tool to help us move forward with our planning in terms of 21st Century learning and technology.

CSA

Holly provided information on the upcoming CAP Conference which will be held in May 2011 in Charlottetown. She also noted that Robyn Jackson will be coming to Banff for a 2 ½ day workshop at the Banff Leadership Conference next March. Robyn Jackson will also be presenting at the ASCD conference in San Francisco. Holly also added that the Educational Leadership Academy next summer will be highlighted by the presenter, Betty Gardner who is the author of "Get to Got It."