

# Horizon April/May 2011 Highlights



## Appointed Principals

The Board approved the appointment of Murray Brown as principal of Lomond Community School and Erin Hurkett as principal of Chamberlain School and Arden T. Litt Centre for Learning. New to our division is Dwayne Zarichny who has been appointed as the new principal of Erle Rivers High with the commencement of the 2011-12 school year. Mr. Zarichny is from Dauphin, Manitoba and comes to us with a wide variety of experience as a school leader and 17 years dedicated to rural education. We are confident that his dedication, resourcefulness and professionalism will be a great asset to the school and jurisdiction.

## RADF Summit

The Superintendent had the privilege of attending the provincial Rural Alberta Development Find Summit celebration. Horizon is proud of Warner Hockey School for being the showcase project at the prestigious event. The video and speech centered around the development of the Warner Hockey School clearly reflected the incredible commitment of community and school members to make a dream a reality.

## Administrators' Meeting

The principals engaged in professional dialogue about programs available for the Low-German speaking Mennonite population in order to share ideas, perspectives, resources and professional development plans. Principals explored challenges in special education and forwarded ideas for distribution of staffing. Alternatives for accounting procedures for School Generated Funds were presented. Some policies were explored, programs and staffing updates provided and a presentation regarding the Early Childhood Development (ECD)

Mapping projects was given by Mary Anne Going.

## Professional Learning

The Superintendent attended the ASCD Conference with a team of principals for the purpose of exploring ideas that fold into current strategic priorities and set the direction for administrator professional learning in 2011/12. The highlight was a two-day in-depth workshop with Robyn Jackson, author of *Never Work Harder Than Your Students*. Her focus on student engagement, differentiation and empowering all learners fit well with the Horizon context and focus.

## APEX Awards

The Superintendent had the pleasure of attending the annual APEX Awards banquet recognizing youth for their leadership and contribution to their communities.

## Facilities Committee Report

Derek Baron, Facilities Committee Chair reviewed the Facilities report that was enclosed in the agenda highlighting the following information:

- The Vauxhall Academy of Baseball's Manager's Suite is completed and ready for occupancy
- Completion of work to date at the Vauxhall Academy of Baseball's dorms
- Vauxhall Schools Capital Projects Updates for both the Vauxhall High and Vauxhall Elementary Schools. Phase 1 occupancy of the new gym and renovated CTS Industrial Arts Shop at Vauxhall High School has been set for mid-April.
- Staff and students at Vauxhall Elementary School have moved into the Phase 1 renovation area on April 1st. All Phase 1 areas with the exception of the gym are being

occupied.

- Demolition of the 1952 section of the elementary school will begin in mid-April.
- Planning for 2011 IMR projects to Erle Rivers High School, Lomond Community School, ACE Place and Milk River Elementary School have begun

## Budget

On April 15th, Alberta Education announced a 2011-12 Budget funding increase from 4.4% to 4.54%. The increase will apply to the same categories that had received increases in the initial budget announcement. This includes increases to Base Instruction and Class-size funding). The 2011-12 budget will now be revised, including the recommendations that arose from the Budget Committee meeting, for approval at the May Board meeting.



"How do I know you brought your phone to class? You're the only one in the room vibrating."



"It's my report on computer security, but you can't see it because it's password protected."

## Highlights from the April Administrator's Meeting...

### School Generated Funds

Philip Johansen, Director of Finance, provided schools with an evaluation framework summary that he applied to three programs: KEV, Quicken and Quickbooks in response to principal concerns regarding the cost of KEV. KEV had the strongest ratings with passing most software criteria. However, the strength of the software may not outweigh the cost. Principals agreed that if Horizon moved to a standard version of Quickbooks Pro, they would be accountable for ensuring accounting activities at the school are completed with the following commitments:

- All accounts that are reconciled mid month must be moved to month end. This will require some communication with the bank holding the school account
- All schools should obtain on-line access to their bank accounts
- Principals must review and sign-off on a monthly bank reconciliation for each account
- The reporting structure for division office must not be altered
- Student fees must be reviewed and submitted in full before summer
- Clearing accounts for claims from Division Office must be reviewed to ensure they are clearing.

### Healthy Schools Projects

Administrators broke into discussion groups and shared actions and strategies that are being used in their schools in terms of their Healthy Schools projects and initiatives. Schools are encouraged to contact one another for ideas/sharing of resources and expertise. Principals examined the potential of a Healthy Schools policy. In keeping with the Administrative goal of keeping anything new connected with what we are already doing, the shared perspective was that Healthy Schools is already part of what we are currently practicing with our Safe and Caring Schools initiatives. This area can be more clearly articulated as part of the School Safety Plan and/or School Plan.

### Presentation on ECD Mapping Project

Mary Ann Going is a Kindergarten Teacher at Vauxhall Elementary School and is also Horizon's lead person on the ECD Mapping Project. She provided a brief overview of Alberta Education's five year Early Childhood Development (ECD) Mapping project. This five-year project is contracted by Alberta Education to help gather and analyze information on children's development prior to starting kindergarten (Horizon is currently in its second year of the project). Horizon's results were shared from the 2009-2010 school year. For additional information on the Early Child Development Mapping Project, please refer to the following website: [www.ecdmapping.alberta.ca](http://www.ecdmapping.alberta.ca).

### Learning Coaches

Darlene Peckford provided feedback to the principals regarding what she had learned at the provincial round table discussions. Darlene attended as a Horizon representative after gathering input from principals regarding potential strengths, concerns and questions. Darlene reported that there appears to be a wide variety of perspectives and confusion regarding the Learning Coach idea forwarded by the Inclusive Education Branch. It is apparent that, at this time, learning coaches will not be a mandated structure or model.

### 2011-2012 Budget

Budget Committee representatives, Mark Lowe and Johanna Kutanzi provided feedback regarding the budget committee meeting. A press release went out following the budget committee meeting summarizing the outcome. This press release is also posted on Horizon's website.

### 2011-2012 Programs and Services

- Low-German-speaking Mennonite program at the Learning Centre next to MCC will be an extension of the Central School Low German Mennonite dual tract program
- ACE Place Outreach Program: With the Low German Mennonite program as a separate structure, ACE Place will have the space and structure for

targeting students that are falling through the cracks when they are not finding success in regular school classes

- CST time will be allocated by Ingrid Pearson for grades 1-9 and by Mitzi McDonnell for Pre-K and Kindergarten. School-based CST's will be responsible for Pre-K student IPP's. This is moving toward a structure with transition of the IPP at the centre of assigned support. The CST will be familiar with the student and his/her needs from the beginning of the education experience.

### Student Mentorship Program Highlights

Daelynn gave a power-point presentation highlighting the program components and success of the Mentorship program this year. It was very apparent that the program is a positive experience for both the Mentors and Mentees. Daelynn has gather information about the alignment of the mentorship program and CEU high school credits in CTS Human and Social Services (HSS 1050, 2050, 3050, 3070).

### Action on Inclusion

Ingrid provided a handout summarizing the movement from Setting the Direction to Action on Inclusion. She showed the principals some resources they can access in the new Alberta Education Inclusive Education website (eg. Pyramid of Support ideas and links, frequently answered questions, IEP's, etc.)

