



Superintendent's Message

June 2010

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Introduction

School's just about over for another year! As we get caught up in our day-to-day responsibilities, there are fewer opportunities for us to reflect upon the bigger picture of what we do ... at this juncture, it may be helpful to look back upon the past year as we prepare for September. Here are a few highlights:

Strategic Plan

The regular activities necessary for APSEA's operation sometimes jostle for attention with additional areas of focus in connection with the implementation of the strategic plan. The Board of Directors was briefed on the status of the various committees' work during the year and expressed appreciation for the dedication of many individuals whose efforts made progress possible. The status report can be accessed through the website. The following actions are to be given precedence for 2010-11:

- Priority 1: Strategic Management* (1.2. Review and update APSEA policy, procedures and guidelines and develop new policies as needed.)
- Priority 2: Alignment, Transparency and Accountability* (2.3. Develop outcomes for APSEA programs and services)
- Priority 3: People* (3.2 Review and update current policies and procedures that pertain to human resource management and develop new policies and procedures where appropriate)
- Priority 4: Research and Innovation* (4.1. Engage in research to build a body of knowledge to guide programming and delivery of services and to develop future innovative programming.)
- Priority 5: Relationships, Communication, Collaboration* (5.6. Develop a communication plan for stakeholders.)

Please note as the SP implementation moves into Year 2, membership on committees will be "renewed", ideally with a balance between current and new members. You are encouraged to consider serving when openings are confirmed in September.

Succession Planning

The leadership development program of the strategic plan warrants special note. The cohort of 19 individuals from diverse backgrounds, positions, and locations has recently completed the four-day introductory leadership module facilitated by the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium (NSELC). *Working with People* concentrated upon: Characteristics of Leadership, Change, Professional Learning Communities, and Leadership Practices. The feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive; many applicants for positions of administrative/supervisory responsibility have been coming from this group.

The MSVU Masters programs also impact our ability to successfully recruit for teaching positions. New two-year cohorts have been approved to start in July 2010, with 17 students accepted for DHH and 10 for BVI.

Accessibility Committee

As a facility serving children with numerous needs in addition to vision-and hearing-related, including physical/mobility, accessibility on the campus must be a priority. Towards this end, an internal Accessibility Committee has been working to identify issues with our existing property against current standards and develop a plan to increase accessibility. Obviously, the safety elements will receive priority, with signage and ease of movement being weighed against the possible sale/redevelopment of the facility. Ron Alley, Reg Dunphy, Sonny Gallant, Sheila Jamieson and Joe MacDonell are to be commended for their work on this committee. We also appreciate Marilyn Neal taking a day from her March break to tour the CNIB headquarters in Toronto; her PowerPoint was most helpful in our deliberations!

CNIB Visions Dinner

On Tuesday June 8, two Moncton area APSEA students, Rilind Dragoshi and Ashley Hache, along with their itinerant teachers, Lynn Lalonde and Nancy Bradley, were honoured to attend a CNIB Visions Dinner where Brian McKeever, gold-winning Paralympics cross country skier told his inspirational story.



Brian McKeever and Ashley Hache



Rilind Dragoshi and Brian McKeever (Rilind is reading Braille on the back of Brian's gold medal)

Staffing Update 2010-2011

Lori Moore – DHH Director of Programs

Sue Ley – DHH Provincial Supervisor (Nova Scotia)

Glenda Parsons – BVI Director of Programs

Julie Windebank – BVI Provincial Supervisor (Nova Scotia)

Dori Powell – DHH Itinerant Teacher (Miramichi, NB)

Cheryl MacNeil – BVI Itinerant Teacher (Truro/Valley, NS)

Patrick Daley – DHH Itinerant Teacher (Moncton, NB)

Deborah Rippin – DHH Itinerant Teacher (Fredericton, NB)

Nichola Jackson-Davie – DHH Itinerant Teacher (Halifax, NS)

Annette Manuel – BVI Itinerant Teacher (Saint John, NB)

Sarah Callahan – BVI Itinerant Teacher (New Glasgow, NS)

Sacha Russell – DHH Itinerant Teacher (Kentville, NS)

Looking Ahead

Fall Inservice

Our efforts to maximize effectiveness and efficiency include a major revision to our approach to professional development. Traditionally, the annual fall inservice set aside three-four days for teacher inservice, causing an interruption in service to children. While PD must remain a high priority, we are seeking ways to provide access in a manner which will minimize negative impact on service delivery. Accordingly, the annual fall inservice has been moved to 8-9 September, starting on Wednesday morning and concluding with lunch on Thursday.

Likewise, the traditional spring inservice at Tatamagouche will be moved toward the end of the school year. These changes will be complemented by individual professional growth plans, professional learning communities and the increased utilization of technologies, such as webinars and videoconferences.

Changing of the Guard

Barry Imber, Vicki Jeans, and Karen Umphrey are retiring after careers of service to children through APSEA. I take this opportunity to express sincere appreciation to those fine individuals who have dedicated their professional careers and wish them the best in retirement!

These retirements led to major changes to our senior management team. A warm welcome is extended to new Program Directors (Lori Moore in DHH and Glenda Parsons in BVI) and NS Provincial Supervisors (Sue Ley in DHH and Julie Windebank in BVI). We look forward to working with you in your new roles.

Calendar for 2010-11

A revised APSEA calendar for the coming school year is attached; please note school resumes on Tuesday 4 January following the Christmas break.

Upcoming summer events include: MSVU courses (5-29 July), BVI summer camp (5-9 July), DHH summer camps (5-9 July in Halifax and 1-7 August in NB), sign language immersion (9-13 August), and interpreter training (23-25 August).

While we look ahead to the challenges and opportunities of a new school year, let's give ourselves a fair measure of rest and relaxation during July and August.

Have a great summer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bertram Tulk". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a thin horizontal line.

Bertram Tulk, EdD
Superintendent

2010-2011 APSEA Calendar

Monday 6 September 2010	Labour Day
Wednesday 8 September & Thursday 9 September 2010	APSEA Inservice
Monday 11 October 2010	Thanksgiving Day
Thursday 11 November 2010	Remembrance Day
Friday 17 December 2010 Tuesday 4 January 2011	Last Working Day Before Christmas First Working Day After Christmas
Monday 7 March to Friday 11 March 2011 Monday 14 March to Friday 18 March 2011 Monday 21 March to Friday 25 March 2011	March Break - NB March Break - NS (excluding HRSB) March Break - PEI
Thursday 21 April 2011 Monday 2 May 2011	NL - Last Day of School (Spring Break) NL - School Reopens
Friday 22 April 2011 Monday 25 April 2011	Good Friday Easter Monday
Monday 23 May 2011	Victoria Day
Wednesday 22 June to Friday 24 June 2011 Thursday, 30 June 2011	APSEA Inservice Last Full Day of Classes