

**Board Meeting
Chair's Monthly Update - Susan Humphries
26 February 2019**

Inclement weather:

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank the administration and staff for making some difficult decisions about bussing and school closures while always keeping the safety of our students and staff in mind. This weather was unprecedented and the decisions had to be made daily based on the best information available. We know how disruptive it has been to lose so many days- especially for our secondary students who were ready to write exams. Thank you to our staff, students and parents for their patience and understanding. I know we are all ready for winter to be over but we know that more snowfall could be just around the corner!

Creativity and innovation initiatives:

The District Creativity and Innovation Committee met yesterday and I continue to be impressed with the enthusiasm for the work already being done in this area as well as the excitement for the possibilities ahead. A few examples of current initiatives include:

- The development of a partnership between Junior Achievement (JA) Canada, Algonquin College and RCDSB to offer some pilot projects at the Grade 7 and 8 as well as Grade 9 and 10 levels to assist with furthering our work in financial literacy for students.
- Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship (ICE) modules are being woven into many of the existing Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs across the district.
- REN Talks is being piloted by our Student Trustees providing a platform for students across the District to share their ideas, strengths, passion and perspectives.
- TechX is a robotics/design competition involving every school in the District with the final event being held April 17th at Fellowes High School.
- And there are several more including Destination Imagination, School design projects (maker spaces) and Framework for Learning.

Amazing things are happening across our District that will prepare our students for careers and community roles in the future.

Boardroom refresh:

Thank you to our facilities staff and administrators who have seen a need to refresh our meeting space. The first step has occurred with new tables and chairs- long overdue as the others were 40 years old and were starting to literally fall apart. This room is used a lot by a variety of staff and these new tables will allow for different configurations based on the need. We also look forward to a fresh coat of paint sometime this spring. Thank you for the refresh!

Submitting a bid for IPM 2021- Renfrew:

Many of you will remember the success of the 1994 IPM held in the Pembroke area and in fact I expect that many of our Trustees were very involved on key committees. I had the opportunity to host the daily Ladies program for the event along with the late Jim Ferguson.

The town of a Renfrew, the county of Renfrew and the township of Admaston Bromley are submitting a bid to host the IPM in 2021. Their proposed site is attached to Mateway Park and on farmland in Admaston Bromley. We should know more later this spring!