

- **Elliott Payzant** was named to a second term as Chair and **Herbert Seymour** was elected Vice-Chair at the Board's annual general meeting (AGM), which immediately followed the regular meeting.
- Membership of the Board's three standing committees was also determined at the AGM. Members of the Education Committee are **Marg Forbes** (chair), **John Jenkins** (vice-chair), **Mustapha Maynard** and **Jill Francis**. On the Finance & Operations Committee are **Max Rafuse** (chair), **Wanda Bezanson** (vice-chair), **Karen Reihardt** and **Butch MacLeod**. Making up the Human Resources Committee are **Gary Mailman** (chair), **Max Rafuse**(vice-chair), **Allan Foster** and **Marg Forbes**.
- The Board congratulated Park View Education Centre music teacher **Scott Leonard** on being named the MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award earlier this month. This prestigious award recognizes the achievements of outstanding music teachers who have had a significant impact on students' lives and who have made a noteworthy contribution to education in their community. MusiCounts is a national music education charity dedicated to keeping music alive in schools throughout the country.
- The Board received a report on the results of the PATHS pilot program from Coordinator **Jo-Anne MacNeil**. PATHS, which stands for Promoting Alternative THinking Strategies, is a violence-prevention curriculum that promotes social and emotional learning, character development and bullying prevention. It is designed to help children learn about self-control, emotions, social awareness, peer relations and problem-solving. A three-year pilot study got underway in 2007 in Pentz, Newcombville and Petite Rivière schools to study the effects of the program on Grades Primary, One and Two students. Just two years into the pilot, results have been positive for the PATHS program in the areas of aggression/disruptive behaviours, concentration/attention and social/emotional competencies. The results were determined through teacher surveys at the three pilot schools compared to survey results at a control school which didn't participate in the PATHS program.
- The Board approved a statement that its mission is "to provide quality, equitable programming within a healthy, safe and respectful environment for all students in the region, so that they have the opportunity to become independent thinkers and valuable members of society." It also agreed to develop strategic goals "focused on the areas of student achievement, operational effectiveness and governance."
- The Board directed senior staff to develop a policy on funeral services at school for Board approval. In recent years, there have been a number of requests to use a school to hold a funeral, in some cases because the school gymnasium is the only facility in the community large enough to accommodate those expected to attend, but has no clear

policy for handling such requests. The new policy will address such questions as whether the Board should allow a school to be used for funeral services and, if so, whether such use should be limited to after-school hours and weekends. The policy will also look at whether a school should be closed to allow staff and students to attend a funeral service and under what circumstances.

- The Board accepted a recommendation from the Finance & Operations Committee to approve a 1 percent pay increase for non-union employees, effective April 1, 2009.
- The Board approved a change in Policy 783, Unpaid Leave of Absence for Less than One Year for NSTU and SEIU Employees, to support leaves of absence for teachers participating in recognized sports events and art/cultural events at a provincial level.