

Principal Report: March 2015

1. Variable Transportation

The Ottawa Student Transportation Authority is seeking input from the school community regarding a proposed policy and procedure to deliver transportation services to students in a joint custody arrangement and having two homes. Both homes must be within the attendance boundary and eligible for transportation. A formal application process requires that both parents and/or guardians sign the application and provide a schedule. Weekly or bi-weekly access schedules may be limited to ensure student safety. Other safety and operational risks will be assessed prior to approval or denial of each application.

Members of the school community are invited to complete an online survey (see link below). Please review the proposed policy and procedure, as well as Frequently Asked Questions on OSTA's website (www.ottawaschoolbus.ca) prior to completing the survey. Public consultation closes March 13 2015.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/variabletransportation>

2. Superintendency Based IPRCs

Based on the OCDSB's strategic plan built on the pillars of well-being, engagement, leadership and learning – Objective 7 focuses on 'Equitable Access to High Quality Programs'. To enhance equitable access for all students requiring specialized programming, the District will move to a Geographic Model that will consider proximity to a student's community. In addition, a Superintendency Based (SB) IPRC model was developed for entry into specialized programs. The goals of this change in practice include increased transparency and parental engagement. The number of geographic zones for each specialized program type is dependent upon the overall number of classes needed (e.g., the DSP has three geographic zones whereas the Autism Program has five zones). Exceptionalities will be shifted to the Geographic Model over a number of years with full implementation proposed for 2017-2018. The move to a Geographic Model will help to eliminate waitlists for students who are deemed to require a specific level of support associated with a specialized program.

This shift in practice is felt to support the principles of the Learning for All document which provides the guiding principles for effectively supporting students with special education needs. The OCDSB supports students with special education needs using a tiered approach.

3. Every School Every Voice Survey

Thanks to everyone who participated in the EverySchool_EveryVoice consultation. We had an absolutely tremendous response - 13,494 people participated in the process; 42,026 thoughts were shared; and 649,026 stars were assigned! The third and final step in the consultation is the Discover stage where results are shared with the community. The hope was that the analysis

would be completed and the results shared by the end of February, but due to the volume of feedback, staff are still working with Thoughtexchange to sort the data and generate the reports. Stay tuned for the Discover stage e-mail in late March.

4. 2015/2016

We are already starting to plan for next year! On March 31st we will find out our staffing allocation for next year which includes the number of homeroom classes that we will have. During the month of April, staff will start putting together tentative class lists for next year. If you have a specific request in terms of class placement, please let me know in writing, including the reason why, by Monday, April 20th.

5. School Beautification Project

Thank you to everyone who came out on February 21st to help paint the school. We were blessed to have volunteers from Home Depot, parents, school staff and high school students come out to work on this project. As we were unable to finish painting all of the doors in one day, we are planning a second painting day on Saturday, March 7th. Please let me know if you would like to join in on the fun!

I would also like to thank home depot for providing painting supplies and to Tim Horton's for providing us with coffee and snacks!

6. Kindergarten Science Night

Please join us for Kindergarten Science Night on Wednesday, March 11th at 5:30 pm.