



LEADERSHIP TIMES

*The newsletter of the Council on School Administration
of the Alberta Teachers' Association*

June 2012

President's Message

Holly Godson

The Leadership Challenge is about how leaders mobilize others to want to get extraordinary things done in organizations. It's about the practices leaders use to transform values into actions, visions into realities, obstacles into innovations, separateness into solidarity, and risks into rewards. It's about leadership that creates the climate in which people turn challenging opportunities into remarkable successes.

James M Kouzes and Barry Z Posner,
The Leadership Challenge

For over 50 years, the Council on School Administration (CSA) has been doing just that. It has engaged in research; provided professional development; served as a sounding board for issues and concerns arising from the field; and served as an advocate and a voice for school leaders at the local, provincial and national levels.

The ever-changing landscape in which we live has transformed how learning looks in our own province, never mind globally.

Change is inevitable. The CSA will soon be receiving a facelift, with a new logo and a new name to fit the changing landscape of education and the changing role of education leaders. We are hoping to unveil our new logo and our new name, Council for School Leadership, in the fall. The Council for School Leadership will continue all the great things the CSA has done historically, with a broader focus to welcome leaders to join this great learning community we have developed in Alberta. The facelift includes changing the name of the Western Canadian Educational Administrators' Conference (WCEAC) to the more contemporary ulead, which will continue to provide outstanding PD for leaders in western Canada and beyond.

What Have We Been Up To?

- Following through with strategic planning and goal-setting
- Co-facilitating and organizing the pan-Canadian study on the role of the principal
- Co-facilitating and organizing PD opportunities for leaders, including WCEAC Leadership 11 (October 19–21, 2011), Leadership Essentials for Administrators (November 14–15, 2011),

Your annual no-cost specialist council membership will no longer expire in August. Instead, it will continue year after year until you decide to change to a different council. To register or to change your council membership, log in at www.teachers.ab.ca with your TNET username and password.

Specialist councils are your source for conferences, networking, publications, resources, workshops, online communities and professional development.

the Banff Leadership Seminar (March 22–24, 2012) and the Legal Issues Seminar (April 18, 2012)

- Advocating and representing education leaders at events such as the Action on Curriculum Symposium (November 4–5, 2011) and the invitational colloquium Promise and Peril: The Impact of Technology on Children, Schools and Communities (April 25, 2012) and with groups such as the Canadian Association of Principals (CAP) and the ATA’s School Administrator Issues and Concerns Committee
- Celebrating outstanding education leaders such as Trudy Dwyer, winner of the Distinguished Leadership Award 2011

What Are We Looking Forward To?

- Rebranding the council, with a new logo and a new name
- Participating in upcoming PD opportunities:
Educational Leadership Academy—
July 9–13, 2012
ulead 2012—October 22–24, 2012
CAP 2013—April 19–24, 2013

We are excited about our work representing school leaders in Alberta. You too can be part of this exciting journey! Please take the time to sign up for your CSA membership through TNET (go to www.teachers.ab.ca and click on Login in the upper-right corner).

News from the Regionals

Calgary

Bruce Campbell

The Calgary Regional has had a busy year, cosponsoring PD sessions in September and January. We hope to see more people at our events. We encourage Calgary administrators in both the public and the separate school districts to become involved in the CSA, not least because of its great PD opportunities. Watch your inbox for news on upcoming events.

Central Alberta

Sonja Dykslag

This has been another great year for the Central Alberta Regional (CARCSA).

In December, we cohosted (with the Central Alberta Regional Consortium) the preconference session for the Leading and Learning Conference held in Red Deer. Tammy Heflebower presented “The Art and Science of Teaching with an Infusion of the Highly Engaged Classroom,” and she was outstanding. Her message and her enthusiasm were contagious, and the presentation was very much enjoyed by teachers, administrators, central office staff and Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) leaders.

We also took time at the event to recognize some of Central Alberta’s distinguished leaders. The following people were presented with a plaque and a pin in recognition of their outstanding leadership:

- Lane Moore, principal of Bentley School, Wolf Creek Public Schools
- Wayne Pineau, principal of Innisfail Junior/Senior High School, Chinook’s Edge School Division

- Jeff Thompson, principal of Westglen School, Chinook's Edge School Division
- Corrine Thorsteinson, principal of Clive School, Wolf Creek Public Schools

I would like to thank the CARCSA executive and division representatives for their work during the 2011/12 year:

- Ian Wilson (Wolf Creek Public Schools), vice-president
- Julia Rheume (Red Deer College), secretary
- Pat Maschio (Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools), treasurer
- Jeff Anderson (Chinook's Edge School Division), communications
- Donna Leontowicz, Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools representative
- Bill Kwasny, Red Deer Public Schools representative

Fort McMurray

Valerie Dyck

It was an honour to present (with Garnet Goertzen) the Distinguished Leadership Award to Trudy Dwyer, Fort McMurray Catholic Schools principal, at the Leadership 11 conference.

Our elections were held November 3. The results were as follows:

- Valerie Dyck, president by acclamation
- Paul Smith, secretary by acclamation
- Dolores Abraham, treasurer by acclamation

An executive meeting was held November 28, and plans for the 2011/12 school year were made.

Our first of two supper workshops this year was held on January 11. Marv Hackman, of the ATA, presented "Administrators and Counsellors: Confidentiality Issues Related to Student and Counselling Records." We opened up the workshop to include school-based counsellors, and it was very well attended. Approximately 30 administrators and

counsellors enjoyed the presentation and the professional conversations that ensued.

At the workshop, we made two draws for \$50 to be put toward PD. Congratulations to winners Quinn Lotsberg and France Letendre!

We also requested input from members regarding the effectiveness of our regional CSA events and suggestions for improvement. The feedback we received was discussed at our March 2012 executive meeting.

Greater Edmonton

Jeff Johnson

The Greater Edmonton Regional (GERCSA) is hosting several meetings this year to promote dialogue and growth for school leaders in the greater Edmonton area.

The CSA is proud to support the work being done on the pan-Canadian study entitled *The Future of the Principalship*. Ben Levin, professor and Canada Research Chair in education leadership and policy at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), is a critical friend to this research project, and there is key involvement on the part of the ATA. The results of the study will provide powerful feedback to decision makers throughout Canada in the years to come.

To support this initiative, school leaders in the greater Edmonton area attended a dinner evening on February 16 at the University of Alberta's Faculty Club. This was an opportunity for school leaders to be part of this pivotal study. J-C Couture, a key facilitator of the study, led the focus group discussion and process. The evening was so successful that GERCSA decided to host another one for 100 school leaders on April 24. J-C Couture and Phil McRae were facilitators.

In May, GERCSA held a Pecha Kucha evening on innovation and creativity in schools. (For information about Pecha Kucha presentations, go to www.pecha-kucha.org.)

Northeast

Morris Holota

On May 17, school-based administrators in the region came to hear Jim Parsons speak at the Bold Centre in Lac La Biche. He presented his research as outlined in his book (coauthored with Larry Beauchamp) *Reflecting on Leadership for Learning* (Alberta Teachers' Association, 2011). The book reports the findings of these two educators, who interviewed teachers in five highly successful elementary schools in Alberta to determine what kind of leadership supports effective teaching and learning.

Parsons has been a professor at the University of Alberta for 36 years. He has taught curriculum and instruction in secondary social studies, writing and publishing in education, and research design. He is the past director of the Master of Education in Educational Studies program (an alternative-delivery graduate program at the University of Alberta) and is currently director of the Faculty of Education's Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI).

Peace Area

Joanne Pitman

The Peace Area Regional (PARCSA) executive has worked on revamping our schedule of PD events. We are now planning to add an annual spring session with a focus on PD in the area of building leadership capacity. These events will allow teachers engaged in informal/shared leadership opportunities to expand their learning and development networks with other leaders in the region.

The executive has identified support in building leadership capacity in northwestern

Alberta as a primary goal. To that end, we hosted Kurtis Hewson on April 27. His one-day session "Establishing a Culture of Response: The Leader's Role in a Collaborative Response Model" was on the topic of leadership and systemic intervention, and built on *Reflecting on Leadership for Learning*, a book written by Jim Parsons and Larry Beauchamp and published by the ATA. Hewson, principal of Claresholm Elementary School, is one of the principals featured in the book.

We are also busy planning for PARCSA 2012, to be held September 21 in Grande Prairie.

We look forward to continuing to support CSA events and to partnering with school districts across the region.

Southwest

David Fender

A couple of key members of the Southwest Regional have taken on central office positions and are no longer part of the ATA and the CSA. Fortunately, we have welcomed new people to our group.

We met in November to discuss a speaker for the South Western Alberta Teachers' Convention. The ATA's Marv Hackman spoke on legal issues and technology at the convention in February.

At our November meeting we also discussed sponsoring evening speaker engagements. These discussions continue as some of our initial possibilities for speakers have not panned out.

On February 13, approximately 15 of us met with J-C Couture, of the ATA, to assist him in the development of his presentation on the pan-Canadian study *The Future of the Principalship*.

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