



**Renfrew County
Catholic District
School Board**

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*...as an inclusive Catholic
educational community, we
are called to express our
mission as church, to pass
on the Good News of Jesus
Christ, to make it relevant in
the world today, and to be
the hope for the future.*

May 25, 2016

RE: Report for Director Innovative Funding 2015-2016

To Ontario Directors:

The Renfrew County Catholic District School Board utilized the Innovative Funding allotment to book a trip for our three academic supervisory officers to attend the Future of Education Technology Conference (FETC) on January 12 – 15 in Orlando, Florida. As the FETC web page states: “For 36 years, FETC has brought together more than 8,500 education leaders and technology experts to exchange techniques and strategies for teaching and learning success. Known worldwide for its outstanding program, FETC provides educators and administrators the opportunity to explore the integration of technology across the curriculum — from kindergarten to college — through hands-on exposure to the latest hardware, software and successful strategies.” – For a detailed copy of the agenda and breakout sessions please see: https://tools.eventpower.com/speaker_management_reporting/distribute_presentations?token=60651db351863e39d6c8ae2c93db6473&failover=1

Three main learning goals for RCCDSB were to dive deeper into augmented and virtual learning, gaming and game based learning and the importance of coding. As per the agenda above, many breakout sessions were held on these three topics and some dynamic hands on presentations and useable augmentative technology were found in the Expo Hall. The sheer number of innovative products that utilized augmentative technology in relation to the trades and hands on learning was truly impressive.

However, the main application of our learning came around coding and the importance of this skill and the logic behind it. Upon returning from the FETC, RCCDSB reached out to the facilitators of our enrichment programs and we incorporated a new coding session into our program offerings. RCCDSB offers enrichment programs available free of charge to all RCCDSB students. These programs are offered after regular school hours and at various times of the year and now at various locations. All of the sessions on coding were oversubscribed and were extremely popular. We have also added an ‘introduction to coding’ session within our 21st Century Learning Professional Learning Network that our teachers have raved about.

Yours very truly,

Michele Arbour
Director of Education