



Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board
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May 30, 2016

Mr. Frank Kelly,
Executive Director, CODE
1123 Glenashton Drive,
Oakville, ON L6H 5M12

via e-mail frank_kelly@opsoa.org

Dear Frank,

Re: Innovation Funds for Directors and Supervisory Officers:
Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board

The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board received \$10,000.00 from CODE to investigate, analyze, and if appropriate, implement an out-of-province innovation.

Supervisory Officers from the board participated in the following conference:

Event: Texas Innovation Tour

Dates: March 1 - 3, 2016

Hosted by: Apple Canada

Participants: Jane Dillon-Leitch and Lonnie Bolton, Superintendents of Education with responsibility for Programme and Technology

What was learned / observed:

- visionary leadership
- innovative teaching and learning
- ongoing professional learning
- compelling evidence of success
- flexible learning environments
- problem-based learning
- mathematics instruction
- use of technology and a teaching and learning tool

This conference was of particular interest to the Supervisory Officers as we have embarked on an ambitious, three-year plan "Engage and Transform" -- that will provide all teaching staff with laptops, all students with a 3:1 ratio of ipads or chromebooks over three years. The conference enabled the Supervisory Officers to witness firsthand the seamless integration of technology as a tool to support and deepen learning.

The Supervisory Officers have also been able to take lessons learned for the Texas experience and apply to the professional development plan that needs to be developed and implemented with regards to the Province's Renewed Mathematics Strategy.

Event: Investigation of Learning Commons

The CODE funds were also used to provide Supervisory Officers with the opportunity to investigate "Learning Commons", as the evolution of the traditional library.

Superintendents Bolton and Dillon-Leitch had the opportunity to visit a school district that has invested heavily in the transformation of traditional library into a Learning Commons. Superintendents were able to tour both elementary and secondary schools, speak with school based staff, as well as meet with central staff regarding the designs, intent, and effects on teaching and learning of these new spaces.

The transformation of our own school libraries into Learning Commons is a goal of our "Engage and Transform" plan, so the CODE funds allowed us to observe the benefits and discuss the process firsthand.

Event: Research into success for grade nine students struggling with Mathematics

The secondary programme team focussed on students entering grade nine this year who may be struggling with success in the applied level course. The CODE funds allowed the programme team to visit a school district to observe a successful program that is in place. This visit by our Superintendent, our Principal of Student Success, and four coordinators/consultants enabled our team to deepen our understanding of the conditions that need to be in place to support students who may struggle with mathematics.

Event: Conference for Director of Education

As Director, I will be attending a conference in July that will focus on wellness -- I have chosen to attend this conference because we must continually attend to the issues of wellness -- in our students, staff, and communities.

Conclusion:

The CODE funding was greatly appreciated as it enabled our Superintendents and programme staff to focus on their own professional development in order to improve outcomes for our students.

On behalf of the Supervisory Officers of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, I thank CODE for making this funding available, and for encouraging our own professional development outside of our provincial boundaries.

Sincerely,



Brian Beal
Director of Education