

Dr. Ben Levin – June 2006

Dr. Ben Levin, Deputy Minister of Education, Ontario Ministry of Education

In this address, Dr. Ben Levin sets the context for what has happened over the past year in Ontario. He assures people that the new Minister of Education is going to continue with the current initiatives in education. He then invites questions and comments from the audience.

Contact:

For more information about Dr. Ben Levin and the work that the Ministry is doing, visit www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/biography/edu_dm.html

Segments:

- 1...Introduction
- 2...Setting the Context
- 3...Comments and Questions
- 4...Role of the Principal
- 5...Comments and Questions Continued
- 6...Conclusion

1...Introduction

(Length: 1.5 Minutes)

Synopsis:

Levin thanks the principal groups for all of the work that they've been doing and reassures them that the new Minister of Education is committed to continuing with the current initiatives in education.

After viewing segment 1:

- Did you have any concerns about the change in Minister? If so, what were those concerns? Do you still have these concerns?

2...Setting the Context

(Length: 6.5 Minutes)

Synopsis:

Levin begins by sharing the different ways that he keeps his knowledge of the education system current. He recognizes the critical importance that leaders play in schools, and he talks about how the changes are being made.

Look for the following:

- Things the government has done to show their continued support

After viewing segment 2:

- How are common practices changing your practice and the practice of the teacher's you're working with?

- Does your school have any similar stories to the story about creating common colour schemes for verbs and noun? If so, what are those stories?

3...Comments and Questions

(Length: 10 Minutes)

Synopsis:

Levin invites questions and comments from the audience. One comment encourages the government to stay the course to the current change. Another question asks if the minister is planning to think about including professional learning communities into the school day. A few success stories are shared.

After viewing segment 3:

- Do you have any success stories from the past year that you would like to share?
- Do you agree or disagree with the comments made about Ontario's education as being a leader in the international arena?

4...Role of the Principal

(Length: 5 Minutes)

Synopsis:

One participant asks a question about what is being done to attract principals. Levin responds by describing many of the things that are outlined in the Role of the Principal Strategy and mentions that these ideas are going ahead.

Look for the following:

- Things that are happening as a result of the Role of the Principal Strategy

After viewing segment 4:

- Were you aware of the Role of the Principal Strategy?
- Have you been involved in any of the current initiatives that are mentioned in the Role of the Principal Strategy?
- Are you experiencing changes in your daily work that are affecting you in a positive way? What are these changes?

5...Comments and Questions Continued

(Length: 6 Minutes)

Synopsis:

Participants share other positive stories about the past year including comments about the teacher induction program. Levin states that we've gone from a policy that says, "Let's test them," towards a policy that helps support all the people in the system.

After viewing segment 5:

- What questions do you have for Levin?

6...Conclusion

(Length: 0.5 Minutes)

Synopsis:

Levin concludes his time by thanking the audience for their support and hard work.