program or policy."

Brown said it's imperative the board maintain a positive working relationship with parents "because it takes parents and school board staff to resolve these situations that come up."

He pointed out trustees are the decision makers "and it's our job as superintendents to carry out those policies."

Brown acknowledged he's on the

telephone a lot dealing with schools, parents and staff. A re-organization and reduction in Education Centre staff has made the telephone a vital link with schools and parents.

"I'm hopeful our new organization in January will allow us to get back closer to that personal touch as we face some tough economic decisions."