

## Superintendent's Report August 2019

It has been a busy summer for Professional Development with many teachers participating in summer learning sessions in ASD-S and this week provincially in Fredericton. A few of our ASD-S summer sessions had to be cancelled due to low enrolment numbers. On August 7 a group of 80 educators gathered to hear Tiffany Poirier, a BC teacher, author and presenter do a session on Inquiry Based Learning. This week Science Coordinator Darren White will offer a two day session on inquiry based learning in science. This week there is a PD being offered on Global Competencies focused on the early years, First Nations, First Aid, Power School and Working with Young Immigrant Children. The summer sessions align with our District Improvement Plan. There was also a training for VTRA (Violent Threat Risk Assessment), ASIST (suicide) and Mental Health First Aid. In early July, Director Gary Hall, other Directors and Coordinators facilitated 12-15 hour leadership modules for the year one and year two cohorts – Instructional and Systems Leadership, Legal Aspects in Education, Inclusive Education, Communications, Managing School Operations and School Improvement Planning.

Plans are in place for a District Office Summer PD on Monday, August 19 – an opportunity for all office staff to meet, network, receive updates and have a PD on scent free work place and Office 365 applications. Our new administrators will meet on Tuesday, August 20 – a small group this year with only two Principals who are new to their administrative role and three Vice Principals. On Wednesday, August 21 all Principals and Vice Principals will meet at Kings Church in Quispamsis and on Thursday, August 22 the Principals and their VPs meet by Education Centre. Teachers return the week of August 26 and during the week two days are for administrative tasks – i.e. staff meetings and classroom set up, there is one PD day set out by the Department and two NBTA organized local Subject Council Days. I will be invited that week to address some groups of teachers to bring updates and identify priorities for the coming year. There will also be half day meetings that week for all school Administrative Assistants.

Human Resources Officers and other staff were involved in teacher hiring and updating casual staff lists – i.e, EAs, bus drivers and supply teachers. Our area of greatest concern has been finding an adequate number of French Immersion teachers. We have had to hire teachers whose language proficiency is not at the superior level as per the provincial policy, and we will continue to offer opportunities for these teachers to increase their proficiency. We have four new Subject Coordinators joining our team – Melissa Savoie in Skilled Trades and Innovation, Gina Comeau in Elementary FSL, Chantale Barsalou for Elementary Numeracy and Suzanne Mitchell as Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Complex Behavior Coordinator. These openings came about as a result of three retirements and one Coordinator taking a leave to work at the Department. We had a HR Officer return to her Community School Coordinator role and the successful candidate was Jayne Ingalls.

It has been a busy summer for Lynn MacDonald in registering newcomer students – 200 students registered since May.

Over the summer I attended a reception organized by the Sweet Caroline Foundation, and travelled to St. Andrews for a presentation to St. Stephen Middle School Principal, Bronwyn Tanner, by the JT Clark Family Foundation of \$62,500 toward the seats for the theatre renovation. This was a challenge and the school raised a matching amount. This project is moving along and completion is set for September.

Summer is a very busy time in facilities – a thank you to Manager Jim Connors and his Assistant Managers Blair Dickson (HEC), Wayne Breen (SJEC) and Ron Munn (SSEC) for managing many projects, and to our school based custodians and trades staff for the cleaning of schools and other projects. Schools can be very warm places of work during the summer months.

The capital projects approved by DEC in spring 2018 are moving along as planned; some completed, others scheduled for completion by the end of August and a few which will continue into the school year with provisions made not to interfere with the operation of school. A summary follows:

Simonds High, Lakewood Heights, and Sussex Regional High paving is on-going; Bayside Middle windows and siding to be completed August 23; Deer Island windows and entrances – delay on window delivery; Lawrence Station washrooms are running behind schedule but a plan is in place for start-up; Bayview lift is scheduled for completion mid to late September; Quispamsis Elementary School – window replacement has been delayed due to structural issues being discovered; Loch Lomond water and sewage upgrades; Quispamsis Middle School, Barnhill Middle and Fundy Shores windows; washroom upgrades at Princess Elizabeth School; new bleachers at Harbour View High and Millidgeville North School including re-varnishing and relining the floors; washroom upgrades at Norton Elementary and Dr. Leatherbarrow Primary School. Roofing projects identified at the provincial level included Beaconsfield, Belleisle Elementary, Hampton High, Lakefield and Lawrence Station.

In addition to these projects, the District used some self-sustaining funds to complete the following smaller projects: a section of lockers at Forest Hills; paving at Beaconsfield and parent drop off at Westfield Elementary; walkways at Bayview Elementary; some buzzer systems in the Hampton Education Centre; security cameras at Barnhill and the new playground at Seaside Park Elementary; replacement of some hall and classroom tiles at Apohaqui Elementary; painting Centennial gymnasium and constructing a snowblower shed at Champlain Heights. District staff also did upgrades to sensory rooms at Sussex Middle and Sussex High and constructed a sensory room at Hampton Middle School. Our staff also removed old playground equipment at Hampton Elementary and helped to prepare the surface of the playground for new structures at HES and Dr. Leatherbarrow. Heat pumps are being installed in our largest meeting room (Donaldson Room) as we have challenges keeping this well used space warm during the winter months. We worked in cooperation with KV Players to have six large heat pumps installed in the KVHS theatre – community funds were raised for this project. Mr. Connors and I were interviewed by the King's County Record in early August about summer facilities projects.

I had the opportunity to meet with the new President of NBTA, Rick Cuming who is from Anglophone West and a teacher at John Caldwell K-12 School in Grand Falls. This week is also our first Superintendent meeting in Fredericton. Start-up is a busy time!