

## **Superintendent's Report August 2018**

Over the summer we had four student and one staff death in ASD-S; in early July there was the drowning of Devan Breau, a former student at Harbour View High School. Devan's grandmother is a custodian in the Saint John Centre. Teresa Grenier, a long time custodian at Kennebecasis Valley High School, died in early July as well. In mid-July Heather Cole, an EA at Hazen White St. Francis, died and this week we learned of the death of Island View Elementary School teacher Robert MacMurray and a St. Stephen Education Centre bus driver Barb Murray. Our thoughts go out to the families of Devan and our four employees.

We had a few teaching positions to be filled over the summer holidays, and work continued in recruiting FI teachers – a huge thank you to Subject Coordinators Jackie Turnbull and James Geraghty and HR Officer Bridget Ryan for all of the time they have spent on recruiting. Many of our new FI teachers will be in SSEC, and some of them are coming to us from overseas. Thank you to Derek and others in the St. Stephen area for supporting the new teachers in finding apartments etc.

All school based administrative roles have been filled and an e-mail list was sent to members of the District Education Council. We will have some changes to our Subject Coordinator Team – Martha Garey will be FI Coordinator Grades 3-8 as Mr. Geraghty is returning to the classroom. Mark Perry will be our new First Nations and Social Studies Coordinator, a new role funded by the Department. Monique Hughes has accepted a position in Education Support Services at the Department specializing in behavior. Pam Miller will be taking the lead in alternative education for ASD-S, and we welcome Jennifer Grant from St. Stephen who will be the Positive Learning/Guidance Subject Coordinator. Next week we are pleased to welcome Jessica Hanlon as our Director of Communications, a new position funded by the Department. Jessica has been working with Point Lepreau in the area of communication and change management.

The Leadership Development Years 1 and 2 participants met this summer for their 12-15 hour modules – year one participated in Communication, Instructional and System Leadership, Managing School Operations and year 2 in modules on Education Support Services, Legal Aspects, and School Improvement Planning. These are facilitated by Directors, Managers and Subject Coordinators. Thank you to Gary Hall for leading this program.

Several Professional Learning sessions took place over the summer, and many of the topics align with the District Improvement Plan priorities. Sessions included: Mental Health First Aid, primary literacy, NVCI (Non-Violent Crisis Intervention); Professional Learning Communities, Communication for Administrators, Assessing & Using Data for Administrators, Instructional Coaching, Deepen Learning Through Inquiry & Play, First Aid for Teachers, Coding in the Classroom. We are currently collecting data on the number of staff attending each session.

August 13-17 is the provincial Summer Learning Week at the Department - we have staff attending and facilitating sessions.

It's been an active and productive summer for community schools in ASD-S. The following schools hosted summer programming: Literacy Camps at Blacks Harbour and Milltown Elementary (funded by United Way), Centennial and Glen Falls (partnership with NBCC). BeeMeKidz literacy programs at Prince Charles, Glen Falls and Centennial, and Chef & Art Camps at Seaside Park Elementary.

A busy and challenging summer for Facilities with the high temperature and humidity in schools; a thank you to custodians and facilities staff. Many projects! In the Saint John Education Centre planning work continues at Saint John High with scan drawings and laser measurements of the school being taken in preparation for the upgrade, washrooms at Bayside are moving along, windows at Barnhill, Westfield boiler and controls, roof projects at Simonds, Millidgeville North and Champlain Heights, and washrooms at Simonds are slightly behind schedule. In the Hampton Centre, a Fairvale bathroom renovation has started, the Hampton High welding shop will be ready for fall, improvements to the ramp and walkways at Hampton Middle is on schedule, lighting upgrades are on – going for Harry Miller, Lakefield, Norton, and Quispamsis Elementary, accessible washroom project at Quispamsis is on-going, as well as the Rothesay High roof project, and office space for Early Childhood staff in Sussex is in progress at Sussex Middle School. In the St. Stephen Centre, the gym change room upgrade at St. Stephen Middle School will be complete by the end of September, windows and doors at Vincent Massey will be slightly delayed but work will happen after school hours, roof project complete at St. Stephen High, the door replacements at St. Stephen High School will be completed in September after hours, and lighting upgrades have been completed or are in progress at St Stephen High and St. Stephen Middle, Deer Island, Back Bay, and Lawrence Station. This is not a complete list of the work done over the summer but gives a good snapshot of the projects that are happening.

Changes to alternative education in the Saint John Centre continued to be a focus over the summer with coordinator Pam Miller meeting with students and families – 9 teachers will work in the program, including one guidance counsellor and one resource teacher. Some changes have been made inside the building, staff have named the program “Compass Education Support Program”. They felt the compass is used to set direction and re-direction.

Community: In July I attended “The Faces of Oasis” at the SJ Arts Centre sponsored by the KV Oasis Youth Centre in Quispamsis. The project utilized portraiture created by artist Mark Gilbert to give voice to youths’ thoughts and feelings about their daily challenges.

The Central Peninsula Task Force continued to meet over the summer; staff and I as well as the Chair continued to be engaged in the discussions, attending regular and special meetings.

RDC announcements on renovations to the theatre at St. Stephen Middle School and the stage area of the gym at Sir James Dunn Academy will be held on Friday. We are very appreciative of these funds to support the two projects.