

**Superintendent's Report to DEC  
December 5, 2018**

**ENDS #1: To provide positive, safe, healthy and inclusive learning and working environments for children, youth, and staff.**

On Friday, November 30, a School Food Conference was held at Hampton High School. High school youth from the Hampton Education Center attended with their teachers, to increase their knowledge about food, nutrition, and its influence on their lives. Students explored how food security, food waste, school gardens, and cooking programs contribute to a healthy school food environment. A toolbox of available resources that support school food activities was shared with participants with the hope of stimulating healthy food related initiatives in each high school. This conference will also take place in St. Stephen Education Center on December 6, and Saint John Education Center in February 2019.

The Transportation team and I met last week with the SWAT team (Students Working Against Tobacco) at Fundy Middle & High School. The students wanted to speak to us about smoking and vaping on buses. They had many ideas for us to pursue.

On-going professional learning focused on First Nations education – artists and leaders have presented in schools, as an example Indigenous Guatemalan activist Alex Chisholm-Guibault has presented on his story of resilience and determination in many schools. On Saturday afternoon approximately 25 teachers gathered at NBCC St. Andrews to participate in a “Blanket Exercise,” led by Kate Akagi, a retired teacher from the area.

**ENDS #2: To demonstrate continuous improvement toward meeting provincial targets in literacy, numeracy, science (English and French Immersion) and to improve learning in and application of the arts, trades and technology.**

At K-2 level we have had 75 requests for coach support from 44 schools as part of the PDU (Priority Development Unit). Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) request this support, instead of individual teachers, which is a change from last year. This aligns with our strategy of strengthening our PLCs. Seven schools have been selected to receive additional support on their PLC journey – schools not involved in other pilots and initiatives have been selected and they will be coming together in January. The schools will be paired with a team of two Curriculum Subject Coordinators who will provide weekly support.

January dates are being set for Program Information Nights for parents of students in kindergarten and grade 5 – parents will receive information on the English Prime Program and French Immersion.

ASD-S has over 50 staff participating in FSL coursework through three different learning opportunities after school hours – an on-line course offered through U de M, an evening course at Rothesay High with 31 participants and an opportunity for one to one tutoring sessions with a retired FI teacher. All three opportunities are offered at the intermediate and advanced levels.

We receive funds for curriculum PD for FSL teachers and in the last month sessions have been offered for Grade 4 teachers of Pre-Intensive French and Grade 11 FI Language Arts teachers who are implementing a new curriculum. After school guided reading PD has been offered in Saint John Education Centre and Hampton Centre as well.

**ENDS #3: To increase the engagement of children & youth by embedding competencies such as, critical thinking, citizenship, entrepreneurship, innovation, personalized learning and leadership in teaching and learning.**

At K-2 teachers are being encouraged to implement purposeful play into their morning start-up and as part of the literacy block. This provides students with an opportunity to build oral language and it puts the children in a situation where they are expected to collaborate, communicate, problem solve and think critically. It also allows teachers to assess oral language and embed cross curricular outcomes (science, math, social studies) into their literacy instruction.

Schools may invite our Coordinators to facilitate Global Competency Workshops – Part A is an introduction and Part B focuses on embedding the competencies into curriculum and teaching. To date, 18 schools have received either A and/or B. This offer will continue. At the District level Subject Coordinators have set up these opportunities for Lead Teachers/Coaches.

We have four UNESCO schools named in the District and three other schools are in the process of making application. Global citizenship and sustainability are the key themes under the 4 pillars of UNESCO (learning to know, learning to do, learning to be and learning to live together).

**ENDS #4: To provide opportunities for staff to learn about mental health issues in children and youth and to promote school and District wide initiatives that promote mental fitness.**

Friday, December 7 is RING THE BELLS for mental health and Macdonald Consolidated has been selected as the provincial site for this special day.

A high school Mental Health Forum was held in November with a teacher and students from each high school. The SWAT team (Students Working Against Tobacco) from Fundy Middle & High presented as well as members of the Child & Youth teams. Students had the opportunity to meet in small groups.

**ENDS #5: To expect all members of the school community to be welcomed, respected, accepted and supported and to address heterosexism and discrimination.**

On December 12 middle school teachers who work with GSA groups will come together in Saint John, this is an opportunity to share resources, and to discuss successes and challenges.

**ENDS #6: To coordinate and maximize access to resources to support children, youth & families.**

The combined PSSCs from the four Saint John Education Centre high schools will have a presentation – “It Takes a Village to Raise a Teen: Consent and Risky Behaviors – an Information Presentation for Parents of Youth in the Era of Social Media and Electronic Devices,” with Crown Prosecutor Shara Munn, Constable Duane Squires and Todd Farrell, Nurse Practitioner with Horizon Sexual Health Program. The schools in the St. Stephen and surrounding areas (Milltown and Lawrence Station) hosted a parent session on “Resiliency” last week –about 40 attended. We are encouraging schools to work together in organizing and advertising information sessions for parents and families.

Our Director of Communications with input from the management team is developing two on-line surveys; one for parents/families and the second for our ASD-S staff around the topic of communication. On the parent survey we want to know how often the school and ASD-S websites are used, what aspects of the sites are the most useful, how parents get information about their child’s school, what types of additional information would be helpful, and how do they prefer to receive it. We will also include a

question about how we can better provide information on current education topics. The plan is to launch each of these surveys in January 2019.

ASD-S will host the Communication Directors from the other Anglophone Districts next week to share ideas and to explore further the use of social media practices. Our Director has been learning more about social media and how we can better utilize it to share our positive stories and initiatives from schools.

**ENDS #7 To promote the value of education through effective partnerships and positive pro-active communication.**

Each year at this time PALS (Partners Assisting Local Schools) invites Principals, Community School Coordinators, and representatives from ASD-S to a Christmas Dinner hosted by Mr. Irving. Many of the JDI companies who participate in PALS are in attendance, it is an opportunity for us to say thank you to Mr. Irving for all of his support. Principal Brad Stevens from St. Malachy's Memorial High School will be making some remarks on behalf of our PALS schools.

Sussex Corner, Sussex Elementary, Beaconsfield and Millidgeville North School have recently joined the PALS initiative.

The Community School Coordinators met in November and had presentations on school gardens, grant writing and "NaviCare", a program intended to support youth under age 25 with complex care needs. It is a free service.

A small committee has been formed to look at employee recognition in ASD-S and what this could be for us. We have discussed the large type of event celebration but would like to have something on an on-going basis and include all employee groups.

**Other:**

This week we had the unexpected death of John Paul Saunders, a 33-year employee of ASD-S. JP worked at Harry Miller Middle and most recently was part of the grounds crew in Saint John.

Principals met by Education Centre in November – topics on the agenda included Professional Learning Communities, a refresher on Violent Threat Risk Assessment, and training on Office 365.

Two high schools had Drama productions, St. Stephen High School with "Shrek Jr." and this week Hampton High School with "A Christmas Carol." These productions are major and my goal is to attend and show support for the schools.

Schools have been very busy with holiday preparations – raising monies for Harbour Lights and other local food banks, participating in the Empty Stocking Fund, and concerts up and coming. A thank you to our music specialists as this is a busy time for them. On Monday I will emcee the annual Christmas Strings Concert at Saint John High School and on Wednesday evening, December 12 the SISTEMA Christmas Concert will be held at Saint John High School. Many schools are having weekend Holiday/Christmas Markets as fundraisers – I attended one at Sussex Elementary, Sir James Dunn Academy and plan to attend Saint John High School this weekend. Many others have been held including Hampton Elementary, M. Gerald Teed and St. Malachy's.

ASD-S welcomed design submissions for our holiday card from elementary students. Many were received and the Saint John staff voted on their favourite design. The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (Norm Bosse) selected the runner up card for his use. Presentations will be made to both winners.

Chess Tournaments have been held in each Education Centre – thank you to Darren White and all of the volunteers who make this after hours activity happen for our students.

Three schools are piloting the extended K-2 day as part of a provincial initiative – Glen Falls, St. John the Baptist/ King Edward and St. George Elementary. The schools had the opportunity to come together this week in Fredericton, to share their journey to date. Greg Patterson who was a Subject Coordinator with us has been seconded to lead the research component of this initiative.

Provincial Perception Surveys are being completed by all students grades 4-12 and all teachers. This is an annual initiative of the Department and data is very useful to inform School and District Improvement planning.

Each of our offices will have a staff fundraiser to support The United Way. This week a noon hour “Chili Bake Off” was held in Saint John along with a silent auction, weekly tickets on items is the St. Stephen Education Centre fundraiser.