

Superintendent's Report March 2019

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

An internal review has been done of all school based EMO plans against an established list of what should be included in the plan. Feedback has been given to schools with information missing and where updates need to be made. The management team is currently working to develop a new consistent template for all EMO plans; this was mentioned by the local RCMP and municipal police when we met in January 2019 as a good practice. We will transition toward this for next school year.

School Education Support Services teams will complete their second "Team Capacity Chart" in March. This allows the schools and District to monitor the capacity of each of the school ESS teams and plan accordingly for PD.

On March 19 and 21 there will be professional learning for guidance counsellors – topics will include LGBTQ+, competencies for school counsellors and a new provincial program called "My Blueprint" for career planning.

March is nutrition month with the theme, "Unlock the Potential of Food." The Public Health Dieticians and Healthy Learners Nurses have provided schools with resources to support the theme that food is more than just nourishment for the body but has the potential to enhance our lives, improve health, fuel activities and bring people together. Canada's new Food Guide is among the resources, as well as sample announcements and tweets that can be used and a nutrition month activity ideas list. Jessica Hanlon has set the nurses up with a twitter account so they can share information with families. It can then be retweeted through the ASD-S account.

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.

I have had two opportunities to attend the meeting of the Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative (BCAPI) in Saint John to bring updates on the K-2 initiative in the seven inner city schools with additional teachers funded jointly by Living SJ, EECD, ASD-S and BICAPI. Researcher Dr. Cindy Hatt has been in attendance at these meetings as well as two Principals - Ashely Dobbin (Centennial) and Jennifer Carhart (Princess Elizabeth) in February, and Director Gary Hall also in February. Early reports would indicate the close to one thousand students participating in this program are showing gains in alphabet recognition and in oral language. The 20 additional teachers have been allocated to divide K-2 classes to reduce class size, or to create a team teaching situation where a larger class is taught by two teachers which allows for team teaching. In some cases a teacher has been added to perform direct student interventions. A lengthy report was completed for Living SJ as part of their funding requirements – it included many anecdotal comments from teachers involved in this project. Schools feel very fortunate to be participating in this three year project.

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.

Two days in April will see teachers and students coming together for “Innovation Day,” April 4 for middle level and April 9 for high schools. On these days teachers and students share, collaborate and learn from others who have shown creativity and risk taking in delivering curriculum. The focus is on teaching and learning global competencies (critical thinking and problem solving, innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship, learning to learn, collaboration, communication, global citizenship and sustainability), and projects can be from humanities, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math), skilled trades, entrepreneurship, English, French etc. This will be held in the Saint John office and DEC members are welcome to attend.

The final dollars for the Innovation Fund have been allocated – total \$50K from ASD-S self-sustaining funds. The list of projects approved as of January 2019 were shared with the ENDS #3 monitoring report, and the most recent list can be shared as well.

ASD-S was invited to ASD-North to share information on the IDEA Centre run from Connexion Works in Saint John and this semester with 21 face to face students from Saint John Education Centre high schools and Rothesay High School. Our teacher from the IDEA Centre (Ries Vanbeek) has also met with the Director of Curriculum in ASD-East and some community partners to explore beginning such a centre in the District. Meetings have also been held in St. Stephen and in Sussex with the goal of expanding the program within our District as well. The position Ries holds has been partially funded by EECDC as they want to see initiatives such as this expand to other communities.

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.

Mental Health First Aid will be offered as an evening course in April for staff of ASD-S. It is a two-day program, and we break it into three evening sessions. One will be offered in each Education Centre, and a group of EAs will be trained on March 22 and April 5 PD days.

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

Several positive media articles this past month – the four below (radio, CBC, Telegraph Journal and CTV) were the result of the food challenge with elementary schools in the KV where over 12 000 items of food were collected

- <https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1622295> ;
- <https://www.telegraphjournal.com/telegraph-journal/story/100860516/charity-food-bank-challenge-saint-john-?source=story-search>
- <https://www.thewave.ca/2019/02/27/local-schools-donate-over-12000-items-to-food-banks/>
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/kv-food-drive-students-1.5035787>

Other positive stories included Belleisle Regional collecting 170 pairs of socks in two weeks as part of the 20K Sock Day to donate to shelters across Canada – an article in the Telegraph Journal. An article featuring Fundy Middle and High School and their new Learning Commons was also carried last week in the Telegraph Journal. CBC covered Millidgeville North and their February initiative “Warm Hands, Feet and Hearts,” to collect 5K scholarships from the Horatio Alger Association of Canada – Zachary Boulanger and

Maddy LeBlanc from St. Malachys, and Julia MacPherson from Kennebecasis Valley High. The links for these articles are below:

- <https://www.telegraphjournal.com/telegraph-journal/story/100857568/sock-drive?source=story-search> (BRHS sock drive)
- <https://www.telegraphjournal.com/telegraph-journal/story/100863977/?nopromo=1> (Learning Commons)
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/millidgeville-north-students-donate-hats-gloves-sock-1.5018299> (MNS mitten drive)
- <https://www.telegraphjournal.com/telegraph-journal/story/100856487/horatio-alger-scholarship-high-school-kids?source=story-search> (Scholarship)

Other:

A working committee is in place to plan our annual winter/spring PD for District staff from the three Centres – topics this year will include indigenous peoples, communication zero waste and updates from our management team. This is a student-free day in schools as it is Parent Teacher.

March 22 is a Professional Development day and half of this day province-wide is for training on the new “ESS Connect Program,” the platform which will be implemented K-12 for Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs). At K-8 the other half of March 22 is for report card preparation as per the Teachers’ Collective Agreement.

Two schools this year are participating in the pilot of a new process for School Improvement Planning – Barnhill Middle School and Macdonald Consolidated School. The Department hopes to have approximately one third of all schools participating in the new process for the 2019-2020 school year. We shared information with our Principals at our February meeting and hope to have interest.

A group of about 65-70 children, staff, parents and family members from Hazen White St. Francis School participated in a late February tour of Millidgeville North School. Transportation was offered and our bus was full; thank you to the administration, staff and PSSC of Millidgeville North, and our interpreter for conducting tours and meeting families. If any families were not available there can be another opportunity provided.

Marc Godin, our ASD-S Alignment Champion attended a 5-day APMG-International "Change Management Practitioner" certification course offered by the "Algonquin College" in Ottawa at the end of February. This comprehensive training offered the opportunity to acquire skills, knowledge and attitudes to support any organization with the complexity of managing change. Marc is already a lean 6-sigma practitioner and this training will be an asset in order to assist with supporting different elements of the ASD-S improvement plan and the EECD 10-year plan. This training was supported by EECD.

On Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday of next week the Directors and I will attend the regular provincial Education Group meetings in Miramichi, and on Thursday Superintendents will meet with Department staff at EECD.