

**Superintendent's Report
October 10, 2018**

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

Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) continues to be a focus in our District Improvement Plan and six additional schools will be participating this year – Centennial, Morna Heights and Westfield in Saint John Education Centre, Hampton Elementary in the Hampton Education Centre and St. George and Milltown in the St. Stephen Education Centre. Three schools will be participating in our on-going training in restorative practices – Bayside Middle, Sir James Dunn and Quispamsis Middle Schools. The Respect and Diversity Lead Teachers and Coordinator Jennifer Grant take a lead role on these initiatives.

One of our areas of focus in Education Support Services is enhancing the capacity of school based teams – the school teams will be completing a “capacity inventory” to collect base line data. This inventory will allow the school to look at the training of those within and identify where there are gaps.

Three schools are working with our Process Improvement Alignment Champion Marc Godin to streamline the process for effective Education Services Support team meetings (ESS team). Harry Miller Middle, Glen Falls Elementary and St. Malachy's Memorial High school are involved and have been since late last year. We feel it is important to work with three schools with a special interest in this area to refine our processes.

The new COMPASS Education Support Program has been running for one month and the staff met with Director Peter Smith to determine how things are going. I attended a turkey dinner, provided for students by the staff this week – many students commented on the positive work done to the building over the summer.

Level One Violent Threat Risk Assessment Training (VTRA) was offered by Peter Smith and Coordinator Helen Johnson – participants included police, IT staff, guidance, administrators and members of the ISD Child and Youth Teams. At times threats received are linked to social media, so it is now important to have a few of our Centre-based IT technicians trained. On October 15-16 ASD-S will be hosting provincial training facilitated by Kevin Cameron of the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response. On October 17 technicians from around the province will meet in Saint John for the “Safer Schools Together” training which is focused on social media.

At the late September Principals' meeting the Healthy Learners Nurses and a Department of Health Dietician facilitated a two hour workshop on Policy 711 Healthy Food Environment. There were opportunities to share best practices and Principals also identified the challenges in providing healthy foods – e.g. emergency food cupboards and finding foods to fit the policy, breakfast and lunch programs for those who have no food and products are donated, students not eating the “full meal” option and schools seeing waste, prizes/special occasions, and potential loss of revenues in fundraising. This is a time of transition; everyone supports healthy eating and recognize that change will take time.

Principals had a presentation on “concussion management,” offered by Cathy Simon of Lifemark and Healthy Learners Nurse Ann Hogan. Schools are seeing more students with concussions, hence the need for education of teachers on accommodations that may have to be made in the classroom for students. We have had follow-up meetings about standardizing the forms used in ASD-S and the process that will be followed. It should be noted that children in our early childhood centres and primary grades can have concussions from bumping heads or falling from playground equipment.

We have filled 15 seats for the November 2, 2018 provincial Cannabis Workshop in Fredericton. Linda Sherbo will represent the DEC.

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.

Two supper PD sessions were held for high school teachers focused on student assessment (assessment practices and recording progress) – teachers were visited virtually by Myron Dueck, a teacher/administrator in this field. Six schools sent eight people each to Saint John and the other schools have opted to re-create the event in their own school. Student assessment is part of our District Plan.

A session for new teachers was offered at suppertime this week and Christine Dumont facilitated a session on the K-8 report card and assessment. Christine will be working with our new teachers as we lead up to the preparation of the report cards in November.

Professional Learning sessions have taken place for new FI teachers and two days for middle school post-intensive French. We have many new teachers in FSL and the Coordinators Jackie Turnbull and Martha Garey and the lead/coach teachers have been very focused on providing support by way of in-class and PD sessions.

There are nine middle schools, approximately 600 grade 6 students who are enrolled in the Dreambox Math intervention program this year. The Department recognizes two intervention resources – Dreambox and Leaps and Bounds. Middle level Math Leads/Coaches are embedded in schools providing support to new teachers and responding to requests for professional learning.

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.

We have four schools that have applied and been named UNESCO Schools (United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization) – Hampton High, Saint John High School, St. Stephen Middle and St. Malachy’s High.

Work is almost complete on the ASD-S Innovation and Learning Grant application process. This was discussed with Principals at their September meeting – teachers will be able to apply for grants of up to \$1,000 to support an innovative project which is connected to advancing the NB Global Competencies. We are also learning about grants available through iHub Learning Inc. Schools can apply for grants to support experiential projects and entrepreneurial ventures at middle school. I will be joining the board of iHub and we have invited a representative to attend our management meeting to learn more about this new initiative.

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.

ASD-S has two Guidance lead teachers and they have been assigned to new guidance counsellors and to provide support to guidance teachers (those who do not have the credentials to be counsellors).

I had the opportunity to join Brad Stevens from St. Malachy's and Christine Roy from St. John the Baptist King Edward School and members from our Child and Youth Teams at a morning meeting with representatives from BC looking to implement the Integrated Services Delivery model. There was a focus in these discussions on mental health issues with students and their families, and how we work collaboratively together with the resources and knowledge we have to help those in need.

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

On November 3 the provincial Pride in Education Conference will be held in Fredericton and ASD-S is typically very well represented. I was able to attend the Saturday afternoon of the conference last year, and will hope to do the same this year as it is the same weekend as the DEC Symposium.

ENDS #6 and #7 - To coordinate and maximize access to resources to support children, youth & families. To promote the value of education through effective partnerships and positive pro-active communication.

Our Director of Communications, Jessica Hanlon has been attending many meetings and talking to staff in an effort to learn all she can about ASD-S. She has been leading on updates to our website and making better use of our twitter account. Jessica has been exploring the idea of a survey, both internal and external to determine how people wish to receive our information, and to learn how well the tools we have now are being used.

Other

The Department will be hosting the annual provincial Principals' meetings on October 25 & 26 in Fredericton. Many of the Directors, Subject Coordinators and I will attend.

Subject Coordinator Dr. Greg Patterson has been seconded by the UNB – Fredericton Institute for Research, Data and Training to work as a Qualitative Analysis Lead for the pilot of the K-2 extended day. We have three schools involved in this provincial pilot – St. George Elementary, Glen Falls and St. John the Baptist King Edward. The K-5 students in these schools are all dismissing at the same time.

Allan Davis has been named Director of Schools in the Hampton Education Centre – Mr. Davis is well known in ASD-S having been a VP at St. Malachy's and Kennebecasis Valley High School and Principal at Rothesay Park Middle, and at Hampton High for the last six years.

Subject Coordinator Jennifer Keilty was invited to Toronto for a week in September to work on item development for the national PCAP (Pan Canadian Assessment Program) assessment that will be administered to all grade 8 students in the spring of 2019. Mathematics is the main focus for this assessment, and we were pleased Jennifer was invited to be one of seven educators selected to participate.