

Superintendent's Report  
December 4, 2019

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

We are very focused on building the capacity of our Education Support Services school teams – resource teachers and guidance. On November 19 and November 20 high school resource teachers met for a day of professional learning focused on managing student behaviors. This was offered earlier in the year for both middle and high school teachers in St. Stephen Centre. Guidance counsellors met on November 14 with Dr. Jeff Landine, a licensed psychologist and UNB professor, and his topic was ethics. Dr. Landine is a former member of the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association the national professional association for counsellors.

On November 22, during K-8 Parent Teacher Conference day and high school PD, there was professional learning taking place in nine sites across ASD-S for our 800 EAs, the Student Attendants, and the 36 School Intervention Workers. This was a huge amount of coordination and organization and full marks to Peter Smith, his Coordinators and Coach teachers. This is part of a 3-day initiative for the year, with another day in April, and one in May 2020. There was a session to review the role of the EA, other topics included ABA (Applied Behaviour Analysis) data collection, trauma informed practices, and strategies for de-escalating students. The 35 SIWs were with Coordinator Jennifer Grant and lead teachers from ESS. This was a very successful day and appreciated by the staff present! The focus is on building skills and capacity. Mr. Smith will be following up with all Principals so they are aware of the topics and content covered during the PD sessions.

**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.**

The “Request for Support” model for Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to receive support from a coach/lead teacher is going well. Mr. Hall will detail this change in service delivery model when he gives his January report to DEC. The coaches from all disciplines came together in November to share their successes and challenges.

In literacy, Professional Learning was offered to the Library Support Workers in November and explored ways to make libraries/learning commons more engaging for students and to promote the love of reading. The 60 teachers of K-2 involved in the Saint John project with additional classroom teachers met by grade level to review oral language development, the teaching of phonics and phonological awareness. Two levels are meeting this month and one in January as weather meant an adjustment of dates. The professional learning of the teachers from these 7 schools is very important.

Registration has opened for French Proficiency Courses which will be offered during a week night, as well as a weekend, and an on-line opportunity. Priority will be given to teachers currently teaching FI, Intensive French and Post Intensive French. PD for newly hired Intensive and Post Intensive French teachers is taking place at this time.

Retired Coordinator Johanne Austin attended a teacher job fair in France and Belgium and offered “conditional contracts” for next year to 18 teachers. This recruitment tour was supported financially by the Department. We know we will have great needs next school year for French teachers.

The second Middle School Math League competition was held on November 27 at UNBSJ with 9 middle schools participating. Team #1 from Millidgeville North won the event and the #1 team from Bayside Middle was the runner up. Weather caused the rescheduling of the High School Math League evening. This is a very exciting event!

**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.**

Grants totaling \$50K were awarded to all who applied, some were awarded by accessing support from other Coordinators and outside partnering agencies. Feedback was given on grant applications to make them stronger. The initiatives will be monitored by the two coach teachers through the year.

Six school PLCs (Fundy Middle and High, Harbour View (2), Kennebecasis Valley High, Fairvale Elementary and Hampton High) were awarded Collaborative Inquiry Grants through the Department. The grant offers support for school-based teams of educators to develop and lead collaborative inquiry projects. This initiative is based on the belief that by harnessing the power of the collective we are building teacher efficacy and bringing out the full potential of students and teachers.

On-going PD opportunities on global competencies have taken place in November. A toolkit has been created for coaches to use in delivering the professional learning sessions. Other innovative initiatives include break-out room kits and training, working on a communal learning library, social emotional learning kits, living library, field trip catalogue, EAL discovery boxes, and supporting teachers in applying for grants.

Mi'kmaw Elders have been working in our schools – Sussex Elementary, Belleisle Elementary, Hazen White/St. Frances, Bayside, and Macdonald Consolidated. There was a First Nations drum-making workshop at COMPASS and at Loch Lomond Elementary. A First Nations Blanket Exercise took place at Forest Hill School during a November non-student day.

**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.**

The high school mental health youth forum will be held on December 5. This event was postponed from November due to weather concerns. We are expecting 15 adults and 45 students.

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

The middle school GSA workshop was held on November 5 and well attended with 21 adults and 70 students.

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

ASD-S has had some very positive media in November – a student and teacher Ries Van Beek from the IDEA Centre were featured on CBC Information Morning, and Peter Smith was interviewed on Information Morning last week about mental health initiatives in the District. The Telegraph Journal also covered the Middle School Math League event. Jessica Hanlon is again collecting initiatives schools are involved in over the festive season. This was very successful last year as a positive story.

**Other:**

We have had several sad events in the District since the November report - the sudden and unexpected death of a 40-year bus driver in St. Stephen Sheldon Cleghorn Sr., two of Mr. Cleghorn's children are drivers as well. Support was provided to Seaside Park after the unexpected death of Principal Michelle Deschenes' husband; Hampton High School custodian Stephen Ritchie died and most recently one of our Saint John facilities staff, John Jacquard, who did deliveries for us. Between ESS staff, Directors, Managers, Child and Youth team members we were able to provide the necessary support to our staff and schools during these difficult times.

Congratulations to Harry Miller Middle School student Kaylyn Allison on having her design selected for the winning holiday card design for 2019! Thanks to all middle schools who participated and to Fine Arts Coach Andrea Lewis for coordinating this annual event. I visited Harry Miller earlier today and presented Kaylyn with her framed design and copies of the card for her own use.

Several schools and our three offices are raising funds for the annual United Way fundraising campaign. The Saint John office had the second annual chili bake off and silent auction, Hampton office staff will join forces with Hampton Elementary in a silent auction, and the St. Stephen office staff sell tickets on gift baskets. The United Way supports many school initiatives across all Education Centres.

At the November Principals meetings (by Education Centre) we discussed the winter season and the fact that there will be multiple closure days. Schools have been asked to select their special events and activities being mindful of the school days we will most likely miss over the next four months. We also are asking schools/teachers to provide students/families with age appropriate meaningful work that could be done to continue learning during a closure day – this could be at primary the review of sight words, sharing a book at K-5, reviewing math facts, at middle school working on projects for science or heritage fairs, math games and puzzles, many high school teachers have websites with notes and assignments. We also discussed being a good citizen by helping a neighbor clear their walkway or driveway. Schools are posting ideas for families on their twitter accounts and on school websites. We appreciate that each family situation is different on a closure day, but feel it is important to be intentional about offering ideas for meaningful things that can be done so learning continues.

Since the last report I attended a meeting of Superintendents with the UNB Dean of Education, represented Superintendents on a provincial Audit Committee at EECD, a one-day provincial training on the PDQ classification appeal process, an evening meeting of the NB Children's Foundation, and a Living SJ Leadership Team meeting.