

**Superintendent's Report**  
**February 5, 2020**

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

On January 27, elementary and middle school physical education teachers received First Aid/CPR/AED training. Our goal is to have the physical education teachers certified in First Aid.

ASD-S continues to keep in close contact with Regional Medical Officer of Health Dr. Kim Barker about the Novel Coronavirus – a letter from the Chief Medical Officer of Health was sent from the District Office to all ASD-S families and staff last week. We have asked teachers to review with students the importance of thorough handwashing and good etiquette for sneezing/coughing. In SJEC, the "It Takes A Village" PSSC group was in touch with Dr. Barker and we have partnered to offer an Information and Q and A session with Dr. Barker on Thursday evening at SJHS (February 6, 2020).

**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 "assessment proposal project" reported on last month is well underway with 70 teachers in six high schools. Coordinators have met with each of the teams to review their criteria and explain the accountability part of the project.

In February the Program Information evenings are scheduled for all parents/families of students currently in grades 1 and 5 – there are two sessions in SJEC and SSEC and three in HEC facilitated by the Directors of Schools and the FSL Subject Coordinators. Registration forms are sent home with all K and grade 5 students so parents can indicate if they wish the English Prime Program or French Immersion. We would like to have these back before the March Break. The Coordinators and HR staff have been attending Job Fairs as we look to next school year and the need for FSL teachers.

Teacher language courses have started this term there are 25 participating in the evenings, 10 on Saturday mornings and 25 on-line. Schools can make applications for EECD monies under "Bilingual Learning Environment Programs," and funding has been given for bilingual concerts, library books, games and cultural fairs. Coach teachers are also offering after school FSL Focus Hours for elementary and middle school teachers – these will begin in the Sussex area. The "Good for Kids" program ends next week – this program gives additional supports to FI students at the elementary level. A supply teacher is hired and both teachers work with students needing help.

"Smarter Science" PD is being offered to schools on request – this is done after school or coach teachers are modelling in classrooms.

Six sessions of PD will be offered for teachers on the use of Office 365 through February and March.

**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.**

The IDEA Centre at Connexion Works is up and running for this semester with 6 students in the morning and 15 in the afternoon, as well as several students participating on-line. Minister Cardy dropped by the Centre to talk with students and teachers Ries VanBeek and Stacey Wood.

January 27 was a PD session on Global Competencies for all K-8 teachers; this was facilitated across the schools for the morning using “ZOOM.” Thank you to Gary Hall and his staff for taking this on – there was an opportunity for participants to give feedback on this method of delivering PD and over 300 responded. We learned that some schools had issues with the sound quality, and as a result did not find it as valuable as others. Teachers were mixed in their feedback, some like the on-line PD and others prefer face to face.

A segment of the January Principal/VP meetings was devoted to Personalized Learning, and several K-8 schools were invited to share their journey – Vincent Massey, Hazen White, St. Martins, Bayside and Barnhill. Bayside and Barnhill are piloting The Learning Partnership “I Cubed” initiative. The teacher coaches are actively supporting schools in completing grants for iHub, Brilliant Labs, Participaction, Arts Smarts, Artist in Residency etc. Teachers are also enjoying programs such as Little Green Thumbs, Tools for Schools, Entrepreneurial Adventures, LEGO Robotics and Power Play. These opportunities are growing for schools and we have great support from Coordinator Melissa Savoie and her two coach teachers!

Melissa and her team are following up with the schools that received Innovation Grants later in the fall from ASD-S.

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

Four ASD-S principals were invited to participate in an on-line meeting with the Department to review the latest draft of the provincial LGBTQ Policy.

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

At the January High School Administrators’ meeting there was a sharing of information about each school’s course registration process which takes place beginning in March. Schools brought examples of their handbooks or shared what they have on line for families and students. A survey was done in December to determine practices used at each of the 14 ASD-S schools with high school grades. From the survey and the discussions at the meeting, we have been able to identify a minimum standard of what each school will have as part of the process. Some may decide to do more. There are new course opportunities for students with the IDEA Centre (available face-to face for 6 high schools and on-line for all), individual students can be part of Mentoring Virtual Co-Op, a few schools are offering the Essential Skills Program and both Fundy and Belleisle have a Personalized Virtual Learning Centre. The province also continues to offer a menu of on-line courses for those students who are independent and motivated learners. We want to encourage parents to be part of the course selection process.

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

ASD-S had many positive stories picked up by media over the last month and several have been captured on an attachment in your meeting materials. We remain active on twitter and face book as well as our website. Jessica Hanlon continues to work with EECD as we want to move forward with an over haul of our website.

The K-2 "Closing the Achievement Gap" initiative in the seven inner city schools has been progressing. Plans are in place for the 60 teachers to meet in February by grade level as a follow-up to their December PD focused on phonics, oral language and phonemic awareness. We had the opportunity to present details to Deputy Minister George Daley, and I joined BCAP for a meeting they had with Minister Dorothy Shepherd and a more recent meeting with Minister Cardy. Thank you to Principals Megan Donovan for joining us in the meeting with the Deputy and to Christine Roy for participating in the meeting with Minister Cardy. It is good to keep the Ministers and Department staff updated.

Congratulations to Belleisle Regional High School teacher Kim Giddens on being recognized at the Premier's State of the Province address in Fredericton. Kim is a physical education teacher at her school and is active both at school and in her community.

**Other:**

I have attended several events and activities both in ASD-S and provincially over the last month including a 2-day provincial Education Group meeting in Fredericton, a 1-day meeting in Miramichi of the NB Association of School Business Officials, represented the NB School Superintendents Association at a 2-day meeting of the Canadian Association of School System Administrators in Toronto and attended the AEI January Board Meeting. Local events include the Centennial Multicultural evening, the official opening of the refurbished St. Stephen Middle School Theatre and the Dairy Town Classic basketball Tournament in Sussex.