

COVID-19

COVID case confirmed at Hampton school



A positive COVID case has been reported at Dr. A. T. Leatherbarrow Primary School in Hampton, according to the Anglophone South School District.
Photo: ADSS

Published 2 hours ago



Sean Mott | Telegraph-Journal

A Hampton elementary school has now joined the list of Saint John-area schools with COVID cases. According to Jessica Hanlon, director of communications for Anglophone South School District, families of Dr. A. T. Leatherbarrow Primary School in Hampton were informed of a positive COVID case over the weekend. On Sunday, Public Health announced a positive case at Kennebecasis Valley High School in Quispamsis.

"School and district staff are working closely with regional Public Health authorities and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on this matter," Hanlon said in an email.

ASDS schools are closed Monday due to a planned New Brunswick Teachers' Association meeting. The Telegraph-Journal has reached out to Public Health for further comment on the cases and is awaiting a response.

Positive case at Hampton school

Students, staff and their families at a kindergarten to Grade 2 school in Hampton have been asked to self-isolate because of a confirmed case of COVID-19.

In a letter to parents Sunday, Public Health said an investigation is going on at Dr. A. T. Leatherbarrow Primary School. Families have been asked to self-isolate until midnight.

"All students and staff and everyone who lives under the same household are required to self-isolate. This means that your child is not able to attend daycare and you are not able to attend work. You are also not to receive any visitors at your home."



Dr. A.T. LeatherBarrow Primary School is closed Monday because of a case of COVID-19. (Twitter)

Public Health said it will contact anyone who is at risk.

A positive case of COVID-19 was also confirmed at Kennebecasis Valley High School in Quispamsis on Saturday.

No school was planned Monday.

Students will return to school on Tuesday, May 11, unless they have been contacted directly by Public Health.

COVID Case Confirmed At Hampton School

Saint John, NB, Canada / The Wave

Brad Perry

May 10, 2021 10:59 AM

A positive case of COVID-19 has been confirmed at another school in the Anglophone South School District.

Officials say a case was confirmed at Dr. A.T. Leatherbarrow Primary School in Hampton over the weekend.

Jessica Hanlon, a spokesperson for the district, confirmed that letters were sent home to families on the weekend.

"School and district staff are working closely with Regional Public Health authorities and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on this matter," Hanlon wrote in an email.

Hanlon directed all other questions to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and Public Health. Our newsroom has reached out to the department for comment.

Kennebecasis Valley High School in Quispamsis [also confirmed a positive case](#) of COVID-19 over the weekend. Students are expected to return to class Tuesday unless they have been contacted directly by Public Health.

Meanwhile, the province has scheduled a COVID-19 briefing for 2:30 p.m. Monday.

Dr. Jennifer Russell, the province's chief medical officer of health, and Education Minister Dominic Cardy are expected to take part.



Jernej Furman / CC

EDUCATION

'Students who would typically quit ... are now staying in school'



Ethan Yerxa said without the Essential Skills Achievement Pathway program, he would be far away from graduating from Sussex Regional High School this June.
Photo: Submitted

Published an hour ago



Justin Samanski-Langille | Kings County Record

Three years ago, Ethan Yerxa was a Grade 9 student struggling to stay organized enough to get through his classes and assignments.

However, after spending Grades 10 through 12 in an alternative learning program called the Essential Skills Achievement Pathway, the 17-year-old is set to graduate next month and move on to a career in metal fabrication.

Work is also underway across the province to ensure more students are able to follow in his footsteps.

"Honestly, [without the program] I would have had a bit of a struggle graduating on time," said Yerxa. "If I was to try and go through high school, handing in my assignments day by day, I know I would have ended up ... finally failing out."

Yerxa is one of the first batch of students at Sussex Regional High School who will soon complete the program, which sees students take control of their learning, and adapt it to their schedule without having to worry about getting certain grades on assignments or exams.

Instead, students work with their teachers to select a series of problem-based, hands-on activities to complete hundreds of learning outcomes demonstrating proficiency in 11 essential skills such as reading, writing, numeracy, oral communication, and critical thinking.

"They do attend some classes at school to help them complete some of the outcomes, but they can do them at home or if they have a part-time job, that can be used to complete some of the outcomes," said Heather Kyle, who teaches the program at SRHS.

For Yerxa, with his desire to move into the trades after school, most of those activities involved spending time in the school's workshop, and on three different work placements. And since each outcome is pass or fail, he did not have to stress about whether he got a C or an A on an assignment.

"I like working with my hands a lot," said Yerxa. "I knew the program would help me get through high school without as much stress as I would have had going through school any other way."

According to the province's Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, the program was first developed by the francophone school system in the province back in 2008. The anglophone school system adapted the program to its needs in 2016, and there are now 31 anglophone high schools across the province offering it.

Department spokesperson Flavio Nienow wrote in an email the province has allocated additional teacher positions to 12 schools in rural New Brunswick to expand access to the program.

In an email, Anglophone South School District superintendent Zoë Watson said half of the district's 14 high schools currently offer the program, and it has proven successful so far.

"Providing options where students can pursue their interests and learn through the ways that works best for them is important for helping students gain confidence and stay engaged," said Watson. "Engagement in learning is increased when students see its purpose and have a clear plan to achieve their goals as they relate to their future after graduation."

Watson said two more schools in the district are set to offer the program starting next school year, and the district is working with the province to bring the resources and training required to bring the program to even more schools in the coming years.

For both Kyle and Yerxa, their experience with the program so far at SRHS makes it easy for them to support its expansion.

"Not everyone is a student who can sit in a classroom and benefit from the way we have traditionally given an education," said Kyle. "Students who would typically quit before they get to graduation are now staying in school ... when they get into the program, they want to be there."

EDUCATION

Report shows Saint John schools aging, enrolment dropping

Marlo Glass | Telegraph-Journal

A recent facilities report from the Anglophone South School District showed school enrolment in the Saint John region dropped by 16 per cent between 2005 and 2020, and the average school's functional capacity is around 61 per cent.

Functional capacity is defined by every space in the school that is intended to be a classroom, multiplied by the number of students allowed in a grade level, district education council chair Rob Fowler explained in an interview.

At Wednesday night's district education council meeting, council member John MacDonald stipulated the numbers were based on pre-COVID-19 classroom capacities.

"In a lot of schools, you might see classrooms turned into music rooms, meeting rooms, or resource rooms for teachers to use," he said. "So you might think the schools were 100 per cent full, but the rooms are being used for other purposes like storage, or band."

The report also showed that the average age of the 29 schools in and around Saint John is 61 years.

In St. Stephen's 15 schools, school capacity was just under 50 per cent, and enrolment had declined by 30 per cent since 2005.

The 25 schools in the Hampton area have seen enrolment decrease by 20 per cent over the same time period, with average capacity around 62 per cent.

Fowler said the dropping enrolment rates are a problem when coupled with the age of the buildings.

"There's a lot of repairs and maintenance money being spent on old buildings that are half-used," he said.

The council has been looking at the "sustainability" of schools close to each other, and potentially combining them into one school.

It would save on operating costs, such as heating and snow removal, he said, but it would also help students.

"There are other resources you can share in one building, like physical education, music, or resources, that makes the experience that much better for children," he said.

The council sent a proposal to the provincial government which included closing two schools in Saint John's north end, Hazen White/St. Francis School and Centennial School, and building a new school in between.

According to the facilities overview, Hazen White/St. Francis operates at 32 per cent capacity, with 150 students enrolled, and Centennial has 205 students, or 42 per cent capacity.

The council also proposed expanding M. Gerald Teed School to include grades three to five, in order to move some students from Millidgeville North School, where enrolment is at 54 per cent of functional capacity.

The district is also looking at whether to perform "major upgrades" at Princess Elizabeth School, or to build a new building, Fowler said.

Fowler said there's "not a whole lot of traction" for these projects, however, because other school districts in the province are dealing with higher enrolment rates when compared to the Saint John region.

"They're running out of places to put kids," he said, "so their need is more than us just trying to combine schools and save a bit of money."

NEWS

Students' stained-glass project recognizes 'quiet population that suffers in silence'



Justin Samanski-Langille | Kings County Record

Belleisle Regional High School is soon to have a shining beacon of acceptance for the whole community to enjoy, thanks to the work of a group of dedicated students.

A group of student volunteers have been working on a large stained-glass pane celebrating the LGBTQ+ community, and promoting inclusively both within the school, and the wider Belleisle community. On May 17, the pane will be unveiled and displayed in the school library where it will be illuminated by the sun, and visible both inside and outside.

"We really wanted them to know this is a safe place for them to come to," said principal Micheal Chaisson. "By sharing that message through stained-glass that will reflect into the community and into the school, to me sends a very clear message that Belleisle Regional High School is accepting of everybody."

Chaisson said the project started last year when he and other staff at the school recognized there is plenty of artwork recognizing and celebrating the school's sports teams, drama programs, and other aspects of the school community, but there is a "quiet population that suffers in silence" and was not being recognized.

Working with Saint John artist Sheryl Crowley, the students learned how to work with stained-glass and developed a design which would show the school and LGBTQ+ communities living in harmony.

"It has the bear as the symbol of our school, and a rainbow background [symbolizing] LGBTQ+ pride," said Grade 7 student Gabrielle Smith.

Smith said it took a lot of effort grinding and shaping the pieces of glass to make sure they lined up and were smooth, but it was a fun experience to be a part of.

"The whole process of cutting the glass was probably the hardest part for me," said Grade 7 student Abby MacDonald. "There is this little tool called a scratcher, where you basically etch out a not very deep outline of what you want to cut off. You are supposed to hear a noise, and if you don't, you know it is not working. It was really hard for me to do that, and it was really hard to get the squiggly lines [in the design]. It was a good learning experience."

Chaisson said from the very beginning, it was important that students led this project, and they participated because they wanted to, not because a teacher asked them to.

So to get it started, he simply made an announcement one day asking anyone interested in participating in the project to come meet him in the office. Quickly, a group of nine students started working on it outside of class time.

With the pane now nearly complete, Chaisson said the plan would normally be to have a large unveiling to the school. But with the pandemic still limiting events, he said the plan will simply be to ensure as many people as possible know about the new artwork in the school.

"We want to encourage students to go to the library to look at it, and ask questions about what it represents," said Chaisson. "We are going to send home a little write-up thanking the students for working on it, so the parents get to see what is being worked on at school."

NEWS

Mural brings 'excitement and positive energy' to elementary school



Robin Grant | Kings County Record

The COVID-19 pandemic couldn't stop a school of youngsters from showing up for the unveiling of a diversity mural they all worked to create on Friday.

The mural was installed on the side wall of the Sussex Elementary School building and hundreds of students clad in red and black -- their school colours -- sat in their COVID bubbles to watch excitedly as it was unveiled.

The mural, which is made up of individual "puzzle pieces" that each student bubble painted together, represents inclusion and diversity at the school and in the community, said Raya Khedheri, vice-principal of the elementary school.

Funded by the Multicultural Association of New Brunswick and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, the project helped the students explore the topic of multiculturalism during the school year.

"Because it was a project that was little, individual pieces in the classrooms -- they did them all in their bubbles -- we talked about even how they have their own bubbles, it's the same way as being individual and multicultural or diverse, bringing them together to make this beautiful picture," she said.

Guidance counsellor Sarah Waddell said working on the mural was an excellent activity during a year dictated by coronavirus regulations.

"It's been a great way to bring excitement and positive energy to the school," Waddell said.

Artist Bonny Hill helped with the creative aspects of the colourful project.

There was a big reveal on Friday morning because not a single student or teacher knew what the mural as a whole would look like.

"It's essentially a diverse group of children playing with a big parachute and so that parachute is representative of diversity, in terms of gender and age and cultural diversity and all kinds of diversity," Hill said. "That was the message we wanted to get across."

EDUCATION

'Never see a student go hungry': Lunch program thinks large scale to meet need



Marlo Glass | Telegraph-Journal

SAINT JOHN • A new lunch-making "hub" is allowing 400 Saint John students to receive meals three times a week – and that number could grow in the future.

Volunteers of the Lunch Connection program are now working out of a "hub kitchen" run by the Inner City Youth Ministry. The Lunch Connection program used to operate within individual schools, but the COVID-19 pandemic meant volunteers no longer had access to the schools. In late September 2020, the program moved to a "hub kitchen" model, with volunteers from the schools convening in one location.

Three times per week, a total of 400 students at five schools in Saint John's core neighbourhoods receive a "snack-lunch" bag, assembled by volunteers at the hub kitchen.

News Items ASD-S

“Now more than ever, it’s important for us to meet nutritional needs of our students,” said Erica Lane, community engagement co-ordinator with the Anglophone South School District.

Currently, Centennial School, Hazen White/St. Francis School, Glen Falls School, Princess Elizabeth School and St. John the Baptist/King Edward School receive lunches prepared by volunteers at Threshold Ministries.

Lane said the original goal of the hub kitchen was to “start small” in providing lunches to the five schools, but they’re hoping to add more schools in the coming months.

“We’re expanding to include other schools on an as-needed basis or as they request to be included,” she said.

Lane said the hub kitchen model had been considered prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the timing wasn’t right. However, when the pandemic began, the hub kitchen was a way to keep providing food to students.

“It allows us to keep up with lunch programs that rely on volunteers to make them work, and allow our students to be fed a nutritious lunch that is feasible for all families to access,” she said.

Erin Rideout, director of Inner City Youth Ministry, runs the Lunch Connection program. She says the lunches they provide average about \$1.68 per bag, and are subsidized.

Fees for the lunches differ from school to school, Lane said, but they’d “never see a student go hungry.”

“We work with parents and families with what they’re at, and what they’re able to contribute,” she said.

Volunteers help assemble and deliver the brown bag lunches, as well as assist in Costco runs, said Rideout. Volunteers run the gamut from retired teachers, firefighters, and volunteers from businesses and different church groups. The lunch bags are delivered with the help of J.D. Irving, Limited.

“The program could not run without volunteers,” said Lane. “They’re a crucial part.”

The lunches include granola bars, applesauce, crackers, cheese, and fresh produce, Rideout said. They also include something to “brighten a student’s day,” like a written joke, or a holiday-themed card around Christmas or Valentine’s Day.

The meals are also halal, she said, “so newcomer families don’t feel excluded from the program or have to have a different option; it’s open and available to everyone.”

Rideout says it’s a “no-brainer” to work with the district to bring these meals into schools.

“They know the students and families in a way that no one else really can,” she said.

NEWS

Hampton high school hosting gardening public info session



The Hampton High School Community Garden and Food Forest, seen here in this Oct. 2020 file photo, will be hosting an information session on permaculture June 6.
Photo: Justin Samanski/Anchilla/Kings County Record File Photo

Kings County Record

Hampton High School's Community Garden and Food Forest will be hosting an information session next month on the practice of permaculture.

According to a Facebook post for the event, permaculture is a design system which emulates nature and allows people to meet their basic needs in a way which enhances, rather than destroys, the environment.

Topics to be discussed during the two-hour session include gardening and raising animals ethically, forestry soil preservation and health, ecosystem restoration and health, renewable energy using waste products, and social issues such as affordable and energy efficient housing.

According to the post, the hope is this first meeting will develop into regular meetings and group work parties.

The information session will be held at the food forest and garden, 34 Elizabeth Avenue in Hampton, on June 6 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Everyone is welcome, and there is no cost. Those looking for more information are encouraged to ask to be added to a mailing list by emailing permacultureatlantic@gmail.com.

EDUCATION

'Lovely to be honoured': School district recognized for 'Sweet Caroline' partnership



Front row, from left: Angela Harris, consultation with Food Allergies Canada; Jonathan Barry, board member of the Sweet Caroline Foundation and Food Allergies Canada; Julia Evans, summer student with the Sweet Caroline Foundation. Top row: Lindsay Savoie, Caroline Lorette's aunt; Zoë Watson, superintendent of Anglophone South School District; Katherine Lorette, Caroline Lorette's sister; David Lorette, Caroline Lorette's father.

Photo: Marlo Glass/Telegraph-Journal



Published 4 hours ago

Marlo Glass | Telegraph-Journal

Anglophone South School District has been awarded the 2021 Allan Reynolds Award from Food Allergy Canada for its work in raising awareness for allergies in the school community.

The district began taking steps to educate students on allergies and anaphylactic shock after the 2014 death of Caroline Lorette, a Rothesay High School student. She died at the age of 14 after having an allergic reaction to dairy.

Since then, students at schools across the district have received training on how to use an epinephrine auto-injector, what to do in case of anaphylaxis and how to support their peers with managing a food allergy.

The award “recognizes special individuals and organizations for their extraordinary contribution and leadership in helping individuals and families affected by Anaphylaxis,” Food Allergy Canada said in a news release.

Allan Reynolds was a volunteer with Food Allergy Canada who worked to improve public understanding of food allergies. He was known for his work to get the legislation known as Sabrina’s Law passed, which sought to protect students at risk of anaphylaxis, the release said.

ASD-S superintendent Zoe Watson received the award at Rothesay High School from Allergies Canada representative Angela Harris on Tuesday afternoon.

“This is an award for all 69 of our schools,” said Watson.

About 50,000 students across the district have received training from the Sweet Caroline Foundation, which was formed by her family and friends after Lorette’s death. The training was implemented by 500 community volunteers, including school district staff.

“It’s lovely to be honoured for the work they’ve done,” Watson said.

Angela Harris is a consultant with Food Allergy Canada, a board member of the Sweet Caroline Foundation, and also the mother of a child with food allergies. She said the foundation’s initiative to increase allergy awareness in schools is “admirable.”

“It sets the bar higher for what can be done with allergy education and training,” she said.

David Lorette, Caroline’s father, said the award recognizes the amount of work the foundation has done. He said their goal was originally to just educate the students of Rothesay High School, but then they saw how successful it was.

“With [Watson’s] help we brought it to the rest of the district,” he said.

David Lorette said the Sweet Caroline Foundation is now working to get the allergy awareness program rolled out nationwide.

The celebration coincided with a district-wide “Purple Day,” with students and staff wearing purple in memory of Caroline Lorette, and to promote allergy awareness for Food Allergy Awareness Month.

Anglophone South School District Bestowed Allergy Honour

Saint John, NB, Canada / The Wave

Elizabeth MacLeod

May 18, 2021 | 1:52 PM

The Anglophone South School District has been named the 2021 recipient of the Allan Reynolds Award by Food Allergy Canada.

"The Allan Reynolds award recognizes individuals and organizations for their contribution and leadership in helping individuals and families affected by anaphylaxis," says Zoë Watson, Superintendent of the Anglophone South School District.



Vu Nguyen / CC

Watson said the Anglophone South School District has a close partnership with the Sweet Caroline Foundation, which works to educate schools and organizations on anaphylaxis and the impact of food allergies. The foundation was created in honor of student Caroline Lorette who passed away from anaphylaxis in 2014.

In 2018 Rothesay High School launched the video "Caroline's Story," about Caroline's journey with food allergies.

"Prior to the release of the video we had the idea of having volunteers go into schools and train middle and high school students on how to actually use an epipen," she said. "We felt that we were providing students with a life-saving skill if they knew how to administer an epipen."

Over the last seven years, Anglophone South has increased allergy awareness in their schools, community and with their staff and students.

"The plan was developed that we would have boxes of the epipen trainers, and those could be loaned out to schools – we give every student instructions on how to use an epipen and they would actually get to hold one and use the tester to see just how much pressure you have to apply," said Watson.

An estimated 50,000 Anglophone South School District students have participated in presentations held by The Sweet Caroline Foundation, held by over 500 community volunteers.

Watson explained they are currently focusing on teaching Grades Six and Nine students, who are shown "Caroline's Story" and a factual PowerPoint Presentation about epinephrine and anaphylaxis. Students are also taught how to handle and use epipens in case one needs to be administered through boxes loaned out to district schools.

"We also have a number of schools with the Be Ready kits, the kits that would be on the wall of a school that would have epipens inside, very similar to the AED boxes that you see in public places," she said. "We would have about half or more of our schools would have those as well."

Anglophone South's award ceremony coincides with a district-wide "Purple Day," where students and staff wear purple in memory of Caroline Lorette and to promote allergy awareness for Food Allergy Awareness Month.

People who are interested in learning about the Food Allergy Community Awards can check out [their website](#).

Information Morning - Saint John



A new mural at Sussex Elementary School celebrates diversity and inclusion



Play Segment

8:32



Share Segment

Sussex artist and retired teacher, Bonny Hill came up with the design that enabled all of the classes to have a hand in its creation.

Aired: May 20, 2021

More from Information Morning - Saint John



<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-28-information-morning-saint-john/clip/15844217-a-mural-sussex-elementary-school-celebrates-diversity-inclusion>

More Awareness Needed Surrounding District Education Councils

Saint John, NB, Canada / The Wave

Tara Clow

May 19, 2021 | 1:56 PM

Municipal election results will be released on May 25th and that will include the names of elected District Education Council members.

DEC Spokesperson for the Anglophone Sector Robert Fowler says more Council awareness is needed in New Brunswick.

He believes something as simple as a name change would help, "Whether we change the governance model is not relevant. We are the only jurisdiction in Canada that calls itself District Education Council, everyone else is a School Board. People understand School Boards, and they understand what they do. That would raise the awareness right off the bat. I just think we just need to keep hammering away at what we do, and we do it well. Until people get upset about something in the school system, like anything, they don't pay that much attention to what is going on."

Fowler says the DEC is the voice between the community and the School District.

"If you eliminate that community voice, there are a lot of things the DEC do. Who is going to stand up an fight for increased funding in areas where we need it? Who is going to make those community based policies. I am all for giving more Authority to Principals and staff with what they need to at the schools levels, but we really need a coordinated voice back to Fredericton and I think that is the role that DEC's serve and do quite well," Fowler says.



Five New Members Joining Anglophone South DEC

Saint John, NB, Canada / The Wave

Brad Perry

May 26, 2021 | 2:48 PM

New Brunswickers also elected their district education council representatives during the municipal election.

Seven incumbents will be returning to the Anglophone South School District Education Council.

They include Wayne Spires, Shelly Merrill-MacKillop, Kristen Murphy, Heather Gillis, Jonathan Barry, Roger Nesbitt and Richard Malone.

The newly-elected representatives are Amanda Hamm, Jane Logan, David Connell, Beth McQuinn Nixon and Amanda Henderson-Matthews.

You can find the full list of results through [Elections New Brunswick's website](#).



WalrusWaltz / CC

School district welcomes new faces, says goodbye to longtime chair



Rob Fowler decided not to re-offer after serving on the district education council for over 13 years.

Photo: Caitlin Dutt/Telegraph-Journal

Published 5 hours ago



Marlo Glass | Telegraph-Journal

SAINT JOHN • Some new faces will join Anglophone South's district education council in August. Newcomer Jane Logan nabbed the seat for subdistrict 6, which represents schools in Saint John's north end and Millidgeville neighbourhoods, according to unofficial results from Elections NB published on Tuesday night. She received 2,098 votes to her competitor Andrew West's 535.

Logan, a parent of three young children, said she's always been engaged with the schools they've attended, and will bring that dedication to the DEC.

"I'm dedicated to the idea of improving education in New Brunswick," she said in an interview.

Logan said she's "eager" to get involved with the council, to learn more about its current projects and "what can be done further."

There were elections in two other subdistricts, with incumbent Shelly Merrill-Mackillop winning subdistrict 2, which covers a large swath of Charlotte County. Incumbent Heather Gillis held on to her seat in subdistrict 5, which represents parts of central and east Saint John.

Additionally, three newcomers were acclaimed to DEC roles. Those were Amanda Hamm in subdistrict 3, which stretches from Grand Bay-Westfield to Browns Flat and includes part of the Kingston Peninsula; David Connell in subdistrict 7, which includes parts of Saint John and stretches east beyond St. Martin's; and Amanda Henderson-Matthews in subdistrict 12, which covers Grand Manan, as well as Deer and Campobello islands.

Henderson-Matthews, from Campobello Island, said she knew the subdistrict's previous representative, Justin Tinker, wasn't planning to re-offer for his position. She noticed nobody else had stepped up to fill the role, and decided to offer on the day before submissions closed.

"We can't lose our voice," she said in an interview. She said she has been involved with the Parent-School Support Committee at Campobello Island Consolidated School, but wanted to make sure the islands had a representative for the district.

"I realize it'll be a lot of work and a learning curve," she said, "but I'm in it for the long haul."

Incumbents Wayne Spires of subdistrict 1, Kristen Murphy in subdistrict 4, Jonathan Barry in subdistrict 8, Roger Nesbitt in subdistrict 9, and Richard Malone in subdistrict 11 were also acclaimed.

One familiar face will be missing from the district education meetings, however. Longtime chairperson Rob Fowler did not re-offer for his position after serving as chairperson for more than 13 years.

In an interview, Fowler said he was first elected to the council in 2005 and became chairperson of the council in 2008. He's also served as the chairperson of all district education council chairs for nine years.

Fowler said he had originally planned to stay for as long as his children were in the school system, but they've since graduated.

"I enjoyed what I was doing and I felt like I had a good impact on the educational system for kids," he said, "so it was worth staying."

He said the council chairperson's role is to be a spokesperson for the district when it comes to policy and governance, while the superintendent and school district handles the operational side.

"It's a difficult line for a lot of people to draw," he said.

Fowler's most memorable achievement, he said, was co-chairing a provincial advisory committee focusing on anti-bullying.

He said he worked with "really good quality folks" who were "dedicated to try to make a difference in the learning environment in New Brunswick, both for students and staff."

Fowler said the DEC also worked to get a provincial policy on sexual orientation and gender identity passed, and it was signed in fall 2020, after about 10 years of work.

The new district education council will be sworn in on Aug 4, and the chairperson will likely be decided at the September meeting.

When asked to provide advice to the incoming chair, Fowler's message was simple: "Stay focused on the goal."

"We set a broad policy framework for the superintendent to operate within," he said, "and make sure the values of the community are in focus."

Francophone Sud School District's DEC will include newcomers Line Thibodeau, Nicolas Gaudet, Luc Cormier, Matthieu Leblanc and Raphaël Moore come August, along with incumbents Paul Demers and Michel Côté. No candidates ran in subdistricts 5, 7 or 8.

Local Teacher Recognized By Peers

Saint John, NB, Canada / The Wave

Brad Perry

May 31, 2021 | 9:29 AM

A local physical education teacher has been awarded the highest honour by the New Brunswick Teachers' Association (NBTA).

Kim Giddens of Belleisle Regional High School has been named this year's recipient of the Centennial Award.

Giddens was presented with her award during the association's virtual annual general meeting over the weekend.

Connie Keating, NBTA vice-president, said Giddens has devoted four decades to motivating her students to reach their full potential.

"Whether she is providing avenues for students with disabilities to be a member of a sports team or supporting students to deepen their global competencies through extracurricular activities, she is a community pillar who goes above and beyond to be a mentor for youth and colleagues," said Keating.

Keating said Giddens' dedication to inclusionary practices led her to coach a basketball team made up of students with and without intellectual disabilities.

The team's bronze-medal win in their division at the Special Olympics in Fredericton a few years ago inspired the creation of a bowling team, enabling the students to have another team to be physically active and represent their school, she said.

"One of Kim's colleagues said it best. She looks at what our students can do rather than what they cannot do," said Keating.

Over the past year during the pandemic, Giddens constructed a world of outdoor learning for her students.

They learned to make rainfall predictions, classified trees and identified animal tracks, constructed a bridge across a watercourse, and played snow golf.

"In the words of her colleagues, not only does Kim teach students key fundamentals, but she creates incredible, inclusive learning experiences for her students despite not having access to a lot of equipment," said Keating.

Outside of the classroom, Giddens is a volunteer firefighter with the Belleisle Valley Fire Department and organizes fundraisers, among other things.

Giddens said it is an honour to join the group of educators who have received the Centennial Award.

She said she has loved every single moment of her 40-year teaching career.

"When I started this profession, I took it in as a lifelong career and I guess you could see by the length of time I've been here, it's been a lifelong career," Giddens said with a laugh.

"It's a great community that I live and work in. You couldn't ask for a better group of people to work with..

Established in Canada's Centennial Year, 1967, the Centennial Award is presented annually to a person who has made a significant contribution to education in New Brunswick.



Kim Giddens, a teacher at Belleisle Regional High School. (Image: New Brunswick Teachers' Association/YouTube video capture)

Students Encouraged To Wear Orange

Saint John, NB, Canada / The Wave

Brad Perry

Jun 1, 2021 | 4:56 AM

Local students can help honour the victims of Canada's residential school system and commemorate the experiences of the survivors.

The Anglophone South School District has encouraged schools to invite students and staff to wear an orange shirt one day this week.

It is meant to be a display of awareness of the residential school history and support for healing.

Orange Shirt Day falls annually on Sept. 30 to commemorate Phyllis Webstad, who wore an orange shirt her grandmother bought for her first day at St. Joseph's Mission Residential School in Williams Lake, B.C.

The shirt was taken from her and never returned.

A national Indian Residential School Crisis Line has been set up to provide support for former residential school students.

The toll-free line can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 1-866-925-4419.



Delta Schools / CC

Meet the recipient of the 2021 Allan Reynolds Award: Anglophone South School District

May 31, 2021

The Allan Reynolds Award recognizes special individuals and organizations for their extraordinary contribution and leadership in helping individuals and families affected by anaphylaxis. The award is dedicated to Allan Reynolds, a long-time and inspiring Food Allergy Canada volunteer passed away suddenly in January 2013.

This year, our winner is Anglophone South School District, which has demonstrated exemplary passion and commitment to creating a safer, more allergy aware community.

We spoke with Anglophone South Superintendent Zoë Watson to learn more about efforts to raise food allergy awareness in their schools. Check out our interview below.

Congratulations Zoë on Anglophone South's well-deserved award! Can you tell us a little about the School District and describe its connection to the food allergy community?

This is an award for all of our schools and it's lovely to be honoured for the work they've done. Anglophone South School District is located in southern New Brunswick, serving communities from St. Stephen to Sussex. We



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operate 69 public schools (grades K to 12) with approximately 23,000 students and 1,700 teaching staff.

In July 2014, our school district experienced the loss of student Caroline Lorette to anaphylaxis. Afterwards, our district joined the efforts to honour Caroline, her legacy, and the mission of the Lorette Family to make a difference in the community. The **Sweet Caroline Foundation** was started in remembrance of Caroline Lorette, by her parents David and Janet Lorette, with the goal of educating schools and organizations on anaphylaxis and the psychosocial impacts of food allergy.



Can you tell us about the contributions of Anglophone South to the food allergy community?

Since 2014, an estimated 50,000 Anglophone South students have participated in presentations by the Sweet Caroline Foundation to help promote allergy awareness and safer school communities. This has been managed through over 500 community volunteers, and many are district staff. Through these events, students learn how to use an epinephrine auto-injector, what to do in case of anaphylaxis, and how to support their peers with managing food allergy, making more inclusive environments.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

It is an honour for our community to be recognized for the countless hours the District has spent dedicated to making food allergy a priority topic in our schools. Caroline will continue to inspire us, and we are committed to ensuring her legacy lives on through educating students on food allergy and anaphylaxis.



We also reached out to David and Janet to ask their thoughts on the work by Anglophone South School District and what it means to their family.

We think this award recognizes the incredible work done by Anglophone South. Our original goal was to educate the students of Rothesay High School, but with Zoë Watson's help, we brought it to the rest of the district.

We feel other children and parents are going to be more allergy aware because they are being educated: kids and families impacted by food allergy are going to feel more protected. And there is confidence that comes with this education. If an anaphylactic reaction does happen, then there will be more people that will know what to do.

This work is also so important in normalizing the condition. There doesn't need to be such stigma for kids with food allergy. They need to feel safe to talk about their condition and to feel included in their classes, schools and communities.

Congratulations Anglophone South School District! Your dedication to increasing awareness and education of food allergy sets an incredible example for school districts across the country. To learn more about the Allan Reynolds Volunteer of the Year Award, visit our [community awards page](#).