

## **Superintendent's Report for DEC**

**August 17, 2022**

Schools closed for students on June 24 and for most staff on Tuesday, June 28. We encouraged our twelve-month staff to take advantage of vacation time this year as for some departments the last couple of summers with the pandemic, there was additional work to be done.

Summer is a busy time for facilities under the leadership of Manager Jim Connors and his Assistants and their teams. Custodians are very focused on the deep cleaning of the schools, often moving teacher materials and equipment around if there are changes in teacher assignments. It has been a very warm summer for the custodians to do their work and we say a big thank you. A few summer projects were identified to be paid for using the self-sustaining funds – Harbour View High School paving at the front of the school and the parking lot, Barnhill had lockers on the lower level replaced, at Barnhill four student washrooms and one staff washroom were re-done, at Rothesay High School one washroom with several stalls was changed to gender neutral, and the same happened at SJHS and was cost shared with the school, at Centennial School a Learning Commons/Library space was retrofitted and there was a security upgrade completed.

Capital Improvement Projects passed by the DEC in Spring of 2021 for completion this fiscal are for the most part on track to be completed. Many of the roofing projects (Bayview, Harry Miller Middle, Westfield, Sir James Dunn), two roofing projects had to be re-tendered (Champlain Heights and Forest Hills), and the Campobello roofing project has been moved to next summer as there were no bids on the tender. Other projects include the elementary windows at Forest Hills, paving at Hampton Middle School, washroom upgrade/gym change rooms at Harry Miller Middle, electrical upgrade at KVHS, elevator at Princess Elizabeth, a boiler replacement at SJHS as well as another phase of the exterior windows which will be done in winter 2023. The gym floor at Deer Island will be delayed until summer 2023 as the quotes came in at more than double the estimated cost of the job. Ventilation work is on going at Back Bay Elementary, Barnhill, Inglewood and Norton Elementary Schools – this is part of the provincial ventilation initiative for schools that do not have central ventilation systems.

Summer has been very busy for Human Resources staff and the Directors of Schools with hiring of administrators, the recalling of D contract teachers, external competitions for teachers and the hiring of casual staff for 2022-2023. To date 35 supply teachers have been added to the list (18 certified and 17 local permits) and more interviews are taking place this week and next. We have added another dozen based on recent graduates who have done their practicums in our schools and been recommended by Principals. We have some retirees from June 2022 interested in doing casual work.

This has been a record year for school leadership changes – we had 11 Principal and 2 VP retirements, and two Principals seeking one year leaves of absence and this has resulted in 38 Principal/VP changes. The interview panels for Principals include an HR Officer, the Director of Schools from the Education Centre, a PSSC rep and myself. For VP interviews the HRO, Director the Schools, Principal and the PSSC representative. This year the interview process included questions, a presentation and often a pre-interview activity so the competitions took a considerable amount of time. We will be offering a session for our new administrators on August 23, 2022. With many Principals who are new to their roles, on-going intentional support will be critical.

Interviews have also been held for casual bus drivers and in August a training session will be held which is 5 days of instruction. There are 20 registered for this training.

Coordinators and Coaches have offered a variety of summer learning professional learning sessions focused on the District Improvement Plan initiatives and new curriculum roll-outs. There were twenty-five different sessions offered on topics including but not limited to: outdoor learning, assessment and grading, Power Teacher Pro, new science curriculum, exploring First Nations in K-5 math, non-violent crisis intervention, plan-do-check-act in literacy and numeracy classrooms, French-second language, and Mental Health First Aid. The PD sessions averaged between 6-20 participants from all grade levels. Sessions are also being offered for those in the District Leadership Development Program – Inclusion Module and the Communication Module.

Another successful Summer School program was held at Saint Malachy's Memorial High School and attended by close to 200 high school students. This was organized by Josh Eastwood, a teacher from SJHS. There was a small satellite program offered at St. Stephen High School and Sussex High School. The cost was subsidized by monies received from the Department of Education to make the program accessible for more students.

At middle level the Behavior Intervention Mentors offered two different types of summer programming over five weeks. They targeted programming for social emotional learning within many schools as well as a smaller direct instruction model for individualized students. With the smaller group the mentors used modeling to increase success on things like social skills, language development, communication, following instructions and classroom routine, play-based skills and making choices to name a few. Each week had a different topic – e.g. Building Relationships, Positive Friendships, Effective Communication, Conflict Resolution, Emotional Awareness. There were thirteen sites (Forest Hills, Sussex Middle, Hampton Middle, Fundy, St. Stephen, Bayside, Compass Saint John, Princess Elizabeth, Millidgeville North, Harry Miller Middle, Quispamsis Middle, Beaconsfield and Barnhill). Saint John the Baptist King Edward hosted the session for the individualized students. The Behavior Intervention Mentors saw positive changes in the students and identified goals they will continue in the fall. They also felt many children who struggle during the school year to make friends felt more comfortable in this environment. As parents were dropping off their children, often they were making connections with other parents to arrange for meeting times outside of the summer program for their children. Thank you to the Behavior Intervention Mentors and to the Department for providing some special summer funds to allow this to happen.

We had a student and a staff death over the summer holidays – long-time EA Lori Campbell from Quispamsis Elementary school died unexpectedly in early July. Lori had worked in several SJEC schools prior to moving to QES last school year. In late July, grade 9 KVHS student Maria Webster died – she was well known by QMS staff and students as well. Our thoughts are with these families in their time of loss. Early in the holidays two young men who had graduated in recent years from Hampton High School died in an accident in the area of their home on the Kingston Peninsula. Thank you to MacDonald Consolidated Principal Ellen Whittaker-Brown who opened her school on the weekend to welcome friends and family and giving them a place to gather.

On Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> all Principals and Vice Principals will be meeting at the Delta in Saint John for the day and then on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> all Principals/Vice Principals by Ed. Centre will be meeting for half day. We will also be having start up meetings by Education Centre for all school-based Administrative Assistants.