

## Superintendent's Report for DEC Lead, Learn and Grow

November 15, 2023



## Ensure that all employees are empowered to excel in their roles.

- **Supporting New Teachers:** A group of coordinators have been identified to lead the work supporting new teachers to ensure they are empowered to excel in their roles and are equipped for success in their first few years of teaching.
  - In September/October, an instructional coach visited every new teacher to touch base, explain how coaching support works, and ensure they had all of the resources they needed during the initial months of the school year.
  - ESS Professional Learning for beginning teachers, September 21, 27, and October 18. Seventy-five first year teachers received training in relationship building, teaching social/emotional learning, and anti-racism & equity over three days. This training is intended to help early career teachers build skills in their students and create learning climates in their classrooms that will not only foster belonging, school connectedness, and mental health, but will support academic growth for all students.
- Violent Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Training: Kevin Cameron, Executive Director of the Center for Trauma Informed Practices, worked with ASD-S staff and partner agencies during the week of October 10. This included two (2) days of training for ASD-S staff and VTRA partners from Horizon Health, the Saint John Police Force, the RCMP, Social Development, and Justice & Public Safety. It also included two (2) days of training in Traumatic Events Systems for ASD-S staff and our Integrated Service Delivery partners in Horizon Health as well as the EECD/NBTA counsellors.
- **Diversity and Inclusion Presentation, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Team**: Principals' Meeting, October 25. This included clarifications on EECD 713, first-person experiences as students and staff who are gay, and the important mental health support of the policy. The session also included a fun SOGI (Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity) Jeopardy game. Thank you to EDI Leads Caleigh Dunfield and Jay Nickerson.
- **Resource Teachers in their first three years**: On going training that includes Personal Learning Plans, best practices for Education Support Services Team meetings, the role of the Educational Assistant, the role of the resource teacher, ESS Connect (our student information system for Education Support Services), and ensuring new resource teachers know all of the appropriate district staff and resources they can access.
- **APSEA** (Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority) conference in Halifax on October 18 and 19 for ESS Coordinators Ethel McGrath, Heather Banville, and Cameron Badger, as well as Behaviour Specialist Nicole Blissett. Training included leadership and coaching in Education Support Services, threat assessment with neurodiverse learners, and strategies for supporting learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).





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Strengthen our inclusive system to be anti-racist, affirming, and equitable; to honor diversity and welcome all students.

- Middle School GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance) Day: October 3, middle schools sent students with a teacher advisor to the Meenan's Cove Beach House, Quispamsis to learn about making their schools more inclusive and affirming for LGBTQ+ youth. Guest speakers included Mark Vickers, a Health psychologist from a Child & Youth Team who presented on healthy relationships, Maria Darling, from Chroma NB, who presented on community services, and SJHS student Logan Martin, who discussed the role of youth advocacy for LGBTQ+ inclusion.
- Mental Health Youth Forum: October 17, high school students with a teacher advisor to the Meenan's Cove Beach House, Quispamsis to learn about mental health and plan initiatives to support mental health at their schools. The guest speaker was Patrick Gordon, a SJHS graduate who is an Afghanistan veteran, Invictus Games athlete, and founder of Operation Feed Saint John.

Improve student engagement and achievement by enhancing evidence based instructional and assessment practices.

- STAGR (Standards, Targets Assessment, Grading and Reporting) Assessment Conference: All schools have access to the keynote and breakout sessions and all presenter resources. A limited number of teachers were released on the day of the conference, October 17 and 18 to attend live. These will be invaluable resources for future professional learning in assessment.
- **Focus on Assessment:** A team of Subject Coordinators will meet in early November to prioritize the focus based on teacher and student survey data.
- Holistic Curriculum: A team of Subject Coordinators will lead the focus on the Holistic Curriculum. A priority will be to support administrators' efforts to lead the curriculum implementation in their schools.
  - Resources and communications have been shared with administrators throughout the fall to assist with initial rollout. 39 ASD-S schools are implementing the holistic curriculum this fall, which is the most in the province. Administrators participated in a virtual session on November 1.
  - Professional Learning, November 3 includes breakout sessions connected to themes and pedagogies in the holistic curriculum, specifically inquiry, play-based learning, assessment, and direct instruction.

Other:

Student Leaders' Council: Meeting November 1.