

**Superintendent Report to DEC
February 2018**

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

ASD-S is observing Internet Safety Week, February 5-9 with February 6 being Safer Internet Day with the theme of, "Create, Connect and Share Respect: A Better Internet Starts With You." A link with resources and safety lessons appropriate for all grade levels was shared with schools, as well as sample announcements and voice mail messages that could be used. Daily tweets are being sent this week. The two Technology Mentor teachers and Subject Coordinator Moira Sherwood were available to support schools, and have been booked for student assemblies and at least three parent evenings.

Yesterday a team of 18 from ASD-S participated in the provincial forum, "Inclusive Education – From Policy to Practice: A Collective Approach to Growth and Improvement." I attended the Forum, along with Director Peter Smith, Director Lissa McNaughton-Dickie (Early Childhood), ESS Coordinator Helen Johnson from St. Stephen Centre, DEC member Heather Gillis, teachers, three Principals, a resource teacher, guidance counsellor, a daycare operator, an Education Assistant, an International mentor, a School Intervention Worker, and two autism leads. We were well represented by a very diverse and strong team. There were opportunities to discuss the factors/strategies that support inclusive practices, the factors that can impede inclusion, and to identify the top three actions that are critical to the growth and improvement of inclusive education practices. In the afternoon we viewed the video, "Including Me," the story of student Ben George who graduated from St. Macs in 2013.

On February 8 Lynn MacDonald and Pam Miller will host a professional development session on trauma impacted students, and on February 14 there will be a PD session on restorative practices with three school teams – Hazen-White/St. Francis, Belleisle Regional and Fundy Middle and High School.

February 28 is PINK SHIRT DAY.

On March 1-2 we will send ten members of our ISD Child and Youth Teams to Moncton for training in Violent Threat Risk Assessment, Level 2.

Ends #2: To demonstrate continuous improvement toward meeting provincial targets in literacy, numeracy and science (English and French Immersion) and to improve learning in and application of the arts, trades and technology.

Two additional schools have been added to the Grade 6 Math Intervention Program – Deer Island (the combined grades 6-8 class) and the grade 6/7 class at Hazen-White/St. Francis School. We now have 15 middle schools (37 teachers, 3 lead teachers and just over 1000 students) participating in this program using either the resource called Leaps and Bounds or Dreambox. Feedback from the teachers has been very positive, and professional learning for them is on-going.

Numeracy leads and the Subject Coordinator are completing a book study using "Mathematical Mindset" by Jo Boaler. Our Coordinator has been asked to share this at the provincial NBTA Middle Level Conference in May.

This week elementary Principals have met in two groups to focus on the K-2 literacy and numeracy work of the Priority Development Unit (PDU) focused on Objectives 3 and 4 of the 10 Year Plan – there was also an opportunity to seek input on next steps beyond K-2 and to do some professional learning around oral language development and inquiry based learning in young children.

We have had a very active group of 22 high school teacher leaders in the area of student assessment working on projects in their schools, and they will meet for the final time on February 23. They will present their work on how they have changed assessment practices and impacted student learning. Their work includes the development of “I can” statements, portfolio use both physical and electronic and more deliberate use of formative assessment strategies that promote more student voice, and less teacher voice in the classroom. The participating teachers are also sharing video footage taken in their classrooms to share with others. Three of our Principals (Krista Amos, Brad Stevens and JoEllen Jensen) and Gary Hall are part of a provincial group on student assessment as well. This aligns well with Ends #2.

Ends #3: To increase the engagement of children and youth by embedding competencies such as critical thinking, citizenship, entrepreneurship, innovation, personalized learning and leadership in teaching and learning.

A group of teachers and/or administrators from schools participating in “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) participated in a half day of sharing facilitated by Coordinator Moira Sherwood and Curriculum Director Gary Hall. It was decided to create a space on the “ONE site” where schools can post and share lessons and best practices in using BYOD. We heard many comments on things some schools planned to change and topics each identified as next steps in professional learning with their staffs. Simonds High School have just completed and shared their proposal to be involved in this program.

In January two meetings of K-8 Principals and Vice Principals took place – the format of having both the Principal and VP attend the same meeting came from our administrators and they found the format beneficial as evidenced from the “exit slips” we collected. A portion of the day was used to jigsaw and discuss an excellent article from Educational Leadership (March 2017) entitled, “Student Engagement: Key to Personalized Learning.” Nick Munn shared data on student engagement from our provincial perception surveys.

At the Principals meetings in January we also took time to share and discuss the goals of the DEC, and their alignment with the 10 Year Plan and how they can align with School Improvement Plan when they are visited annually for updates.

On January 16 twelve high school students in the Saint John Education Centre presented their projects at the Centre for Entrepreneurship which is a program that took place first semester in the Connexion Works Space in the Brunswick Square Tower. This is a pilot project with students from Harbour View High School, St. Malachy’s and Saint John High School. Students were selected for this program based on their expressed interest in working on an entrepreneurial project. The students presented to those business leaders, administrators, and parents assembled and articulated very well their learnings from this type of program – this is personalized learning and student engagement well demonstrated! These students have been working under the direction of teacher Ries Van Beek and other community partners to develop projects and obtain credits for two courses.

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.

Diversity and Respect Leads and Guidance Leads are continuing to connect with high schools on the student-led projects from the Student Mental Health Forum facilitated by the District late in the fall. Each group of students and staff advisor accompanying the students that day left with a plan for something they could do at their school.

Dr. Daniel Chorney will be returning to ASD-S in March; on Wednesday, March 14 he will present to parents and the community on “Understanding Teen Depression,” as part of the “It Takes A Village to Raise a Teen” series. The following day he will be with guidance staff and members of the Child and Youth Teams.

Ends #5: The DEC expects all members of the school community to be welcomed, respected, accepted, and supported in every school, and specifically commits to addressing heterosexism within the school community.

Tammy Strong, from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development was with us on January 30 and 31 to present to District leaders in facilities, human resources, transportation, community schools and international education. Tammy covered topics such as gender identify, gender expression, relevant research, policies and resources such as the NB LGBTQ Inclusive Education Resource binder. On the second day, the team considered next steps in the implementation of the DEC Ends Policy #5. Considerable professional learning has taken place with administrators and teachers, and now non-teachers will have similar opportunities.

On February 28 middle school Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) teacher facilitators and two GSA members are invited to attend a one day workshop with Pam Miller and the lead teachers – if schools do not have an active GSA we encourage an interested staff member to come along to network and learn.

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

Debbie Thomas, Erica Lane, Gary Hall, and I are part of the Living Saint John team, “Closing the Achievement Gap,” and as such have worked together with our committee members/community partners to submit three proposals to access part of the \$10M in funding available for Saint John. One project was for additional supports for K-2 literacy in the inner city schools, another for additional teachers for two-three schools, and the third for “Success Coordinators” for each high school – teachers act as 1:1 mentors to improve graduation rates. Debbie and I met with the selection panel but have not heard of any monies being awarded at this time.

Big Brothers Big Sisters had a booth at two of the January Principals meetings to promote their organization and the February 2, 2018 Dress Down Day.

Other:

We are very proud to have the Principal of Fairvale Elementary School be one of 40 recipients of the Learning Partnership’s Canada’s Outstanding Principals Awards. Bonnie Hierlihy will be honored at a gala event in Toronto on February 27, 2018 and Paul Smith and I plan to attend. We will also have previous

recipients Matt Bedard (2017), Christine Roy (2016), Louise Johnson (2015), and Mike Wilson (2014) attending the gala and the PD offered for alumni of the program.

Hampton High School is the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from Best Buy to be used to enhance technology in the school.

Grand Manan Community School teacher Sara Griffin was awarded a Canada 150 grant for \$50,000 for her project on recycling on the island – the project consists of educating the citizens as well as looking at systems for recycling.

Provincial Activities

I represented the NB School Superintendents Association at a Friday/Saturday meeting in Toronto of the Canadian Association of School System Administrators. It is a wonderful opportunity of sharing the successes and challenges across the county – mental health of students and staff was a major topic.

On January 18, I was in Fredericton chairing the Minister's Advisory Committee on Teacher Licensing and Certification.

On January 24 the quarterly AEI (Atlantic Education International) Board meeting was held and I joined by phone as a participant. I represent Superintendents on this Board.

On February 16, 2018 Superintendents will be meeting with ADM Treadwell in Fredericton.