

Superintendent Report
June 2018

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

Two of our schools, Sir James Dunn Academy and Harbourview High School, were invited to have a staff member and students present at a “Community Health Summit” held at the WU Conference Centre in Fredericton on May 25, 2018. It was a day of sharing current and proposed health initiatives within Anglophone Schools and communities. Harbour View High School spoke about the school’s green house and garden project, and at Sir James Dunn Academy, the students are growing hydroponic tomatoes and peppers and the produce is sold at a local market. I visited the Harbour View High School project last fall and the Sir James Dunn project just last week. Very impressive.

Funds have been received from EECD for a 0.6 Subject Coordinator for ISD and with Positive Learning Environment Coordinator Pam Miller moving to focus only on alternative education, we posted a full time 1.0 position for ISD/Positive Learning. Jennifer Grant from St. Stephen Centre was the successful applicant and will be a huge addition to our team. Education Support services will expand next year to 10 autism leads from 5, we will also continue to have 2 School Counselling Leads and 3 Diversity and Respect Lead teachers.

The Education Support Services team have completed our annual request to the Department for funding for “core training,” including Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports, Restorative Practices, Violent Threat Risk Assessment, ASIST (suicide) training, as well as training for guidance and resource teachers.

As per Ends #1, three schools (Harry Miller, St. Mac’s, and Glen Falls) have been selected to be part of a formal improvement process project on enhancing the quality of the school based ESS (Education Support Services) team. The Principals and a resource teacher from each of the schools have met with our Alignment Champion Marc Godin and ESS Coordinators to begin the work. They are identifying the key processes of ESS team meetings and the variables essential to qualify for each key process. The end goal is to share this learning with all schools over next year.

Staff have now been selected for the Alternate Education Program in Saint John – there will be 8 teachers and Pam Miller as Coordinator. The new staff will begin training in trauma-informed classroom practices, and positive education. Features of the new program will be the focus on social and emotional learning, project based learning and collaborative instruction.

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.

A complete list of summer learning opportunities is now available for our ASD-S staff – there will be a copy for you at our June meeting. These sessions for the most part will be facilitated by District staff – and include topics such as first aid, mental health first aid, number sense, communication skills for administrators, balanced assessment, self-assessment, student engagement, power school, literacy etc. Many of these topics are aligned with the District Improvement Plan strategies.

Considerable work continues in the recruitment of French Immersion teachers - we are following provincial Policy 409 in seeking “superior” speakers for our positions; however, our reality is we will be placing teachers who have advanced and advanced plus designations. There will be an expectation that

these teachers continue to take advantage of District and provincial training opportunities to further enhance their skills. A special thank you to our two Subject Coordinators Jackie Turnbull and James Geraghty and HR Officer Bridget Ryan for their efforts. The grade one French Immersion program this year has been very successful with 439 students registered and only 10 transferring from the program for various reasons. This year at grade one we had 22 teachers from the District and 6 who were new hires and beginning teachers. Next year we will have six additional grade 1 FI classes for a total of 34 classes. We have appreciated the work of the FSL lead teachers in supporting the grade 1 classroom teachers.

Conversations continue from the provincial mid-April high school assessment conference in Fredericton. The keynote speaker's materials have been made available for our high school teachers and administrators. Fundy Middle and High are exploring extending the K-8 report card using the 1-4 scale to their grades 9-10 students next year. Video footage of student conferences vs traditional mid-terms at St. Mac's and student portfolio use at some of our schools has been recorded with plans to publish so other schools can take advantage of great things already taking place.

Provincial assessments have taken place for grade 2 reading, and grades 4 and 6 (matrix sampling for literacy, numeracy, and science). We have at least two Subject Coordinators, Greg Paterson and Jennifer Kielty, who will be participating in a leadership role at the provincial marking.

The Department has funded our District for a full-time Subject Coordinator role in First Nations Education – ASD-S does not have any First Nations Communities; however, there is an Office of First Nations Perspectives at the Department and many PD opportunities and initiatives for all Districts. This is a segment of the provincial 10 Year Plan.

We have had several students very successful in provincial competitions – a first place winner at the national Science Fair, Jackson Weir from St. Malachy's, several winners of the Learning Partnership's Turning Points Program (Sussex Middle, Barnhill, St. Stephen Middle and St. Stephen High). A special mention to Grade 11 student Taylor Hastey from St. Stephen High on winning the grade 11-12 category – a very emotional story of his life and family challenges. Ruhamma Zaheed from Beaconsfield Middle School won the provincial "Speak – Out – Middle School Oratorical" competition on May 18, 2018 in Fredericton. Two Saint John High School students also won the "Speak Out – High School Debate competition."

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 proposal for Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) for Simonds High has now been forwarded to the Department of Education for final approval. We have another in draft from Fundy Middle and High School. It is also positive to note that Fundy is in the process of developing a plan to re-vamp their library into a Library Learning Commons. They have some Home and School funding and are seeking other sources of sponsorship.

Mrs. Sherwood (Subject Coordinator) and her two lead teachers continue to support schools that want to explore developing a "makerspace," BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) and integrating coding into curriculum.

St. Stephen Middle School has had a wonderful example of innovation and entrepreneurship with their market at the Garcelon Centre; a total of \$7,500 was raised and this week the students met with the charities they are supporting – IWK, Mental Health, Breast Cancer, Ground Search and Rescue and causes

in Haiti. The students had an opportunity to learn about each of the charities. This ties in nicely with our District Plan focus on global competencies.

On June 1 students from Kennebecasis Valley High School and the four Saint John Education Centre high schools participated in the “Write Stuff Workshop,” at the SJ Arts Centre. They participated in workshops on poetry, skeletal fiction, journalism, spoken word poetry, song writing, and comic script writing. This day is for students who have a passion for writing and the sessions are delivered by current artists, some who are former ASD-S students, retired educators, CBC staff and other members of the community. Students submit creative writing samples and art work and this is published into a magazine.

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

It has been confirmed that JDI Woodlands in Sussex will be partnering with Sussex Elementary School to provide 25-30 volunteers for 1:1 in-school mentoring for students beginning in September. Many community partners are active in the annual Soap Box Derby Day, including the Association of Professional Engineers & GeoScientists (APEG) and the many businesses who sponsor the school cars. We also partner with the City Market and ASD-S schools contribute art to be displayed from the ceiling at the Market. This year’s theme is local architecture.

The Director of Communications job ad has been posted. ASD-W and ASD-E have opted to have these roles as Directors, so we did the same. We are hoping for lots of interest in this important role.

Other Activities:

This is a very busy time for the Directors of Schools who lead the teacher staffing process in each of their Education Centres, with support from HR, the ESS Director, the Director of Curriculum and myself. The focus to date has been placing all permanent B contract teachers, and beginning next week we will be at the point of recalling the one year D contract teachers. We also have had the CUPE 2745 staffing process taking place for EAs, School Intervention Workers and School Administrative Assistants. There have been many administrative job opportunities for Principals and Vice Principals, as well as lead teacher positions and Subject Coordinators.

There have also been many year-end activities for me including teacher retirements for Hampton Centre teachers at Riverside Golf Club, in Saint John at Lily Lake and in St. Stephen. We had three very successful Turnaround Achievement Award ceremonies and thank you DEC for attending. I also had the pleasure of emceeding the “Spring Strings Program,” concert on Monday evening with over 125 students from around ASD-S involved. Congratulations to teacher Helen Gollings for her 39 years of contributions to music programs within the District – Helen is retiring and will be missed.

Graduations begin on Wednesday, June 20 and end on Sunday, June 24, 2018.