

Superintendent Report to DEC
May 9, 2018

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

The week of May 7-11 ASD-S recognizes Allergy Awareness Week. Information has been placed on our website and shared with schools for use in newsletters and voice mail messages to families. I am on the board of the Sweet Caroline Foundation, and they have had a locally produced video narrated by David, Janet and Katherine Lorette, family of the late Caroline Lorette a former student at Rothesay Park School. The video was shared as part of a student assembly at Belleisle Regional on Friday, along with student training in the use of an epi-pen. The video will be shared this Thursday at Harry Miller Middle School and Rothesay Park and on Tuesday, May 8 at a special assembly at Rothesay High School. The Association are also having a special fundraising dinner on Thursday, May 10, 2018 as part of the recognition of this special week. A special thank you to one of our teachers, and Caroline's aunt Lindsay Savoie and our Healthy Learners Nurses – Joyce Walker-Haley, Ann Hogan and Alberta Stanton.

Director of Education Support Services Peter Smith will be attending a Train the Trainer session on May 23-25 to deliver Level One Violent Threat Assessment Risk Assessment Training. Peter will be able to join Pam Miller, Principal David O'Leary from St James Dunn Academy and Coordinator Helen Johnson from St. Stephen Centre in offering this school based training.

All ASD-S resource teachers met last week as part of the half day PD meeting to further discuss ISD, Complex Case, a common planning meeting involving other departments, provincial guidelines for partial day attendance, seclusion of students, and use of service dogs. This information was also shared with Principals and Vice Principals at their meetings in March and April.

As part of the 10 Year Plan, our District will receive provincial funding for a Subject Coordinator in the area of First Nations Education. This is in support of goal # 6 of "Everyone at their Best," and the focus will be on providing professional learning for our schools. This position will be posted shortly, and will also include work with the provincially identified "global competencies."

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.

Our office was a busy spot last Wednesday, April 25 when approximately 80 early childhood educators participated in an evening of "Exploring Literacies" professional learning. Participants received a bin of books for use in their early childhood centre. In May and early June similar sessions will take place in Hampton, St. Stephen and Sussex.

The UNB Math Competition will take place on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at UNBSJ and we will have 28 middle and high schools participating with just under 300 student participants.

"Talk With Our Kids About Money" events happened in many schools – Scotiabank, Investors Group, Credit Counselling Services provided presentations on financial literacy in many schools. Forest Hills, and Princess Elizabeth held "money fairs" of student projects with winners chosen by guest judges. There was considerable community involvement and collaboration with schools on this initiative.

On April 26, 2018 about 150 French Second Language Middle and High students from the district travelled to Fredericton to participate in a local forum event hosted by “French for the Future”. Half of the participating students were from our district – Belleisle, Fundy Middle and High, Harbour View, Kennebecasis Valley High School, Rothesay High, Saint John High School, St. Malachy’s, Simonds, St. Stephen High and Sussex Regional. This is an interactive conference providing high school students with the opportunity to discover and learn the cultural and professional value of being bilingual. Students met bilingual professionals to share ideas and perspectives on learning French.

We were well represented at the provincial assessment conference on April 19-20, thank you to Director Gary Hall and Principals Krista Amos, Brad Stevens and JoEllen Jensen who were part of the organizing Committee, and facilitated sessions over the two days. It was a pleasure to participate in the two days – Principals of every school housing grades 9-12 were in attendance, along with one teacher. Sessions included a book study, a key note presenter, a session on the student perspective on assessment and information on the “triangulation of data,” using conversations, observations and products. An ASD-S team will be presenting at the provincial High School Subject Council on Friday, May 4.

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.

Two great days of sharing innovation happened in ASD-S – Friday, April 13 for high schools and Thursday, April 26 for middle schools. Between 20-25 staff plus some students attended each day and so many excellent ideas were shared – from culinary technology, science fair projects, tiny houses, interactive finances, cybersecurity, “paint it forward,” and a community garden. This is the second year for our High School Day of Innovation and a first for Middle Schools – an initiative we want to grow!

Plans continue to take shape for the WE BELIEVE event on Thursday, May 17 at Harbour Station with upwards of 4500 students attending. Most are middle school, with a few high school WE groups attending as well as some grade 5 students. If DEC members are interested in attending this event that runs from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., please let me know.

On Tuesday, May 1, 2018 three schools will be participating in the Provincial Maker Faire and Innovation Gala in Memramcook – Sussex Regional High School teacher Jeff Gaunce, Hampton Middle School teacher Janice Linden and River Valley Middle teacher LeRoy Vincent. This is sponsored by Brilliant Labs.

On May 15, 218 The Learning Partnership will be hosting their annual “NB Showcase,” in Fredericton - the programs called I-Cubed (Investigate! Invent! Innovate!), as well as Coding quest and Entrepreneurial Adventures will be featured. ASD-S will have approximately 40 students participating.

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.

In April the NBTA school wellness representatives had a half day to meet by Education Centre – this is facilitated by NBTA Counsellor Carmen Meehan and the supply cost for the teachers is covered by the District. This is an opportunity for representatives to discuss and share their ideas – many are very focused on positive activities to support mental health and wellness of staff.

Ends #6: To coordinate and maximize access to resources to support children, youth & families.

ASD-S hosted the Workshop and AGM of the NB Home and School Federation on Saturday, April 21 – about 40 participants were in attendance. There was a presentation on nutrition in schools, and one of our Physical Education teachers from Belleisle/Sussex did a session on mindfulness. The Mayor welcomed those assembled, I had an opportunity to speak to the group and ADM Chris Treadwell was the closing keynote speaker.

Information on Allergy Awareness has been posted on the website main page and daily tweets for Allergy Awareness Week.

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

Erica Lane met with all Community Schools Coordinators – they had the opportunity to share ideas for grant applications, and plans are taking shape for summer programming for schools with literacy camps, and partnerships with NBCC, Cooke Aquaculture, Port SJ and the United Way.

In Sussex there is a potential partner for Sussex Elementary and conversations are taking place with PALS, the school and the partner.

The annual Soap Box Derby is taking place on May 26 near Princess Elizabeth School – and at last count 23 schools will be participating, most from Saint John Education Centre, plus Hampton Middle and MacDonald Consolidated. Thank you to the APEGNB (Engineers and Geoscientists NB) for their support of the favorite annual event.

Other:

Many school productions and musicals have taken place since the last meeting, and we have advertised these as part of Southern Exposure - I have sent tweets out on several and have attended St. Stephen High, St. Rose, Bayside Middle, Saint John High School, Simonds, Sussex Regional, Hampton High, Kennebecasis Valley High School and Rothesay High School. These are truly a team effort with staff, families and community volunteers and many months of practice and preparation.

Meetings:

Chaired the Minister's Advisory Council on Teacher Licensing and Certification – April 11, 2018

Superintendent meeting at the Department – April 12, 2018

Atlantic Education International (AEI) Board meeting at the Department – April 25, 2018

CAPSLE Conference in Halifax with Susan Moffatt, Debbie Thomas and Paul Smith on Sunday – Tuesday, April 29 – May 1, 2018 focused on legal issues in education including cannabis, duty to accommodate, use of social media, harassment etc. At the April 13 High School Principals meeting at Portage Atlantic we heard from Dr. Jennifer Russell Chief Medical Health Officer for the province on the up and coming legalization of cannabis. All speakers reminded us that cannabis remains illegal for those under the age of 19 years and it will be very important for schools to remind students of this, legalization does not mean those under the age of 19. It is also recommended that we remind students of the dangers of cannabis and Dr. Russell gave us information on resources that can be ordered. At the recent conference,

Page 4

information was shared on recreational use and medicinal use and the necessity of employers learning how to support staff members who may have prescriptions for medical marijuana. No real answers were provided on how to test for cannabis; however, presenters raised many points to consider for employees as well as students.

NBTA Employer-Employee Relations Committee (representing Superintendents) – May 2, 2018

Provincial Subject Councils on Friday, May 4, 2018 and local NBTA AGM's across NB on Monday, May 7, 2018. I have been invited to address four union locals on May 7 but will schedule the day to visit as many as possible. This is an excellent opportunity to provide District updates to teachers. All custodians will have annual First Aid training on one of these days.