

Superintendent's Report
October 2019

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

Phase 1 of our examination of high school alternative education programs saw a change in the former Woodlawn site to COMPASS Education Support Centre opening in September 2018 under the leadership of our Coordinator Pam Miller whose office is located on site. On-going discussions have been taking place with Hampton High School about a change to the program currently offered at PALS - Hampton for approximately 12 students. This will be a transition year for this site and in second semester there will be a transition of educational services from the current PALS site to Hampton High School. Students will have individual schedules and will have the opportunity to select courses at both Hampton High School and PALS. In the fall of 2020 the students will be supported at Hampton High School within their student support centre and the teaching and School Intervention Worker position currently at PALS will move to Hampton High School. A letter will be going to the parents of students at PALS to explain this change and the transition plan for second semester.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has a Committee formed to discuss alternate education and we are pleased that Coordinator Pam Miller and one of her COMPASS staff have been invited to participate. Coordinator Mark Perry arranged for a First Nations Elder to visit fourteen of Pam's students this week and conduct a workshop on drum making.

PORTAGE Atlantic is an alternate site which is located in Cassidy Lake and for the last several years three ASD-S teachers are located at PORTAGE. On Sunday I had the opportunity to attend their annual recognition ceremony where 35 students were honored. It is always a very moving ceremony as each student addresses the audience and one parent speaks on behalf of families about the impact of having a child with an addiction has made in their lives – this year the mom spoke about being called to the hospital and told her son may not live, how he stole from the family so he could continue to buy drugs. Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Jennifer Russell was the guest speaker. PORTAGE always mentions ASD-S and our on-going partnership.

At the September Principals meetings Healthy Learners Nurse Ann Hogan shared information on concussion protocols which have been adopted provincially. Ann took a lead on the provincial committee and many of the tools and guidelines now in place, we introduced last year in ASD-S.

The month of October is our focus on allergy awareness with all students in grades 6 and 9 receiving instruction on using an epi-pen and having the opportunity to practice with a tester. This initiative is part of our on-going partnership with the Sweet Caroline Foundation.

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.

Planning has started for the first of two Math League competitions – this is year two for the initiative which is hosted and funded by the UNBSJ Mathematics Department. It will be for middle schools and with grades 9-10 welcome.

In October PD will be offered to middle school teachers who are new to teaching mathematics with approximately 20 invited. Subject Coordinator Jennifer Keilty has been invited to speak to two classes of UNBSJ Bachelor of Education students – the goal is to increase our collaboration with professors and future teachers.

The Saint John Education Centre K-2 project “When Children Succeed” is beginning year two and we are truly appreciative of the 14 additional teachers provided by BCAP (Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative) and Living Saint John. Three teachers are supported by EECD and four through ASD-S. Gary Hall, Dr. Cindy Hatt (who is monitoring the project and collecting data for us), Principal Colleen Sullivan and I met with BCAP to present and would welcome the opportunity to present to DEC. The 7 schools participating are: Hazen White, Prince Charles, St. John the Baptist, Centennial, Princess Elizabeth, Seaside Park, and Glen Falls. In some schools the additional teachers are used to reduce class size, in other schools where space is a challenge the teachers may team teach or an additional teacher used for small group and 1:1 intervention.

It has been a busy month in French Second Language as we continue to interview and add local permits to the casual supply teacher list. We also saw a number of requests for students to move from the Franco-Sud schools within Saint John and Quispamsis into our schools. By provincial policy these students are only permitted to join the English program, and we have had requests for French Immersion placement. This involves discussions with parents and Directors. Within ASD-S we are also monitoring closely requests to move from FI to the English Prime program and stream lining our process so this data can be tracked accurately. Professional Development is taking place for FSL teachers – on October 9 teachers of Grades 9-10 FI Language Arts will come together. We have a number of new teachers in FI and the Coordinators and teacher coaches are working to ensure things are going smoothly for them. The NBTA will be offering a 2-day session in October for new teachers and Director Derek O’Brien will be participating as a facilitator.

Last year considerable work was done on high school assessment with some funding from EECD; this funding did not continue so we will be looking internally to how we continue.

Our Alignment Champion Marc Godin has worked with Peter Smith, Gary Hall and Subject Coordinators on a “request for service” for our teacher coaches/leads. This was introduced to Principals at our September meeting – all coaches have been trained in the model. We have coaches in Literacy, Numeracy, Technology, Science, Fine Arts, Physical Education, Innovation, ESS, Diversity and Respect, Guidance and FSL. We have set up the model so that PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) request the support – this is aligned with our District Improvement Plan focus on PLCs and the goal is to have 85-90% of the support come through this process. Principals may make requests for individual teachers or new teachers who require support. This model was used with success in Anglophone East and one which we want to use this year. ASD-S has 75 coaches/leads to support our 70 schools.

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.

First Nations Elders are continuing to visit our school to share cultural knowledge. This year we have 8 of 14 high schools offering the new provincial Indigenous Studies 120 course. Blanket Exercises are again being offered for staffs – scheduled at Forest Hills on November 8, Macdonald Consolidated on November 22 and Sussex Elementary in April 2020. If DEC members are interested in participating in the fall Blanket

Exercises please let me know. A working committee has been formed to collaborate with three NB First Nations Communities to have the first Wabanaki Powwow on Sunday, June 7 at Rockwood Park. We had several schools participate in Orange Shirt Day on Monday, September 30 – a day to remember those who attended residential schools. Many staff in the Saint John Office participated.

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

Thank you to the DEC for again including the Info Fair at the PSSC Workshops and to Clare for sending the invitations and following up. We had the opportunity to promote programs from within, such as Cashless Schools, Talk With Me, Homestays for international students and those partners who are external such as Bee Me Kids, Sweet Caroline and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

We will continue to promote with Principals the importance of PSSCs joining together to offer parent information sessions. Many schools are offering speakers and the turn-out is often very low which can be discouraging. Bayside Middle hosted Crown Prosecutor Shara Munn a few weeks ago who spoke on Consent and Risky Behaviors and despite our support in promoting the evening the audience was just under 40 people.

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

The District has had a soft launch of a Facebook site, which is a project of Jessica Hanlon. The site is used to share our stories, District and provincial initiatives, fundraisers, community partners and employment opportunities. To date we have 2,200 followers.

The team of Community School Coordinators met in September – Big Brothers Big Sisters attended the meeting to present their mentoring programs. In September each Coordinator takes time to meet with the partners connected with their school.

Sussex Regional High School teacher Stacey Stairs attended a summer PD session and learned about the Brewer Foundation. She made an application and on October 1 the Foundation met at the school to make a presentation of \$87K. The vision of the Brewer Foundation is “that every school aged child in NB attends school well-nourished and ready to learn.” The goal of Sussex Regional High School is to expand their breakfast and lunch programs and to begin a weekend backpack initiative. Some of the monies will be shared with Sussex Middle School. The Foundation is going to meet with our Community School Coordinators at their next session, as they are open to receiving more applications.

Other:

On Thursday evening we learned of the death of grade 12 student Jessica Haley, a grade 12 student at St. Stephen High School. Jessica had some health issues but had been in school regularly. Her funeral was held on Monday afternoon in St. Stephen. A big thank you to those who supported St. Stephen High School on Friday – our NBTA Counsellor Ronna Gauthier, the Guidance Coaches, Child and Youth Team members, and Coordinator Jennifer Grant. Our thoughts are with Jessica’s parents and brothers, Principal Krista Amos and her staff.

On Thursday and Friday all Principals, several of the curriculum coordinators, the Directors and I will be attending the annual two day Principals meetings/PD in Fredericton called LEAD 2019. Principal Pat

McDade, Principal Heather Bell Williams, and Director Peter Smith will be leading sessions. Principal Michael Butler, Jessica Hanlon and Gary Hall will be part of teams presenting as well.

Last year the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development introduced a new process for School Improvement Planning and we were asked to identify two pilot schools to begin using the “Provincial Improvement Framework” – Barnhill and Macdonald Consolidated Schools. Presentations were made to administrators last school year in hopes that approximately a third of our schools would adopt the Framework in 2019-2020. We had 22 additional schools agree to participate so this year there are 24 schools in total. The list of schools is attached. Schools must work through a process of self-assessment around four domains (systemic school planning, leadership and teaming, learning environments, and classroom practice), then using their data identify targeted SIP goals with indicators of success. Each school must have a “critical friend” to support and work with each team – with our large number of schools we have re-assigned Subject Coordinator Ryan Price to this important role. The Directors of Schools, who visit each of their Principals in the first term will also be involved and learn this new process.