

**Superintendent's Report for DEC
June 8, 2022**

**ENDS #1: Provide a safe, healthy, and welcoming educational environment for learners,
staff, families, and partners**

On a recent provincial Teams meeting the Director of Finance and Administration, Aubrey Kilpatrick presented an initiative called "Project Shield," which is a multi-layered approach focused on the protection of students from sexual abuse. ASD-East had a very active working group and developed a policy, a self-declaration statement, and an examination of processes around volunteers. Our management team recently met with Mr. Kilpatrick to learn more. Education for staff is a big component as well all are equipped to identify concerning behaviors which could potentially be grooming. As a follow-up to this we have also been exploring a program called "Commit to Kids" which is a program of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. The program helps child serving organizations reduce the risk of sexual abuse and creates safer environments. It is a 2.5 hour on-line training we will engage in for 2022-2023. Our volunteer policy is due to be reviewed and this will be a focus for the fall.

**ENDS #2: Improve student engagement and achievement by embedding research based
best practices in a variety of learning environments.**

The SJEC project "When Children Succeed" is continuing with the most recent data sweep occurring in early May. Students are on track to meet and exceed grade level standards for Phonological Awareness by the end of June. Students are approaching grade level standard in Phonics, with the grade one cohort showing particularly strong numbers. In both reading skills, students at each grade level will gain between a year and year and a half worth of skill development since September. Numeracy data indicates that, depending on the outcome, between 70-100% of students have displayed outcome mastery on most of the numeracy outcomes. A few of the more complex numeracy outcomes have between 40-60% of students mastering the outcome as of end of April. An end of year data sweep will occur in all areas before the end of June.

This June marks the return of our ASD-S Outdoor Track and Field Events for K-8 students. There are seven events taking place in total throughout the month of June with the first event happening on June 2nd involving elementary schools in the inner city of Saint John. Approximately 250

students will be participating in the first event. Numbers are still being finalized for the other six events.

A collaboration occurred between Fine Arts and Technology (with Coordinators and Coaches from both subjects) to provide training and equipment for music teachers so that they can more effectively facilitate virtual concerts and livestreamed performances, and to provide them with the means to integrate recording technology into their music instruction. Now that music teachers are equipped with microphones and cameras and the knowledge of how to use them, the potential creative applications are limitless. Follow-up sessions will be organized in the fall to further support the effective use of these materials.

Congratulations to the teachers honored with an Innovation and Creativity Award at the Maker Faire hosted at the District Office May 24th – Jeff Gaunce (Sussex Regional), Jennifer Hickey (Bayside), Scott Legge (SSHS) and Brent Anderson (Deer Island). It was a great afternoon and so nice to see students interacting and sharing their work.

ENDS #3: Engage system’s leaders in improving mental health and resiliency for both learners and staff through proactive strategies such as Positive Education and Social Emotional learning.

The afterschool virtual PD series included three sessions on positive education and social emotional learning – one for middle schools on May 31, elementary on May 30 and a few weeks ago for high school.

ENDS #4: Ensure all members of the school and district community are welcomed, respected, accepted and supported.

Lynn MacDonald in our Welcome Centre is seeing a higher than usual number of newcomer students registering and a K-8 the students are welcome to join us for the final few weeks of school so they can have an orientation and meet staff and students. We are seeing some families from the Ukraine – in some cases these students are with host families and may be changing schools for fall depending on where they will be living.

Thursday, June 2 a middle school GSA (Gender Spectrum Alliance) Day was held. Two students and a staff person from each school were invited. The focus of the day was on allyship. Activities

were done to help students and staff better understand what is involved in being an ally (a peer ally or an adult). Guidance Counsellor (QMS) Stu Kearney presented on the “Freeze Out Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia” campaign he did at his school in May.

OTHER:

We learned of the death of KV bus driver Eileen Randles after a short illness, driving until the end of February. As someone in our office said, “Eileen was a fixture in the KV, and will be missed so much.” She was a driver coach for many years, worked for the district as a driver for 43 years and told me again earlier this year how much she loved her job! An amazing lady!

We also learned of the unexpected death of Seaside Park Elementary School grade 5 student Rayan Hussein. A difficult week for the upper elementary students, the EA team and teachers were thankful for the additional support of CY team member Monica Vautour, Guidance Coach Rob Mather, and NBTA Counsellor Michael LeBlanc who were on site to lend a hand. Rayan loved Seaside Park and his family are grateful for all of the progress he made in the two years there.

A very busy time of year with interviews for Principals and Vice Principals – we now have 10 Principal retirements and 2 Vice Principal retirements and two Principals taking a one-year leave of absence next year. As we complete interviews for these leadership positions, new vacancies are created and jobs posted. There are many leadership opportunities for fall 2022. A thank you to Jayne Ingalls in Human Resources who has been working so hard to review resumes and begin the short-listing process. We have a PSSC member participating in each of the competitions as well and appreciate their input into these very important decisions.

The following positions are confirmed:

HEC:

Rothesay High Principal – Beverlee MacDonald

Hampton Elementary Principal – Megan Donovan

Hammond River Valley Principal – Julie Stewart

Rothesay Elementary School Principal – Sarah Blanchard

Sussex Elementary Acting Principal – Nicole St-Cyr

SJEC:

Hazen White/St. Francis Principal – Jeanne Connors

Loch Lomond Elementary Acting Principal (Aug-Dec) – Cheryl Aylward

Seaside Park Principal – Jocelyn Myatt

Bayside Middle School Principal – Angela Marr

Saint John High Principal – Christina Barrington

Beaconsfield Middle School – Jeff Matheson

Simonds High Vice Principal – Stephanie Marr

Centennial Elementary – Vice Principal – Jeff Prosser

Saint John High Vice Principal – Nick Munn

SSEC:

St. Stephen Elementary School Principal – Melissa Brown

Blacks Harbour Elementary Principal – Tammy Surrette

Milltown Elementary Principal – Katie Chambers

St. George Elementary Principal – Matthew Kernigan

St. Stephen Middle School VP – Jon Conley

DISTRICT OFFICE:

School Counselling & Integrated Services Delivery Process Subject Coordinator – Todd Cormier

At this time, there are 10 more Principal/VP competitions scheduled for the next two weeks. This number is very high compared to the last few years.

The management team hosted a dinner for retiring school leaders and each Education Centre will host an early evening reception to honor recipients of 25 year watches and our retirees. We currently have 58 educator retirements and 77 support staff for a total of 135 employees.

Recipients of the NB Association for Community Living National Inclusion Awards – Bea Allan from Chris Saunders and Kiki Tanfara from HVHS. A celebration was held at Old Government House on May 19 and I had the opportunity to attend.

Congratulations to Andrea Matthews the Principal of Lakewood Heights Elementary School (SJEC) on being awarded the NBTA Vince Sunderland Memorial Award for Outstanding Educational Leadership. I worked in Moncton for a couple of years and remember Vince when he was VP at Riverview High School. In 2006 he lost his 17-month battle with brain cancer and this award is given in his memory. In 2019 it was awarded to Heather Bell-Williams, Principal of Milltown Elementary School.

Turnaround Awards were held on May 12th for SSEC and May 26th for SJEC and next week the link to the virtual awards will be released in HEC with each student being celebrated at their school. Each Centre had a bit of a different model this year, and we are collecting feedback from the students and those who organized as we look to next year.

St. George Elementary School hosted MLA Andrea Anderson Mason last Friday, May 27 and she announced GNB is matching the \$80K parents have raised for the new playground. There was a school assembly, the first in two years and children were so excited.

After two years of little travel for schools, for the month of June 2022 there are 408 bus trips currently scheduled. Thank you to transportation staff.

We held our annual year-end meeting with Rachel Kidd and Don Matheson from Sistema. Despite the pandemic, a very successful year with 175 students. The goal next year is to return to 250 students. The final concert is June 16th at 6:30pm at Saint John High School and all are welcome.