

Superintendent's Report for DEC

April 12, 2023

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

- March 21 and 22: Mental Health First Aid course for administrators, guidance teachers, and behaviour intervention mentors. Peter Smith, Director of Education Support Services, and Jennifer Grant, EECD Learning Specialist, ran this training.

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

Technology Update: Strategy 2.2 Build teacher capacity to engage learners through technology.

- *Bites and Bytes Professional Learning Series:* This 'supertime' training was organized by the technology team to provide training to teachers on various tools and platforms. The sessions were held in four (4) schools with 60 teachers in attendance. The sessions covered topics such as using Smart Notebook and the cloud-based version, Lumio, M365 translation tools that teachers could use with English as an Additional Language students, and the benefits of OneDrive for cloud-based file storage. The feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many reporting that they had learned new skills and that they felt more confident in using technology in their classrooms.
- *Assistive Technology Training:* The technology team provided training on assistive technology to teachers. The goal of this training is to make the classroom more inclusive and accessible for all students, particularly those with disabilities. Approximately 30 teachers from across the district participated in the training, which covered topics such as, speech recognition Immersive Reader and some of the assistive technology tools that are integrated into iPads. All of the participating teachers in this session had at least one student in their classroom who used assistive technology and this session was designed keeping those students in mind.
- *School Messenger Support:* The technology team supported teachers in using school messenger. The team provided training for using the platform effectively and integrating it into their classroom communication strategies.
- *Bookings:* The team supports administrative assistants as they update the online "Bookings" platform for this semester's parent teacher meetings. The platform has changed significantly over the past two years and we have recently updated our online guide.
- April 3, 4 and 5: A group of curriculum coaches participated in three days of training in Positive Education and Social/Emotional Learning. This will build capacity with these coaches to add social / emotional learning to their coaching skills when working with teachers. The training was led by Christine Morgan-Aherne, Positive Education and Social / Emotional Learning Lead.

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.

- March 13: All teachers, social workers, psychologists, and behaviour intervention mentors were invited to a one-hour MS Teams session with Kevin Cameron, Executive Director of the Centre for Trauma-Informed Practices. Mr. Cameron spoke about the dynamics of post-pandemic mental health for students and staff. This was part of the Integrated Service Delivery Learning Series (and

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was open to all ISD professionals).¹ Mr. Cameron's session was recorded and will be shared with staff who were unable to attend the live event.

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

Ends #4 will be covered in the DEC presentation during the public session.

- Matthew Martin, District Education Council member and Executive Director for Black Lives Matter New Brunswick, and Therese Trofimencoff, Antiracism and Equity Lead, gave workshops on antiracism to principals by level on March 29, 30, and 31.
- A group of curriculum coaches participated in three days of training in antiracism on April 3, 4, and 5. This will build capacity with these coaches to add antiracism to their coaching skills when working with teachers. The training will be led by Therese Trofimencoff.
- We are creating guidelines around harassment of staff members, online or through social media, because of their work as an ally with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community or for any other reason. This work is being done in conjunction with EECD and the District.

Other:

- Resource teachers completed a day of training under the direction of Ethel McGrath and Alison England-Blanchard, ESS Coordinators. Middle school resource teachers from the Hampton and Saint John Education Centre schools participated in training on March 16 and 23 respectively, while middle and high school resource teachers from Charlotte County trained on March 30. Training involved work on English as an Additional Language, writing Personalized Learning Plans, trauma-informed practices, and conducting Functional Behaviour Assessments.
- School counsellors (March 22) and guidance teachers (March 23) attended a virtual ethics training with Dr. Jeff Landine courtesy of EECD. Dr. Landine is the chair of the counselling department in the Faculty of Education at UNB and a member of the university's Research Ethics Board. Dr. Landine teaches the Professional Practice and Ethics course in the counselling program and is a former president of the College of Psychologists of New Brunswick.
- A group of high school administrators completed the one-day, live on-line training on Digital Threat Assessment through Safer Schools Together. This is the third group of administrators to complete this training since Christmas. This training gives administrators current knowledge and skills to understand and use various social media to collect information in situations in which a threat has been posed to a school.

¹ NB: Some people think "ISD" only means the CYTs and "ISD professionals" are only those professionals on CYTs. We often have to remind people that ISD is all four departments (EECD, Health, SD, JPS) and professionals working with children and youth within those departments are all ISD professionals.