

## **Superintendent's Report for DEC October 12, 2022**

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

We are pleased that the three Healthy Learners Nurses after two plus years will be re-starting the District Health Advisory Committee with the first meeting on October 12, 2022. We have two new nurses (Kelly Harrell in SSEC and Tracey Curtis in SJEC) joining Ann Hogan from HEC. These nurses were moved to pandemic response, and we are very fortunate to have the positions returned to us. Our partnership with Public Health has always been very strong and beneficial to our schools. There is administrator representation on the committee, community, District, and the DEC. Their priorities form part of our DIP.

A district goal is to certify all physical education teachers, middle school technology teachers and high school skills trades teachers in the one and a half day first aid program. In the past we have kept our phys. ed teachers certified in emergency first aid but will be expanding to other groups as well. Workplace Health and Safety regulations dictate the number of trained first aiders we must have given the number of staff on site. We will be over this ratio.

Our goal for the end of October is to ensure that all grade 6 and 9 students participate in the program on food allergies and anaphylaxis and have the opportunity to learn how to use an epi-pen. Many middle and high schools had this as part of the grade 6 and 9 orientation day at the beginning of the school year.

Schools are required to update their EMO template and this year as part of the plan, dates are required to be recorded for fire drills, lockdowns and the annual evacuation to an alternate site. Fire drills are to be held once during the first week of school and a minimum of 5 additional times during the year, lockdowns completed twice per year and one evacuation to an alternate site. It is critical that these drills be practiced and de-briefed by staff – we have had involvement by police in Saint John and Hampton/KV in discussions about lockdowns. There was a recent meeting with inner city Principals and Chief Bruce to discuss challenges and how we can work closely together. In the KV Chief Gordeau addressed parents at the open house events, focusing on social media and the importance of everyone working together.

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

The Bridging Project is launching on October 13 with their first meeting. Educators from nine schools and five early learning facilities are participating this year and the focus is 'Exploring Literacies through a lens of Allyship and Anti-Bias.' Educators will be focused on promoting inclusion, first nations education, anti-racism, LGBTQ+, and cultural identity through literacy. The First Nations Coach, Social Emotional Learning and Diversity and Equity Coach will be attending the first Bridging meeting to offer their expertise and support.

Simonds High, St. Stephen High School, Sussex Regional High School, Milltown Elementary, Chris Saunders Elementary, Sussex Corner Elementary, and Hampton Middle School were granted a full-time embedded co-teacher position for the 2022-23 school year. These schools are using the position to lead initiatives which mirror the "When Children Succeed Project," in SJEC and are tailored to the specific literacy and numeracy needs and grade levels at each school. We have a project lead, Nicole MacNeill, overseeing the project. Currently, schools have the co-teacher providing co-teaching and intervention support to teachers and students. They are also narrowing down their focus for data collection to measure the overall impact of the project. This work is being done in collaboration with Nicole and the literacy and numeracy coordinators.

It is good to have Professional Development happening in person, however we continue to monitor the number of unfilled teachers daily. The PD is important, however having teachers to cover classes is priority. There have been situations where teachers have had to return from their session to teach. We have a PD Calendar and each meeting and PD is recorded with the number of supply teachers required. HR staff organized a blitz of supply teacher interviews this week and we will have more to add to the casual list.

**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.**

At the end of October, the two District teacher counsellors will offer an opportunity for school wellness representatives to meet – this will be their first face to face meeting in a couple of years. Each school has named a wellness rep and these teachers find it useful to be together to share

ideas and strategies that are working in their schools. Each of our offices also has a wellness lead with a committee of six in the SJ office.

Two half day training sessions are being organized for administrators interested in using the Mental Fitness Resiliency Inventory with their staffs. We reported that 27 schools had administered the inventory last school year.

Education Support Services has been offering core training – e.g. Violent Threat Risk Assessment (2d) for new administrators and counsellors on September 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, a one-day session on September 29<sup>th</sup> for guidance teachers (those who are not certified counsellors) about their role and scope of practice and information on trauma, anti-racism and self-care. Five reps from ASD-S will participate in VTRA Level 2 training in Fredericton in October with Kevin Cameron. (two counsellors, two principals and a police rep).

We have just secured Dr. Daniel Chorney from Halifax for November 3 – 4. An evening for parents on school avoidance will be offered and on November 4 Dr. Chorney will work with a mix of school leaders, counsellors, Child and Youth Team and Behavior Mentors. We are fortunate to have Dr. Chorney and he is always well received.

Two sessions have been held for beginning teachers with a focus on awareness of anti-racism, social emotional learning across the curriculum, trauma and a background to education support services.

The Middle School GSA's (Gender & Sexualities Alliance) will come together on October 18, 2022.

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

ASD-S is offering a two-day professional learning series in September and October focused on First Nations culture & history in high school French Immersion Social Studies. Thirty teachers are participating in the PL session which provides them with extensive resources to enhance teaching, including a variety of books from Indigenous authors, a virtual visit with author Christy Jordan Fenton, an in-person session with Elders David Perley as well as time to co-plan and network with their colleagues. The work being done by Coach teacher Janelle LeBlanc and Coordinator Laura Taylor is amazing.

Thursday September 29, 2022 our schools participated in Orange Shirt Day with many pictures shared on twitter and social media. A large art installation happened on the front lawn of Rothesay High School (a similar project took place in June with QMS at the Q-Plex). This was led by retired art teacher and artist Bonnie Hill from Sussex and teacher Meghan Barton. This was the Joanne Project, and the 7000 small squares formed a picture of Joanne.

## **OTHER:**

### **Enrolment/Newcomers**

As of the end of September 548 newcomer students have been registered with 70% in SJEC, 16% in HEC and 14% in SSEC. Our enrolment numbers continue to be monitored. Unofficially we have seen a growth of 700 students. It will be later in November when this is confirmed. Our Admissions Officer/AEI Liaison, Nathalie Graham, was a guest on Information Morning. <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-28-information-morning-saint-john/clip/15939551-student-population-expands-influx-immigrants>

### **Provincial Principals**

meetings are being held October 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> at the Delta in Saint John. This event has been postponed a couple of times in the last year. The event has been organized by the Directors of Schools in NB and EECD.

### **Lisa Sanderson Harbour View High School – NBTA Indu Varma Award**

The Indu Varma Fellowship Award for Creativity in Education was awarded to Harbourview High School music educator Lisa Sanderson. The award is given to a teacher who displays excellence in collaborative, creative and inter-disciplinary teaching practices. Lisa offers so many opportunities for students at HVHS and worked tirelessly to keep her programs going despite the challenges of the last few years. This award comes with \$1000 and a framed certificate. Indu was President of NBTA from 2005-2007 and it was lovely to see her again!

**Kindergarten registration** for September 2023 will take place the week of October 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> at all elementary schools. Thank you to the administrative assistants at the elementary schools.

**Reminder:** NB Student Leadership Meeting – November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Delta Fredericton, arrive at 10:45am and finish around 2:00pm.