

## **Superintendent's Report for DEC**

**September 14, 2022**

### **School Re-Opening**

ASD-S has had a successful re-opening of schools for 2022-2023. There were three days of meetings for our school leaders August 23-25. On Tuesday, August 23 those new to a Principal or VP role joined us for a morning meeting to review expectations, to meet Directors and hear more about ESS, Transportation, Budget and Accounting, Curriculum/Early Childhood and Human Resources. On August 25 all administrators and District Coordinators along with management met for the day at the Delta. DEC Chair Roger Nesbitt addressed the group along with representatives from the NBTA, Public Health, the NBTA/EECD Teacher Counsellors, and Nathalie Graham from our Welcome Centre. There were several opportunities for table-top discussions on how to re-connect with families and communities, how to embed social-emotional learning in curriculum and how to re-engage students in their learning. The great ideas generated will be compiled and shared. A few Principals shared their schools journey with embedding social and emotional learning and using the Mental Fitness Resiliency Inventory for staff. Another training opportunity for using this Inventory will be provided later in September for new administrators. On Thursday, August 25 administrators met by Education Centre with updates from the Healthy Learners Nurses and Facilities, and had an opportunity to plan their school based PD Days.

That week there was a one-day training session for all Administrative Assistants – the group was divided in half with a session at Rothesay High and one at Fundy. Topics included Power School, budgets and School Messenger. There were many Admin Assistant changes over the summer so this day was well received.

Teachers returned on Monday, August 29 for a week of start-up meetings (2 days), NBTA Subject Council sessions (2 days) and an EECD led provincial PD Day. Our Subject Coordinators offered a menu of PD choices for teachers and as a result sessions were held on First Nations, Black History bus tour, formative assessment, grading, Building Blocks of Reading, Reader Identity, math running records, differentiated targeted instruction, learning outdoors, Islamophobia as well as many specific curricular areas. Our EA's joined their staffs for one day during that first week.

Many schools hosted Open House events the week of August 29 and others will be held this week and into September. Many schools were reporting very large crowds with a very positive energy about the opening of schools and being able to host families! I attended the official opening of the Raven's Nest Outdoor Learning Area at Rothesay Park School - a wonderful dedicated space which will be well used by staff, students and the community. Thank you to teacher Julie Cyr and the community partners who were so supportive. Outdoor learning will continue to be an ASD-S area of focus! A positive from the pandemic.

Last week also remained busy for the Directors of Schools and HR with a handful of our close to 1700 teaching positions to be filled. This is late and for the first time in several years we had multiple positions that went to external competitions. We have also re-advertised for some of the new additional positions funded this year by EECD - Speech Language Pathologists, Behavior Intervention Mentors and Social Workers. The priority has been teachers in classrooms.

## **PSSC**

On Friday, September 2, 2022 I met virtually with the 14 Principals new to this role. We reviewed the PSSC tools shared with all Principals and discussed membership on the PSSC, member recruitment, term, size of the PSSC, orientation, role, the PSSC handbook, budget, the importance of having a Chair/Notetaker, role of DEC liaison member. This was helpful. All Principals have received contract information for their DEC liaison member.

## **Enrolments**

With Tuesday being grades 6 & 9 orientation and kindergarten orientation on both Tuesday and Wednesday we will monitor student enrolment daily. Some schools are reporting several new students, over 350 students have been registered at the Welcome Centre (newcomers/AEI students) and we have home schooled children returning. This could mean the addition of some staff and/or the re-configuration of classes. The Welcome Centre are seeing many students from Ukraine, Columbia, Philippines, Brazil, South Korea and China.

## **Trip Costs**

With increased fuel costs we will be adjusting the cost of school bus trips as follows:

- Meal allowances for drivers increased to match GNB rates.
- KM rate increased from \$0.80/km to \$0.90/km. This is an 11% increase, however has not changed in the last decade.
- Hourly driver rate increased to match the Collective Agreement (\$25 per hour or \$36 for overtime).

## **Sad News**

Very sad news last week with the unexpected death of long-time head custodian at Prince Charles School, Gail Seales. Gail joined the District in 2003 and moved to PCS after the closure of Lorne Middle School. She was well loved by the PCS staff. Our thoughts are with Mrs. Doyle and the PCS community.