

Superintendent's Report for DEC Lead, Learn and Grow



January 10, 2024

Ensure that all employees are empowered to excel in their roles.

- Leadership Development
 - o One cohort (29 participants) completed Legal Aspects module on December 14.
 - The Directors of Schools are currently taking applications for a new cohort of Leadership Development candidates for 2024.
- An Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) course December 5 and 6 for school staff who required the training. The group was primarily guidance teachers (teachers in a guidance role who are not trained counsellors). The training was provided by Jennifer Grant, School Counselling Coordinator, with support from ASIST trainer Pam Miller.
- Resource Teacher Training December 7 and 14. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity
 Disorder (ADHD) training, facilitator Dr. Beth Keyes and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
 (FASD) training, facilitator Kiki Tanfara. Both Dr. Keyes and Ms. Tanfara are resource
 teachers in ASD-S.
- Coordinators and coaches are releasing new teachers to conduct observations of experienced teachers during the months of December and January. New teachers were able to identify an area of focus that will be prioritized during the observation and coaches/coordinators will be joining to debrief and assist with planning.

Strengthen our inclusive system to be anti-racist, affirming, and equitable; To honor diversity and welcome all students.

• The ASD-S Antiracism Committee met December 11 to review district antiracism priorities and initiatives and to receive input from racialized members of our schools and the community at large. The district received input for an antiracism policy and suggestions for specialized professional learning for teachers ex. how a teacher can support a student of colour who has experienced racism. The committee is chaired by Jennifer Grant, School Counselling Coordinator. Participants included Matthew Martin, executive director of Black Lives Matter NB, Dr. Timothy Christie, Regional Director of Ethics for Horizon, and students from Saint John High, Kennebecasis Valley High, and Sussex Regional High schools.

Improve student engagement and achievement by enhancing evidence based instructional and assessment practices.



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Other:

- Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) started an online support group for parents of students who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). An example of AAC is the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) in which the child uses a picture board to help communicate. The plan is to run the group every two months. The first meeting was on November 16 and seven families participated. There are twenty registered now. This initiative is led by our SLP II, Monica Bonnevie.
- We are currently in negotiations with internationally renowned assessment guru, Rick Wormelli, to assist the district with a long-term change management plan to improve assessment practices in K-12 classes with a specific focus on middle and high school.
- Throughout December, the curriculum team worked with K-12 administrators at level administrator meetings to support their leadership of implementation of the Holistic Curriculum. Highlights include an overview of the Holistic Curriculum and its advantages with high school principals and a co-construction of walk-through documents to observe and assess implementation of the Holistic Curriculum at the K-8 level.