

**Superintendent Report to DEC  
April 11, 2018**

**Ends #1: To provide positive, safe, healthy and inclusive learning and working environments for children, youth, and staff.**

On the morning of March 19, I met with a group of six administrators, representing all levels and Education Centres and two of the Healthy Learners nurses to discuss the provincial Nutrition Policy 711. We were pleased to have two representatives from Chartwells, our cafeteria provider, join in on the discussions. We reviewed the report from the Policy 711 audit that had been completed (this was presented to DEC last year). We know that there will be a revision to this policy coming in the near future and wanted to begin working with a small group of school leaders. We are very fortunate to have the Healthy Learners Nurses as they bring expertise in this area.

On April 13, 2018 High School Principals will be meeting at Portage Atlantic in Cassidy Lake – every few years Portage invites us to have a meeting at their facility, and there is an opportunity for a tour and a chance to meet with students about the program. Portage is a residential drug rehabilitation program, and students come from Atlantic Canada and Quebec. We have three teachers employed at Portage, funded by the Department. We will have Dr. Jennifer Russell, the Chief Medical Health Officer for NB who will speak to us about the legalization of drugs. Our high schools are getting many questions from staff and PSSCs. We will also be having our six high schools currently using the Parent/Public Portal of Power School sharing their experiences with those high schools who are in the beginning stages of implementation, and other schools who want to know more about this feature of our new student information system.

On Thursday March 29 there was no school for students (parent teacher). In two of the Education Centres our drivers were engaged in PD – for example, in the Hampton, Centre drivers had a presentation on dealing with medical issues if they occur on the bus, a review of proper bus accident procedures, and drivers requiring their four hour first aid refresher had the opportunity to take that training. The driver refresher is every two years.

**Ends #2: To demonstrate continuous improvement toward meeting provincial targets in literacy, numeracy, science (English and French Immersion) and to improve learning in and application of the arts, trades and technology.**

In March the District offered three full day Science PD sessions for elementary teachers – the days focused on exploring how to integrate science within the existing literacy and numeracy curriculum in the English Prime and French Immersion programs.

Darren White, Science Subject Coordinator and Science Lead teacher, Julie Lizotte had the opportunity to travel to the National Science Teachers' Conference in Atlanta, where over 1800 sessions and seminars were presented. Half of this cost was funded by the Department. The two have already begun to weave the learnings from some of these sessions into their professional learning with teachers, and will be following up by offering a session in the up-coming April NBTA sponsored Supper PD Seminar Series and a summer PD session for teachers. One of the themes from the NSTA conference was bringing STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) to the classroom. Darren and Julie have put together a sample "STEM Bin" that they showcased at their PD sessions in March. It consists of 10 Tupperware bins housed in a large tote. Each of the bins contains materials that students can use to explore, build and

engineer solutions to problems. Teachers thought it would be great to develop STEM bins for their own classrooms.

ASD-S also has partnerships with science related agencies in Southern New Brunswick. In late March twenty teachers had the opportunity to learn about the geology and history of southern New Brunswick by having a day with staff from the Stonehammer Geopark. They explored a couple of geologically significant areas in Saint John, and were given student friendly materials which will soon be available electronically. This will engage students in science that is local and relevant to them.

On April 5, one hundred middle and high school students will be at UNBSJ for the Fundy Regional Science Fair. Each year, students develop projects that address real world problems. In the past few years, there have been projects where students developed prototypes for prosthetic arms, transportable housing for use as temporary shelter in disaster areas, and new methodologies for studying topics such as nutrition and climate change.

In Literacy K-2 the school-based lead teachers have been working with primary teachers on embedded PD on topics such as the use of Discovery Centres, Exploratory Centres, and purposeful play. These types of activities are bringing more oral language opportunities into K-2 (especially K-1) with a centre-based approach with activities such as a vet clinic, writing centre, restaurant, plants, dramatic play, blocks, logic games/math manipulatives. As we integrate more with early childhood education, we see where we have moved away from these types of activities. Our Early Literacy Subject Coordinator is tracking teacher practice and student data on behavioral issues and achievement. She is seeing a correlation and positive feedback from educators. Great work is being done by our leads and teachers – the next step is to get some video clips and photo stories to show new teachers and administrators what this could look like.

The high school teacher assessment group came together in late March and the Subject Coordinators were pleased with the sharing of what is happening in schools – three teachers from this group will be offering a session at the provincial High School Subject Council Day on May 4 and we will be offering a session on “engagement strategies” at the local NBTA April Supper Seminar PD Series. In mid-April there will be a two-day provincial high school assessment workshop and I hope to attend for one day. This aligns very well with our District priorities.

April is the month for oratorical across ASD-S! There is a “Speak Out” event held in each Centre for English Prime students (April 12, 17, 24) and a FSL evening of public speaking “Le Concours” (April 10, 11, 17) as well. Winners move on to the provincial level. These evenings involve many volunteer judges; we often reach out to our retired teachers and other community partners to provide support.

**Ends #3: To increase the engagement of children & youth by embedding competencies such as, critical thinking, citizenship, entrepreneurship, innovation, personalized learning and leadership in teaching and learning.**

Westfield Elementary School learned that they are the recipients of a grant of just over \$11K from Crane Mountain – the monies will be used to transform their library into a “Curiosity Commons” with STEAM components (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). The Principal and her staff will work with Subject Coordinators from the office to assist in developing the plan and acquiring equipment and materials. They are now hoping to apply for a second grant to update many of the books and literacy materials for this space as well. We have amazing partners!

We recently purchased a table at the annual Junior Achievement Banquet at the Saint John Trade and Convention Centre – close to 100 of our students made up seven companies and each company was supported by mentors from the business world. The company had to have a business plan and they design, produce and sell a product. Many prizes were presented that evening to our young entrepreneurs.

Plans continue to take shape for the first ever WE BELIEVE SAINT JOHN which will be held at Harbour Station on May 17, 2018 and all DEC members are invited to attend. The registration is complete and we will have students representing all levels and Education Centres participate – the event will run from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and ASD-S will provide the bussing to and from the participating schools.

**Ends #5: To expect all members of the school community to be welcomed, respected, accepted and supported and to address heterosexism and discrimination.**

On Thursday, March 29 (Parent Teacher) the District Office staff from the three Education Centres participated in a day of Professional Learning – we were pleased to have Tammy Strong, a Learning Specialist from the Department present to our staff on diversity and LGBTQ – Tammy supports District leaders in our work with DEC Ends Policy #5. There was also an opportunity to update staff on the seven Ends Policies of the DEC and highlight some District initiatives. Staff come together twice a year for Professional Development.

**Ends #6: To coordinate and maximize access to resources to support children, youth & families.**

Prince Charles School in Saint John has extended an invitation to many community groups to be a part of their parent/guardian “Raise a Reader Rally” on April 10, 2018 in the afternoon. Each organization is invited to set up a table or a booth to share with families the services they offer in the community.

On Saturday, April 21, ASD-S will be providing the venue for the annual provincial Home and School session – I was approached a few months ago and offered our Saint John office facility. Representatives will be here Friday evening to set up, and they plan to have booths and displays from outside organizations as well. If DEC members are interested in participating, please let me know and I can share any information we have with you.

Allergy Awareness Week is May 7 – 11 and as part of my work with the Sweet Caroline Foundation, the Nurses and others are working to provide information for families in our school newsletters, tweets, and by adding information on our ASD-S website. During Allergy Awareness Week a video, sponsored by the Foundation, will be launched at Rothesay High School – the video is the story of one of our Rothesay students Caroline Lorette who in July 2014, died from an anaphylactic reaction.

**Other:**

We are at the time of year where many of the annual drama productions and celebrations of the arts are happening. Our Fine Arts Mentor teacher Kyle Peters is keeping a list of those he is aware of in Southern Exposure.

Two schools have participated in the “School Review Process.” This is an external process that used to be led by the Department but was discontinued. Our schools found it to be very helpful and wanted us to continue with our own process. We are very fortunate to have two former Department reviewers within ASD-S – Principal Allan Davis from Hampton High and resource teacher Jason Burns from Forest Hills

School. Both Allan and Jason are willing to lead two reviews per school year which is very generous. Depending on the size of the school being reviewed, two or three other District administrators are on their review teams. Last month Simonds High School participated and in April, Sussex Corner Elementary School. In the fall 2017 term, St. Stephen Middle School and Sussex Middle School participated.

We have started our 2018-2019 staffing process with advertisements for administrative (Principal and Vice Principal) roles. Retirements also continue to come in for all employee groups. The Directors of Schools are working with their Principals in determining enrolments, the number of students who will be beginning the FI program at the grades 1, 3, and 6 entry points. Staff have been very busy recruiting FI teachers, and my thanks to Curriculum Director Gary Hall, our two FSL Coordinators Jackie Turnbull and James Geraghty and Human Resources Officer, Bridget Ryan who have been taking the lead. We will have 32 new French Immersion classes and with leaves and retirements, this translates into requiring approximately 50 FSL teachers.