



School District No. 5
From the Office of the Superintendent

To: Trustees
From: Lynn Hauptman
Date: March 10, 2015
Re: Monthly Report to the Board

Purpose of this Report:

As the Board's Chief Executive Officer, the Superintendent of Schools is accountable for the day-to-day operations of the school district and for ensuring that the Board is aware of how the school district is doing in all areas of its operations.

Enrolment report – see attached

Superintendent's Activities

I have continued to have wonderful school visits focusing on discussions with the administrators about the fabulous work that our staffs are doing to create schools that ensure every student has a sense of belonging and everyone works together for greater student success. Professional Learning Communities have certainly contributed to the whole school conversations. Teachers are proud to share the work that they are doing!

Since 2002, the Province has proclaimed March as Youth Science Month to acknowledge participation of elementary and secondary students in science fairs across the province and at the Canada-Wide Science Fair. The Science Fair Program is the largest volunteer-based science delivery outreach activity in the province of British Columbia, with annual participation of approximately 40,000 students a year.

In our District, Science Fair is in full swing with projects being prepared for the judging at the Regional Science Fair being held at the Cranbrook campus of the College of the Rockies on April 10 & 11, 2015. This is an incredible learning opportunity for our students and it would not be possible without the dedication of our staff, parents, community members and college staffs that make this happen every year. Further information about this can be found at <http://www.ekrsf.ca/>

Our school and district staffs are busy planning for our next school year. Determination of 2015-2016 enrolment projections, budget meetings and planning for staffing of our schools has begun with the goal to be concluded by May. Much the same as household budgets, there are always tough choices to be made each year. Our Board will likely be faced with those challenges this year once the funding is announced by the Ministry in mid-March.

We have begun our calendar consultation period. We are later than usual in publishing our draft as we had to wait for some information from the Ministry of Education regarding the exam schedule. Please go to our website for more information.

Gordon Terrace School is pleased to announce that they will have their third Japanese teacher join their team. Yufuko Shimamoto will be joining them in April for a 12 month period. At the end of this school year she will tour around Canada and be back with the school for their September opening. What a wonderful opportunity for the students and staff of Gordon Terrace and Yufuko.

I also had the opportunity to judge the Regional 4H Speeches on Sunday, March 1st. What a fabulous experience it was to hear all of the speeches, many of whom were our school district students. Public speaking is such an important life-long skill!

With Spring Break just around the corner I wish our students and staff a relaxing and rejuvenating time in preparation for a rewarding return to our final 3 months of the school year. June will be here before we know it!

Finance/Operations Updates:

- School staff and budget planning sessions from March 2 to March 5
- Provincial funding conference calls awaiting announcement around March 16th
- Review of License agreement for Dog Park
- Calendar Calculations and redrafting options

Update from the Director of Instruction/Student Learning

Ready, Set, Learn is an initiative that recognizes that families need positive connections with the school system and community agencies that provide relevant resources and information. All public elementary schools in Southeast Kootenay School District will be offering an opportunity for all three year olds to come to their neighbourhood school (children born in 2012 *who have turned three by the date of the RSL event*). This event is a partnership between the province, the district, and the early childhood teachers in Cranbrook, Fernie, Sparwood, Jaffray, and Elkford.

Ready, Set, Learn will include opportunities such as a tour of the school, a visit to the kindergarten classroom, activities, refreshments, displays or presentations by school children.

Parents and caregivers will receive helpful tips for supporting their preschooler's learning and development. They will also be provided with information about local services available. Each child will receive a learning kit.

Four year olds, those children who will be entering kindergarten in September 2016, will be invited to Kindergarten Orientation in their neighborhood school.

Cranbrook Schools

April 9	Amy Woodland Elementary	1:00 - 2:00 pm
April 21	T. M. Roberts Elementary	10:45 - 11:45 am
April 22	Pinewood Elementary	9:30 - 10:30 am
April 22	Highlands Elementary	10:30 - 11:30 am
April 23	Steeple Elementary	10:00 - 11:00 am
April 23	Gordon Terrace Elementary	9:00 - 10:00 am
May 06	Kootenay Orchards Elementary	9:00 - 10:00 am

Elk Valley/South Country Schools

April 22	Isabella Dicken Elementary	9:30 - 10:30 am
April 21	Rocky Mountain Elementary	9:00 - 10:00 am
April 29	F. J. Mitchell Elementary	1:00 - 2:00 pm
April 29	Jaffray Elementary Jr. Sec.	1:00 - 2:00 pm

Early Learning Fairs

April 21	Elk Valley @ Rocky Mountain Elem. (Elkford)	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
April 23	Cranbrook @ Steeple Elem. School	9:00 am - 12:00 pm

StrongStart:

All Four StrongStart centers (AWES, FJMES, IDES (JESS), and SES) have well over 100 registered students! AWES has over 200 students!

AWES Highlights: Strong Administrative support and a development of school community. Tuesday Lunch program...a time where families can come and not stress about what to make. They all have positive comments about how much their children eat when they see other children eating and sitting. We integrate Sound Connections into the program. Actions are taught in our circle time and when the parents go home they tell me their kids will use what I have taught!

FJMES Highlights: One of the highlights for the Sparwood Strong Start Program is the baking day on Wednesdays. The baking day that B.J. does with the children is excellent. It is giving the kids a lot of love for the kitchen and motivates parents to recreate it at home with their children. The children get so excited to gather around the table and create something together; each child takes a turn at mixing, pouring and then they enjoy the snack so much more knowing they helped to make it. It is a great activity for the kids to be involved in while having fun and learning as a group. "My child looks forward to Wednesdays when there is baking activities; he is happy to take part and he often wants to do it at home later and he transfers what is done there to his home activities and I think that is great" (parent)

IDES Highlights: Strong Administrative support and a development of school community. Ready, Set, Learn and the Magic School Bus April activity are highlights.... more to come during delegation presentation.

SES Highlights: Wednesday night family night... includes gym activities, classroom activities and dinner for all.....

Update from the Director of Instruction/Aboriginal Education

Aboriginal Education

We hosted an Aboriginal Perspectives and Worldviews in the Classroom regional session this past month. This Ministry-facilitated workshop included the participation of teachers, parents, principals, Ktunaxa community members, St. Mary's Band council members, School District staff, College of the Rockies staff, students, Elders-in-residence and Ab Ed support workers. Opinions and perspectives were gathered from the working groups and were collected by Ministry facilitators for not only publishing, but also for informing the designers of provincial curriculum. This day was very productive, and often showcased the impact of our Elder's program.

At the Principals/Vice Principal's meeting held this month, we were able to take a healthy amount of time to discuss strategies for embedding the First People's Principles of Learning in our classrooms, as well as a productive conversation around what other schools are currently doing.

As well, we brought our Ab Ed Support Workers together this past month. We do this three times a year, and addressed a variety of topics including cultural project approval, the First People's Principles of Learning, the Enhancement Agreement report and reports out to the group from those who attended the FNEESC conference.

Safe Schools Coordinator

On February 20th, I attended a Safe Schools Coordinator's provincial meeting. Included on the agenda was a discussion of upcoming ERASE training levels, including a Level 3 training session that we will be hosting in May. It also appears that there will now be a Level 4 'train the trainer' program now being developed.

Skills Training

Our region will be hosting the Skills Canada regional skills competition at College of the Rockies on Friday, March 6th. This is a very exciting opportunity for our students. As well, I was able to be a presenter at a COTR/ MBSS pro-d session outlining current Ministry objectives in the new Graduation Plan.

Update from the District Principal/Student Services

February is always a busy month continuing to support for students and staff while we make preparations for the coming year. Schools have been working on preliminary projections for needed support for the 2015-16 school year. We always endeavor to have the most complete support system available for schools for fall start-up.

This month has also been full of professional development and in-servicing.

- Several school teams and a district team attended the two-day Response to Instruction (RTI) and Intervention by Chris Webber, hosted by School District 6.
- SET-BC workshops on Pictello and Touch Chat in both Cranbrook and the Elk Valley were facilitated to build capacity with school teams to use these augmentative communication programs.
- Several in-services and one professional development afternoon of Kurzweil 3000. This text-to-speech software assists students in regular and special education with vision impairments, learning disabilities, print access issues, second language learning difficulties and aural learning strengths.

We have a District Autism Spectrum Disorder Committee that meets monthly since November to review our school, district and provincial programs to more efficiently serve the needs of our students with an ASD diagnosis.

Kimberley-Cranbrook Child and Youth Mental Health Substance Use Collaborative Action Team continues to meet monthly to improve access for children and youth to mental health services in Cranbrook and Kimberley. This cross-district, cross-agency team is building a model of collaborative that will continue to be replicated in other communities in the East Kootenays. One of the events planned and facilitated by KCCYMHSU was the “Get Comfortable Treating Youth with Eating Disorders – A one day Consultation with the BC Children’s Hospital Eating Disorder Team.” This is a first in the province. We had a team of school counsellors in attendance with the District Principal.

Update from the Director of Instruction/Human Resources

Planning for next year has begun. School principals/vice principals will soon be sitting down with District staff in planning for staffing for the coming school year. We are looking forward to productive conversations in the first week of March in that regard.

We are continuing to add qualified TTOCs, EAs and secretaries to our casual list in the Elk Valley communities for this current school year. In addition, we will once again begin to advertise for next year on the Make a Future website for qualified TTOCs and EAs in all communities. This is done with the anticipation of upcoming retirements and movement of staff.

SRB, the financial and human resources software for the district operations is going into its second year of operation. Management staff are meeting regularly to assess and modify systems to address on-going needed efficiencies. We are finding that our systems are

steadily improving and becoming stronger which will help lead the school district into the needed 21st century advancements.

Important Dates for Trustees:

No Committee Meetings in March

BCSTA AGM – April 16-19

Party Program – April 8, 15, 22, 29 – Fernie Hospital 8:45 am -3:15 pm

Lynn Hauptman
Superintendent