

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY

School District 5 Superintendent's News



November, 2017



Purpose • Passion • Persistence

Superintendent's Activities - Lynn Hauptman

Kootenay Boundary BCSSA Branch Meeting

Our District Management team journeyed to Arrow Lakes School District last month for a meeting with the Regional Kootenay Boundary Branch BCSSA. This was a great opportunity to connect with District Management staff from the various school districts and to hear from various members of the ministry. As part of the agenda we had the following:

- Leyton Schnellert, Assistant Professor UBC-O and Academic Advisor, UBC-West Kootenay Teacher Education Program on Collaborative Inquiry and the Redesigned Curriculum and the In- Situ Learning in Teacher Education that is part of our UVIC Education program at College of the Rockies.

- Janet Stewart from BCPSEA on recruitment and retention and the Memorandum of Agreement Implementation following the Supreme Court Ruling on Class Size and Composition.

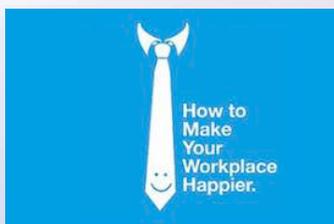
- Suzanne Hoffman (Chief Educator from MOE) on Ministry Updates on Educational Transformation and the Learning Advisory Board. Unfortunately, Suzanne needed to be in Victoria as the government was in session but she shared her information with us via PowerPoint.

- Kindy Gosal from Columbia Basin Trust provided an update on the Regional Physical Literacy Working Group and other School District and CBT connections.

BCPSEA Symposium

Along with Trustee Bellina and Brent Reimer, I attended the BC Public Schools Employers' Association. The theme of this year's program focused on Organizational Culture and featured keynote speaker Jennifer Moss.

As author of the book *Unlocking Happiness at Work*, Jennifer has made the study of happiness in the workplace her passion and professional focus. Jennifer shared current research and strategies drawn from her Ontario project, "the HERO Generation," which explores the impact of healthier educators on students' academic outcomes. Balancing research and real-world case studies, Jennifer presented informative and inspirational stories for school district leaders to consider in their building of strong organizational cultures.



In addition we heard from Tracey Gurton on "Building a Strong Organizational Culture: Whose Responsibility is It?" and Allan Seckel, CEO of Doctors of BC who discussed implementing a healthy and supportive workplace culture.

Delegates to this HR Symposium also had a choice of follow-up HR sessions.

Ministry of Education – BCSTA 3rd Annual Partner Liaison Meeting

On October 25th, Board Chair Frank Lento and Secretary-Treasurer Rob Norum and I had a chance to attend this meeting with the rest of the 59 districts in the province with both the Ministry of Education and the BC School Trustees Association. This was our first chance to all meet with Deputy Minister Scott MacDonald and his Education staff. It was a very full agenda where we had both presentations and facilitated conversations. DM MacDonald shared the Vision and Ministry Priorities and we heard from Dean Goodman on the Framework for Enhancing Student Achievement. In addition, we had discussions with Suzanne Hoffman and Jenn McCrea on Improving Student Outcomes and had some excellent presentations from districts on what they are doing to foster strong leadership in support of student success. Details on the recently announced education funding review was also discussed. Districts were also asked for feedback on all of these topics. The day ended with an opportunity to have a Question and Answer Session with Deputy Minister MacDonald.

Superintendents also met the day before this meeting with the Deputy Minister and his staff and Board Chairs met the day after with the BCSTA. A very full three days indeed!

Remembrance Day

Hopefully, you will have an opportunity to participate in one of the Remembrance Day Assemblies held at our schools. Every year, I am profoundly moved by the ceremony at a public school. Each school or school community does their utmost to ensure that our veterans are not forgotten in ceremonies steeped in tradition. Every school brings their own special touch to these ceremonies. If all goes as planned, I will have attended one assembly at Mount Baker Secondary School and one at Laurie Middle School. Thank you to our staff and students for the incredible job you all do to bring attention to this very important day and to commemorate our veterans.



Superintendent's Activities - Lynn Hauptman

Me to We Day in Calgary

Once again, a number of our schools earned their way to the yearly celebration of the Me to We Day in Calgary. Unfortunately for the Elk Valley schools, the weather did not cooperate and schools had to come in by livestream. Even though it is not quite the same as being there in person, it was still an awesome experience! As stated on their official website....*WE Day is the greatest classroom in the world. This stadium-sized event—held in 17 cities across the United States, Canada, the UK and the Caribbean—brings together world-renowned speakers and award-winning performers with millions of young people and families to celebrate and inspire another year of incredible change.* This event brings together A-list performers, and tens of thousands of youth to celebrate a year of action that transformed communities and changed lives. Schools cannot buy tickets to WE Day – they have to be earned through service. For the year prior to the event, schools must take on one local and one global action and report in order to earn their way to WE Day. Because of the generosity of partners, WE Day is free to attend.



This year some of the headliners included George Takei of Star Trek, Rick Hansen, Sean Hook, Lindsay Ell, Ana Golja, Tanner Zipchen, Rasheda Ali, Alexandre Trudeau, Siera Bearchell, of course, founders Craig and Marc Kielburger. Students and Staff members from Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary, Laurie Middle School, Parkland Middle School, Sparwood Secondary, Fernie Secondary, Rocky Mountain Elementary School, Frank J Mitchell Elementary School and Elkford Secondary School had an incredible experience. A total of 170 students and staff participated!



NEWS... 



The Idlewild Replanting Project is nearing completion!

In a partnership between Columbia Outdoor School and School District 5, over 2,000 students attended Idlewild Park, participating in lessons and activities presented by Columbia Outdoor School staff. Lessons were delivered in an experiential manner and focused on habitats, invasive species, and ecosystems. The students then helped to replant riparian areas along the lake with native species. Feedback from students, teachers and parents has been extremely positive! Students have enjoyed the hands on lessons and are really connecting with the project.

Important Dates for Trustees:

Nov. 23-25 - Trustee Academy in Richmond

Nov. 30 - Performance Review Presentation



On Friday, October 13 Chris Hadfield presented at Western Financial Place in Cranbrook to a packed house! The presentation was also LiveStreamed to schools for those who did not attend. What a great opportunity for SD5 students and staff!

Education Update



New Curriculum Transition Extended for Graduation Years

Teachers, school districts and post-secondary institutions will have one more year to prepare for the implementation of the new Grade 11-12 curriculum, Education Minister Rob Fleming announced today.

The additional year of transition is in response to feedback from educators in the K-12 sector, along with post-secondary partners, who need to ensure alignment of the new 10-12 curriculum with their admission processes and requirements.

"Success in the graduation years is very important for a student's smooth transition to post-secondary opportunities," said Fleming. "That's why we are giving our partners in the sector this extra year to ensure the new curriculum will serve our students, providing them with the best possible chance for future success."

Students will also benefit from educators having more time to develop classroom supports such as instructional samples and assessment resources, and incorporate the curriculum's core competencies and Aboriginal content into their classrooms.

"BCCPAC appreciates that all educators want to be fully prepared to facilitate a smooth transition to the new curriculum," said Jen Mezei, president, B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC). "The extra year will also give students and parents more time to understand the changes, and how they will affect post-secondary admission requirements."

The Grade 11-12 curriculum will now be mandated for use in all B.C. classrooms starting September 2019. The Grade 10 curriculum will be implemented as planned in September 2018, building on the successful implementation of the new K-9 curriculum, meaning all current Grade 9 students will continue their learning with the new curriculum throughout their graduation years.

The first provincial-literacy graduation assessment will be moved to align with the new Grade 11 and 12 curriculum implementation, with the first assessment scheduled for January 2020. As previously planned, the provincial-numeracy graduation assessment will be taken for the first time in January 2018 as part of a staged roll-out, with another session in June 2018.

Learn More:

B.C.'s new curriculum: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

BC Human Rights Commission - Join the Conversation

The Province is re-establishing the British Columbia Human Rights Commission. To do this thoughtfully, feedback is being gathered to help guide decisions on the role, functions and priorities of the new commission. Citizens across BC - including students - are encouraged to join the conversation on the [BC Human Rights Commission engagement webpage](#).

Schools, classes and individual students are invited to participate. Classes that might be interested include Social Justice 12, Law 12, and Social Studies 10.

A handy [one-pager](#) has been created for educator's interested in this topic. The [engagement webpage](#) will be accepting comments and written submissions until **November 17, 2017**.

Please consider sharing this invitation with teachers and other educators in your district that you may feel would be interested.

SD5 Class Size
Composition complete
for 2017/2018!

NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER, DIRECTORS, DISTRICT PRINCIPALS

Update from the Secretary-Treasurer: - Rob Norum

The Finance Department is focusing on finalizing the budget changes and enrolment for the amended annual budget.

Meeting with Architect Catherine Chernoff on the conceptual segment of the renovation of the old Fernie Board Office facility. The building is outdated and requires mechanical, electrical and some



structural work to make sure it serves the District well into the future.

We received the 1701 enrolment verification for sign-off for Sept 29th enrolment count. We are up in enrolment over projection by approximately 10 students or a total of 67 overall from September 2016.

Thanks to Darlene Soper and Sandy Gronlund for their efforts over the past few months working on the numerous Ministry of Education Reports required at this time of year.

Update from the Director of Human Resources -Brent Reimer

Human Resources to date has filled 195 teaching and 104 CUPE positions for the current school year. The Education Fund positions are now posted and many are already filled.

With the restored language of the teacher collective agreement, we are now reviewing monthly classes that require remedy. These are situations where classes exceed the stipulated class size limits or composition or both. Remedy for a class in this situation can be additional prep time, a co-teacher or another agreed upon support.

The District Health and Safety team has met twice this school year and continues to make significant progress towards improved district processes. The team is set to meet quarterly to review district health safety concerns/issues and to monitor/support school health and safety teams with their work in schools.



Update from the Director of Student Learning and Aboriginal Education - Jason Tichauer

VTRA Initiatives - We have recently completed our latest training session, and have another 25 folks trained in Level 1 and 2 of the Erase Bullying VTRA tool. This valuable training has been instrumental in having our school-based folks make confident, accurate assessments on potential threats or acts in our building. Thanks to Dave Hill and Sharlene Charest for assisting Diane Casault and me in delivering this training in Cranbrook and Fernie this month. As well, Sharlene Charest and I attended the provincial Safe School Coordinator meeting in Richmond and gathered valuable information about our SOGI Educator Network and new Safer Schools Together initiatives.

Aboriginal Education - Our AIMS software is up and running! We are excited to have our new student information system matched up with MYEd and providing our Aboriginal Education Support Workers (AESWs) with accurate data.

As well, we have had both our AESW and Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement Review Committee meetings this month. We were able to share our new Agreement with our group, and we were very excited to have many new faces around the table!

Youth Trades Capital Grant - I just finished sending off our Grant report for the Youth Trades Capital Grant we were awarded last year, and I am pleased to say that we have already spent over \$70,000 on necessary shop equipment for all of our middle and secondary schools! We also have access to another \$35,000 for this year.

DSAC - On November 2 we hosted our first District Student Advisory Council meeting. What a great day of gathering valuable feedback from our students on the SD5 Strategic Plan, with an emphasis on 'Engaging All Learners'. We had almost 50 students from all of our schools with grades 9-12. Thanks to Gail Rousseau, Mike Kelly, Jennifer Roberts and Kate Russell for the awesome help!



NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER, DIRECTORS, DISTRICT PRINCIPALS

Update from the Director of Student Learning and Innovation - Diane Casault

Early Years – Kindergarten Transitions

Thanks to the management team able to support and report out on our David Sobel visit (see Lynn's Week at Glance and Darcy's contribution in the Super's report). It is exciting and busy times in the Early Years with work being done around Early Years to Kindergarten Transitions as well as East Kootenay Coalition and all Early Years' tables moving forward with revisions to their strategy plans.



Human Early Learning Partnership – CHEQ (Childhood Experiences Questionnaire) <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/cheq/>

The CHEQ is an innovative way to capture and report on children's experiences in their early environments – from birth to Kindergarten. The questionnaire focuses on experiences in specific areas of development that are strongly linked to children's health and well-being, education and social outcomes. **The information from the CHEQ helps us understand how children are doing so that teachers, school districts and communities can provide better support and services to families and their children.**

SD 5 participated this fall in the CHEQ pilot. We are very fortunate to have a team from UBC HELP visiting our district in late November to share with us the results of our pilot as well as to collect any feedback and suggestions we have to offer.



Schedule visit: Thursday 2:30pm presentation to PVP group CBO

Thursday 3:30 – 4:30 pm presentation to K teachers and parents CBO

Friday 8:30 – 11 am presentation to Early years, support and other stakeholders CBO

AWES Strongstart program is saying farewell to Kirsten Johnson their facilitator for many years. We are very sad to see her go but wish her the best of luck in her new endeavors. Thanks Kirsten you will be missed!



Common Student Information Consortium (CSISC)

Late October saw BC school districts gather to share, learn, and plan for BC's Learning Transformation Project. Topics included: Managing Class Size and Composition, MyEd to support Learning and Enhance Assessment Practices, Competency Based IEP, Family and Student Portal, Analytics and reporting strategies to name a few.

It is exciting to see the enhancements in the MyEd system as it pertains to Assessment and Reporting, Competency Based IEP (with Shelley Moore), and overall functionality.



Update from the District Principal Student Services - Darcy Verbeurgt

Student Services Update

The Kootenay-Boundary Council of Administrators in Special Education (CASE) met in mid-October to discuss best practices around serving students with serious mental illness. We also discussed strategies on how to best recruit and retain both specialist teachers and Student Services Teachers.



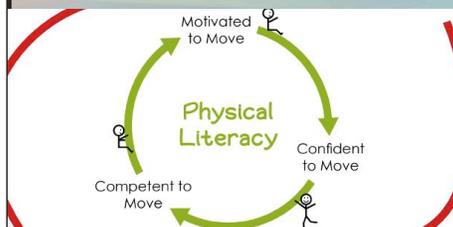
The Student Services Meeting occurred on November 2nd. The Student Services Teachers, Itinerant staff and Darcy Verbeurgt received a presentation from Child and Youth Special Needs to discuss services and transitioning teens with special needs to the community (planning from age 14 to 19). Kari Olsen also presented how stress informs our practice and helps us understand the students we work with. We rounded off the meeting day discussing the best practices our Educational Assistants do in their work with students, IEP development and universal supports for students and how these are instrumental in differentiating instruction and assessment at the classroom level.

The Frank J Mitchell Elementary Staff and small groups from Steeples Elementary and Gordon Terrace Elementary attended the Mandt System Training this past month in an intensive discover and development of Healthy Relationships, Healthy Communication and Healthy Conflict Resolution. The training involves knowledge, skills and attitude development with a trauma-awareness approach.

Kootenay-Boundary Early Years to Kindergarten Transition learning session in Creston was attended by Darcy Verbeurgt, Stacey Short, Julie Russchen, kindergarten teachers from SD5, SD6, SD8, SD10, SD20 and SD51, Strong Start Educators, Supported Child Development, pre-school educators, and Ministry of Education staff. We heard from David Sobel on the importance of outdoor experiences and place-based learning to help create smoother preschool to kindergarten transitions in the morning. We carried on discussions in the afternoon around "blue-sky" ideas of transition experiences, barriers in the way of those experiences and a cursory plan on what each sector and community may start to do to in order to offer these experiences. The most common commitment was to invite educators and their students/children into each other's spaces.



Health Promoting Schools Update



Barb Kaufmann attended the Health Promoting School Coordinator's (HPSC's) Education Sessions in Kelowna in mid-October. The main focus of the education session was physical literacy and movement for the sake of the body and mind. A number of HPSCs presented on initiatives in their Districts and how this work fits with the model of Comprehensive School Health.

Darcy Verbeurgt has been reviewing the Food and Beverage Sales Guidelines in BC Schools with sports events concession providers, PAC groups, school principals and Ryan Vending Ltd. Each year we are getting better at providing healthy food to students that reduces salt, sugar and fat content.



NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER, DIRECTORS, DISTRICT PRINCIPALS

Update from the District Principal Transformative Learning: - Jennifer Roberts

PLACE BASED EDUCATION

Results from School Year Challenge:

29% of SD5 students Registered for Take Me Outside Day = 1557 students!! 5396 students have registered from SD's 5, 6, 8, 10, 20, and 51!! We have 75 teachers in our school district committed to taking their students outside once a week! Each of these teachers receive a new "Take Me Outside" T-shirt! Way to go!



All our schools had teachers and students participating in the October "Take Me Outside Day" Some fantastic learning and collaboration occurred throughout the district in all subject areas!



Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary

IdleWild Restoration Project

Over the last 2 weeks over 2500 students went to IdleWild and took part in a day of activities, lessons and of course planting the riparian area around the lake. The students, teachers and parents were very positive about the event and they are very excited that the lake is being redeveloped. Approximately 3500 shrubs, grasses and plugs have been planted. The areas will also all be hydro-seeded with a variety of site specific seed blends.



Frank J. Mitchell

Computational Thinking and Technology

Office 365

We currently have 24 teachers piloting Office 365 and student emails with their classes. The next step is to pilot one school in the valley and one school in Cranbrook followed by the entire district.

Roll out Plan:

We will have a better idea of the roll out dates moving forward once we have completed the first few schools and have a sense of the implementation time line. We will meet with each school prior to their roll out to discuss the particular needs of each school.

Twitter: @TransformingSD5