



School District No. 5
From the Office of the Superintendent

To: Trustees
From: Lynn Hauptman
Date: November 12, 2014
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

Class Size Data for 2014

The 2013 Class Size Organization data has now been submitted to the Ministry of Education. Please see the attached report.

Ktunaxa Flag Raising at Parkland Middle School

I had the honour of attending the Ktunaxa Flag Raising Ceremony at Parkland Middle School on October 29. The very moving and informative event was led by Joe Pierre and aided by the Sookanie Singers and student representative Raven Fisher-Feltham. Once again, Joe Pierre helped all of us to understand more about the culture and history of the Ktunaxa people. I was particularly impressed by the profound questions that the students of Parkland were asking. Their curiosity was palpable in the assembly and the questions could have gone on for another hour!! But the students needed to return to their final class of the day in order to receive the traditional "fry bread" that had been made by the Aboriginal department. They had made enough for the entire student and staff body of the school. Very impressive!

Remembrance Day Assemblies

Hopefully, you each had 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. This year I was invited to attend the joint ceremony of Sparwood Secondary School and Frank J Mitchell Elementary School. Another outstanding event.

Kootenay Boundary BCSSA Branch Meeting

Our District Management team journeyed to Nakusp a few weeks ago for a meeting with the Regional BCSSA meeting. This was a great opportunity to connect with District Management staff from the various school districts. As part of the agenda we had presentations from Renzo Del Negro from BCPSEA and Mike Roberts, Dean Goodman, Jan Unwin and Larry Espe from

the Ministry of Education, who shared the latest information regarding curriculum changes, assessment and accountability, Graduation Program and Skills and Career Pathways. A Presentation by Education Consultant Bruce Beairsto, on the back story of De-Categorization was interesting. Time was also devoted to Healthy School updates from Valerie Pitman of Interior Health and Louise Poole, Health Promoting Schools Coordinator from SD 8. An update on Integrated Services/Safe Schools and ERASE update and Regional Protocol was also facilitated by Sherri Mohoruk from the Ministry. A very full few days!

BCPSEA Symposium

Once again the BCPSEA Symposium was a very rich and informative two days with plenary sessions from Deputy Minister of Education Dave Byng, Provincial Bargaining/Collective Agreement Update with Mike Roberts and Renzo Del Negro, and a session with Michael Campbell, Business Analyst and Commentator. There were also sessions on returning to work after a labour dispute; teacher regulation branch: reporting and investigations; duty to accommodate; and managing conflict in the workplace.

Online Community Consultation via ThoughtExchange

We will soon be beginning our on-line community consultation that will give us a “weather report” for the district by beginning with three broad questions out to our parents and stakeholders. These questions will generate some common themes that will again be vetted back out to the same constituents providing some detailed information that can then be used as a basis for a variety of projects specific to the district, to communities and to schools. This will be the first phase of our process. More details to follow!

Finance/Operations Updates:

- Exempt contract implementation
- MVES lease prep re Disposal rules
- Budget reconciliation
- School budget recalcs
- Purchasing card project
- Invoice Scanning project
- School visits
- Technology budget review
- Exempt compensation analysis
- Teacher pay and Strike savings review

Update from the Director of Instruction/Student Learning

Inquiry Based Professional Learning Rounds:

Teams of teacher-learners working together to improve practice and student achievement

The work will always be the work (Hord, 2009); that is, there will always be a curriculum to cover, learning outcomes to assess, feedback to be given, and final grades to produce,

but PLC's are driven by a collective passion to know more, to understand why, and to determine how.(T. Schimmer)

We currently have 37 Learning Rounds in progress. Areas of sharing/learning include:

- Differentiated Instruction as it pertains to Curricular Competencies
- Adrienne Gear focus on improved non-fiction reading comprehension with all students
- Continued exploration of the Mind Up curriculum and the effects on self-regulation
- Sound Grading Practices
- Implementation of The Daily Five and its effect on student achievement
- Use of drills, projects and games in the mastery of basic Math facts
- Learning through the Arts
- Developing Cross-curricular competencies

The list is quite impressive with the financial support exceeding 90 thousand dollars. The learning rounds will be summarized at the beginning of June and plans for the following year will be discussed. It should also be noted that other projects focusing on the trades (Maker Day, Tinker Time, Yes to It etc.) will be supported with the Ed Plan dollars.

Robb Nash presentations:

Robb was the victim of a serious auto accident, a head on collision with a semi-truck. He was found with a fractured skull and pronounced dead by first responders. But by the time the ambulance had arrived at the scene to take his body to the hospital, Robb's pulse had miraculously returned. After a difficult recovery, and despite significant physical and emotional scars, Robb was left with a new outlook on life.

The presentation typically runs 70 minutes. The band performs live music with integrated video, storytelling and humor to engage the students in a unique way while covering many sensitive topics affecting today's youth such as addictions, bullying, suicide and substance abuse. The goal of the presentation is to bring hope and purpose to students, encouraging them to make good choices and make every day count.

Tuesday, Nov. 18 morning – Parkland

Tuesday, Nov. 18 afternoon – Laurie

Wednesday, Nov. 19 morning – Mount Baker

Wednesday, Nov. 19 afternoon – Fernie Secondary

Thursday, Nov. 20 morning – Elkford Secondary

Thursday, Nov. 20 afternoon – Sparwood Secondary

Technology Update:

Work continues with MyEducation BC to ensure all data requirements are loaded and verified (1701, Class size, SADE and Trax).

As the reporting module for Elementary is still being developed to reflect the Ministry group on Communicating Student Learning we are in the process of developing a template for Elementary teachers to use for Term one Report Cards. We certainly understand that the delay has teachers somewhat anxious but we also believe that taking the time to implement suggestions as to the format is also important.

We are continuing to have regular Technology meetings to discuss the roll-out plan and the scheduled timelines/schools. MBSS is proceeding and should be complete at Winter break along with FSS.

Update from Director of Instruction/Safety/Aboriginal Education

Skills Training

We attended a session at the BCSSA regional meetings, led by the Ministry of Education with updates to the Skills Training Initiative. Of particular interest was the Ministry idea around creating a skills training/employability course which may or may not lead to ACE-IT enrollment. I offered the example we have locally developed in SD5, Tradeworks 12 as a working example, and was very encouraged to hear this is the direction the province would like to go forward in.

ITA has been actively seeking input into the ACE-IT program in terms of length-perhaps 2 years, timing- possibly after high school as well, and delivery- not necessarily journeyman status, and we have ensured administrative and teacher input into this process.

Aboriginal Education

Initiatives this month focusing on AB Ed include participation in the promising programs seminar in Richmond and LEA Meetings between the St. Mary's Band and SD5. Many schools have or are having Flag Raising ceremonies this month, including Parkland, Highlands and MBSS (at City Hall). As well, there will be a Metis Kitchen Party on November 19th at Parkland Middle School, come out and join the celebration!

Safe Schools Coordinator

This month we will be in-servicing new Principals, Vice-Principals, Counsellors, AB Ed Workers and Youth Care Workers in Level 1 Erase Training (VTRA), as well as expanding the training into Level 11 for those who have Level 1 previously. As well, we are looking to expand these training opportunities to new staff groups, including Student Service teachers. We are also actively recruiting community partners to join us in this important training.

Update from the District Principal/Student Services

October was a strong data month for Student Services as we worked towards the October 17 data submission date to the Ministry of Education. Many extra hours were completed by all staff to ensure this was the most accurate picture of students and needs we could submit. We have seen a thirteen percent increase of students diagnosed on the autism spectrum over last year. We also saw a decrease of eight percent in the students requiring intensive behavior intervention in the same time frame. This shift in our clientele has also shifted our focus to the supports with students.

As a District team Student Services has sharpened its focus of services to students on the autism spectrum through the implementation of a coordinated referral process to a body of Student Services Coordinators, Speech-Language Pathologists and the District Principal. Another District team is working on the improvement of mental health promotion and access to services for students with mental health issues.

During our Student Services meetings on Nov 3rd and 4th, our district itinerant team, Student Services Teachers, principals and some vice principals explored multiple tiers of instruction and intervention around a durable, integrated framework focused on improving academic, social and behavioral outcomes for ALL students. It is exciting work that holds great promise to meet the needs of our diverse classrooms.

Student Services funding, with the addition of staff through the Education Fund and the Learning Improvement Fund for support staff, we have 30.2 FTE Student Services Teachers and 122 Education Assistants. Both are up just a bit over last year's staffing levels.

We have hired Stacey Short as our Student Service Coordinator for the Elk Valley and Jaffray. She started on November 3 at the two Student Services meeting in Jaffray. Stacey's position is a combination of 0.7 Student Services Coordinator and 0.3 English Language Learning. Stacey brings much experience in classroom and student services, in English language learning, school psychology. She has worked as an educator in BC, Quebec, Mexico and a couple of Middle Eastern countries. It is with great pleasure that we welcome Stacey to the SD5 Team.

Update from the Director of Instruction/Human Resources

Human Resources, to date, has filled 188 teaching and 74 CUPE positions for the current school year. The Education Fund positions are now posted and will be in place in most schools supporting students in the next few days.

The 2 new teacher orientation sessions were held on October 21st in Sparwood and October 28th in Cranbrook. I would like to thank all of our new teachers who attended as well as all of our presenters who made time for both dates. The information was well received and we hope all those in attendance will find it valuable for their teaching experiences in School District 5.

I will be visiting the education students attending College of the Rockies in late November to discuss skills in resume writing and interviewing strategies. We value our partnership with the College and always look forward to working together to better our systems.

Important Dates for Trustees:

Committee Meetings – November 24

Trustee Academy – December 4 - 6

Lynn Hauptman
Superintendent