



School District No. 5
From the Office of the Superintendent

To: Trustees
From: Lynn Hauptman
Date: March 11, 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

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!

On Friday, February 28th I had the opportunity to attend two fabulous Professional Development opportunities. The first was at MBSS and was focused around the Skills and Trades Initiative. The day was focused on **“Understanding and Promoting Trades and Technology with our students through Design/Construct/Test Activities”**. The morning began with a short keynote from Brian Conrad about Trades and Technology opportunities in our district and the province and Patti Mitchell and Karen Kettenacker shared information about the possible changes to the Graduation Program. The rest of the morning had elementary teachers and MBSS staff members participating in a number of different activities throughout the Industrial Education shops to create a better awareness of educational opportunities in these areas. Great fun was had by all and the competitive spirit amongst the staff members was certainly evident!

The second part was a Conference called “Total Maintenance” organized for our hard-working clerical staff and hosted at Lizard Creek Lodge in Fernie. The day began with a “Move and Groove” session led by our own Jane Nixon of Pinewood School. Presenter Lorna McLaren led two sessions – one on Conflict Resolution and Managing Emotions and the other on

Managing Stress. Her wonderful wit combined with incredible knowledge was well-received by all. The day was also interspersed with information on Scholantis, MyEducationBC, SRB, and Outlook. The time for questions was also appreciated. I'd like to thank Gail Rousseau and Janice Paetz who were the masterminds behind the day along with Diane Casault. Already our clerical staffs are asking for a repeat next year! That is the best feedback ever!

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. The Ministry of Education has proclaimed March as Youth Science Month and look forward to hearing about the innovation, imagination and initiative that our BC students showcase through their science projects. I have attached the Proclamation.

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 11 & 12, 2014. 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 already in the throes of planning for our next school year. Determination of 2014-2015 enrolment projections, budget meetings and planning for staffing our schools has begun with the goal to be concluded by the end of 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.

The last week of February was once again a powerful time in our schools and community as we worked together to focus on building a culture of Acceptance and diminishing bullying behaviour. Last month, I shared the number of activities that were planned throughout this week. Very creative and innovative ideas they were! Check out our website for the Laurie Middle School video of their Bully Awareness March to City Hall. District staff did not disappoint this year as they sported their pink even during interviews! The 2nd annual "Pink the Rink" hockey event was held on Friday, March 7th. The spirit and commitment throughout our district and community is inspiring and I trust will build a culture of acceptance which will continue to live and breathe throughout the entire year in SD5.

This month has been bittersweet as we bid farewell to Doug McPhee, Director of Instruction, and Jean Skerik, Executive Assistant, as they both headed off into retirement at the end of February. We wish them well and know that they will be greatly missed in our district. We owe a great debt of gratitude to them for their contributions to our school district. Happy Retirement, Jean and Doug!

I also had the opportunity to share the latest drafts of the new curriculum and competencies with the Board. A great discussion was had and similar conversations are happening throughout our schools. We also had a team that travelled to Creston to meet with other teams from Kootenay/Boundary school districts and curriculum branch of the ministry to give more feedback on the drafts. This is an exciting time in education as we prepare for changes in curriculum that will help to further develop our students into educated citizens. The goals include students who are:

- thoughtful, able to learn and to think critically, and who can communicate information from a broad knowledge base;
- creative, flexible, self-motivated and who have a positive self- image;
- capable of making independent decisions;
- skilled and who can contribute to society generally, including the world of work;
- productive, who gain satisfaction through achievement and who strive for physical well-being;
- cooperative, principled and respectful of others regardless of differences;
- aware of the rights and prepared to exercise the responsibilities of an individual within the family, the community, Canada, and the world.

We recently had a number teachers/administrators attend **Summit 4: Vulnerable Readers** Conference in Kelowna. Deb Kennedy, District Literacy Support teacher, provided a very comprehensive report stating that this was an extremely worthwhile conference with the teachers returning with some further knowledge of the research base in literacy, best practices in literacy instruction and also how to implement these practices in the classroom. Dr. Anne Cunningham presented the findings of the National Early Literacy Panel in the US that indicated that the predictors of success were found to be alphabet knowledge, concepts about print, phonological awareness, invented spelling, oral language, writing/name writing and rapid automatic naming. These have implications for parents and teachers. Dr. Janet Mort picked up on this research and talked about the implications for education here in BC. Other presenters included a team from SD 23 sharing their Primary Teacher practices; Regie Routman stressing the need for professional literacy communities, engagement, guided grading, and the reading/writing connection; Debbie Diller's presentation on designing the classroom for optimum literacy instruction; Pat Johnson, author of Catching Readers Before they Fall, focused on understanding the reading processing system; and Miriam Trehearne presented sessions on focused oral language development.

Another team of teachers/administrators/district staff will be attending the Provincial **Changing Results for Young Readers** in April where again there will be a number of internationally known presenters including Pat Johnson who will be following up the next day with a focus on a reading processing system. What fabulous opportunities we have had for primary teachers and administrators in our Province! Meanwhile, our two local groups of teachers involved in the Changing Results for Young Readers projects continue to meet regularly and share their practices they are using to help their young learners. We look forward to hearing more about this project later this year.

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 2013-2014 school year. June will be here before we know it!

Finance/Operations Updates:

- School planning sessions Mar 3,4,5
- CNAR reporting with Joe Tank
- Follow up on Capital project request from climate action funds
- Orientation of New Executive Assistant
- Review of Safety responsibilities with Brent and Joe
- Technology planning schedule update

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 2011 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 2014, will be invited to Kindergarten Orientation in their neighborhood school.

Cranbrook Schools

April 9	Amy Woodland Elementary	1:00 – 2:00 pm
April 14	Pinewood Elementary	9:30 – 10:30 am
April 15	Highlands Elementary	9:00 - 10:15 pm
April 23	Steeple Elementary	10:00 - 11:00 am
April 24	Gordon Terrace Elementary	9:00 - 10:00 am
April 25	T. M. Roberts Elementary	1:30 - 2:30 pm
April 30	Kootenay Orchards Elementary	9:00 - 10:00 am

Elk Valley/South Country Schools

April 23	Isabella Dicken Elementary	9:30 – 10:30 am
April 24	Rocky Mountain Elementary	9:00 – 10:00 am and 12:30 – 1:30 pm
April 24	F. J. Mitchell Elementary	1:00 – 2:00 pm
April 30	Jaffray Elementary Jr. Sec.	12:40 – 1:40 pm

Early Learning Fairs

April 23	Elk Valley @ Isabella Dicken (Fernie)	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
April 25	Cranbrook @ T. M. Roberts Elementary	9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Update from the District Principal/Student Services

February has been a busy month looking at supports for students. We have worked with school staff to re-define the supports for students for the second half of the year. Schools have also worked on preliminary projections for needed support for the 2014-15 school year. We endeavor to have the most complete support system available for schools for fall start-up. With this preliminary support work, the budgeting sessions in the first week of March, the staffing process and fine-tuning as we progress through the Spring, we are well on track to have a great start.

We have improved the access to Kurzweil - a text-to-speech program that reads to students who have disabilities and difficulties in reading. We have had this program in the District for many years and it is well used. This upgrade allows access on all electronic devices and through secure logons, now in the student's home and community.

Update from the Director of Instruction/Human Resources

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

We were pleased that Harris and Co. was able to join us in February to in-service our principals/vice principals on effective practices on legal matters. Issues covered included family law and supporting students with special needs.

We are continuing to add qualified TTOCs to our casual list as we are still requiring more casual coverage on a day to day basis to cover absenteeism, workshops and professional development events throughout the district. We are continuing to advertise on the Make a Future website for qualified TTOCs in the areas of Student Services, Industrial Education and French Immersion.

School District 5 attended the Career Fair in Castlegar, February 27 to promote casual openings and potential teaching and educational assistant positions that may open. Our purpose was to let those in attendance know that we are looking for the above mentioned TTOC casuals and Educational Assistants now and in the immediate future. Thank you to Kaley Wasylowich, Vice Principal at Parkland Middle School for representing the district at this event.

Important Dates for Trustees:

No Committee Meetings in March
BCSTA AGM - April 24-27

Lynn Hauptman
Superintendent



Canada
Province of British Columbia
A Proclamation

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom,
Canada and Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the
Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith

To all to whom these presents shall come – Greeting

WHEREAS 500,000 young scientists in elementary and secondary schools across Canada will be participating in local and regional science and technology fairs in every part of the country in March, and

WHEREAS 40,000 of those students are here in British Columbia, taking part in dozens of local fairs and 14 regional fairs in our province, and

WHEREAS the very best of these participants will champion British Columbia at the Canada-Wide Science Fair this May in Windsor, Ontario, and

WHEREAS all of these students have worked diligently to produce projects that demonstrate Innovation, Initiative and Imagination, and

WHEREAS it is in the best interests of young people to acquire knowledge and skills in science and technology in order to better understand the world and to further their education and future career prospects, and

WHEREAS it is in the best interests of our society and our economy to support the creation of an innovation culture and the nurturing of a generation of scientifically literate young people who push forward the boundaries of our knowledge and improve the quality of our lives in the future, and

WHEREAS all Canadians should be supporting and celebrating our young scientists, and

WHEREAS Our Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, has been pleased to enact Order in Council 903 on October 11, 2002;

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that March, 2014, shall be known as a

“Youth Science Month”

in the Province of British Columbia.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS, The Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Victoria, in Our Province, this twentieth day of February, two thousand fourteen and in the sixty-third year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.

Attorney General, Minister of Justice
(counter signature for the Great Seal)

Lieutenant Governor