



School District No. 5
From the Office of the Superintendent

To: Trustees
From: Lynn Hauptman
Date: September 9, 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 – funded enrolment report will be provided at October Board Meeting

Superintendent's Activities

As I write this Superintendent's Report in anticipation of our first Board Meeting, we are currently experiencing our first official day of school with schools behind picket lines as the dispute continues. We had begun the last weekend of August full of optimism with the hopes that Vince Ready would have been able to bring the two sides to a successful outcome. That, however, was not the case and we have had to postpone our normally exciting first day of school for another time. Meanwhile, we continue to update our website regularly and have attempted to provide parents with not only up to date information but also resources that they can access at home to support their children during this labour dispute. (<http://bcparentinfo.ca/learning-resources/>)

I am very proud, however, to report that our schools are ready for the new school year after another summer where our superb maintenance and custodial staff were able to complete projects and have our schools clean and ready to begin. Shiny floors, new rooms, clean desks, new pavement, etc., have all been completed to meet the needs of our students and staff. Thank you very much to our Operations staff that transform our schools every summer. The pride in your work is very much in evidence!

Visiting Elkford to meet with the Administration and the CFTA Co-Chair about the plans for Rocky Mountain Elementary School also happened in August. After touring the school, it is obvious we are on track to have students and staff back in their virtually "new" building in early October. Plans for alternate spaces for some of the classes have also been made with the full support of the District of Elkford. (Thank you, District of Elkford!) Dean Chandler, Principal

of RMES, has also been extremely busy over the summer reordering supplies and learning resources for the school. Further purchasing will happen once teachers are back in their new learning spaces with their students. We have likened this to moving into a new house – one usually needs to live in the space and experience it for a short while before making new purchases!

Two weeks ago we met with the Principals and Vice-Principals and District Management Team where we focused primarily on ensuring our students have the best possible education through a series of activities and educational leadership practices. I would like the opportunity to share some of this with the Board in later sessions. Information necessary for a successful school start was also a part of the agenda. Thank you to Chair Frank Lento for welcoming all of us back for another school year and, in particular, our new Administrators: Doug Bolander and Erin Hay (ESS); Dean Chandler and James Lund (RMES); Jennifer Roberts (TMES) and Viveka Johnson (MBSS).

I do hope that by our first Board Meeting that our children and staff are back in our schools doing what we all love best – teaching and learning together.

Portland Assessment

The two Directors of Student Learning and I along with seven administrators attended very enriching professional development at the Annual Assessment Institute in Portland in early July. We had the pleasure of attending workshops and keynotes from such learned educators as Rick Stiggins, Tom Schimmer, Myron Dueck, Tom Gusky, Ken Mattingly, Ken O'Connor, and Jan Chappuis to name just a few. What they all had in common was the message that both assessment literacy and engagement is the way to ensure that all students can succeed.

Short Course

Once again the district was able to support sending a number of new administrators to the BCPVPA sponsored Short Course held every summer at UBC. This year Jill Carley, Erin Boehm, and David Doll were in attendance and we already have generated a list for next year.

Opportunity for Columbia Basin Trust's "Know Your Watershed" Presentation

Columbia Basin Trust will again be offering the delivery of this regionally-based water stewardship education program for grade 8 science students at Elkford Secondary, Fernie Secondary, Sparwood Secondary, Laurie Middle and Parkland Middle Schools in the upcoming school year. This presentation supplements the Grade 8 science curriculum and the program will be delivered by experienced, local environmental educators. CBT funds the delivery of the program, subsidizes bussing and teacher on call costs for the field trip component of the program. Thank you very much to CBT for their continued support of environmental stewardship education in our district.

Telus Backpacks – Kits for Kids

Telus Ambassadors, once again, have provided School District 5 students with Backpacks full of school supplies! Backpacks are ready to go as soon as school opens! Telus has provided 200 backpacks for SD5 students this year! Thank you to Telus Community Ambassadors!

Dogwood District Authority Award Scholarships

Forty-six of our Grade 12 graduating students from last year were recipients of a \$1000.00 District Dogwood Authority Award. These awards are scholarships which are funded by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Advanced Education and awarded to students through a local selection committee. The Selection Committee was comprised of Jason Tichauer, Janice Paetz and Gail Rousseau.

Finance/Operations Updates:

The Accounting department is staffed mostly with CUPE employees so we are covering a long list of “other” duties while the strike is on. We are finalizing the Audited Financial Statements and preparing reports and budgets for Managers and Schools. The Joint Use agreement for Cranbrook is drafted and sent to the City of Cranbrook. This agreement will be on the Fin/Ops committee at the end of Sept. Our CUPE bargaining team is preparing for meetings on Sep 5th and 11th with the hope of concluding talks with a new agreement.

Update from the Director of /Student Learning and Innovation

Research does show that teachers are the most important school-based factor in a child's achievement and therefore we are excited about expanding and improving on our existing Professional Learning Rounds. We will be continuing with our Changing Results for Young Readers as well as our Changing Results for Adolescent Readers. Adrienne Gear will be returning to SD 5 to work with School Writing Leaders in an attempt to develop school wide writing goals. Carole Fullerton will also be working with a group of teacher leaders in the area of K-3 math curriculum. A PLC of intermediate educators will be supported in examining a change in reporting student achievement. Finally, support will continue for over 30 school-based Professional Learning Teams to utilize a spiral of inquiry approach to improve the achievement of some of our most vulnerable learners.

Enrolment continues to grow in our four StrongStart Centers. (AWES, FJMES, IDES and SES). Currently they are not operating as a result of the strike but are anxious to welcome their families as well as to continue to build on their existing relationships within their school communities.

The 2014-2015 District Literacy Plan has been submitted to Ministry and is available on the school district website. A new format was introduced last year so be sure to check out all the work that has gone into ensuring literacy needs are being met in our communities.

Technology Update

Regular meetings are being implemented to review and/or monitor the status of the technology plan and its importance to student learning. An understanding of the infrastructure needs as well as the educational needs are being discussed and addressed. PMS along with TMRES have new technology and we are scheduled to train and support the staff when school is in session. Currently the “roll-out” is ahead of schedule and some slight modifications are being considered. The state of readiness of schools will see FSS moving forward this fall and the start of MBSS infrastructure within this school year. Further meetings with IBM are being planned to review our current progress, continue the development of the portal system and to discuss our readiness to move forward with the upgrades that are being established provincially.

MyEducation BC converted data from BCeSIS this August and SD5 has put forth all Elementary Schools to go live this September. Data validation continues with some slight “glitches” that are being addressed by the provincial Fujitsu Team. We held our first training session with both clerical staff and school P/VP’s and found it to be quite positive. Folks are anxious to move forward and become familiar with the new system. A BIG thanks to Sharon Waswick who continues to put in countless hours to ensure our data is accurate and ready for our schools, staff and students!!

Update from Director of Student Learning and Aboriginal Education

Provincial Exams

We were pleased to be able to support a number of students from SD 5 and neighbouring districts in writing Grade 10, 11 and 12 Provincial Exams in early August. It turns out that we were the only district regionally to offer the opportunity to write the exams.

Skills Training

The Elementary Skills Training Program is a go! It will be run through Mount Baker’s Industrial Ed department and will give elementary students a hands-on introduction to skills training and potential areas of interest. We were able to fund this program through Grant applications, as well as the Education Plan supplement. As well, I attended a presentation on a similar program in the Comox Valley school district, and I believe our program is well-situated for success.

Aboriginal Education

We have recently been able to support our Aboriginal Learners with new technologies purchased from Ab Ed funding. This will put an additional 52 workstations in our schools.

Safe Schools Coordinator

We will be holding a meeting with all Secondary and Middle Principals and Vice-Principals this week to further develop a framework for incorporating Violence/Threat Risk Assessments in our school Codes of Conduct, as well as revamping our district indefinite suspension process to incorporate not only VTRA principles, but also a movement towards making Restorative Practices part of our day to day processes. As well, we have been informed that there will be new 'level 3' Erase Bullying training coming this fall.

Update from the District Principal/Student Services

Darcy Verbeurgt presented on multi-levels of instruction and intervention at the August District and School Leadership meetings. Following a supplemental support system rather than replacing instructional time with intervention time, we are able to better instruct ALL students with universal and differentiated instruction. This makes the targeted and intensive interventions much more meaningful and effective.

Darcy attended the BC Council for Administrators of Special Education, where keynote Bruce Beairsto and Ministry of Education staff encourage all of us to move beyond inclusion to embrace diversity in classroom.

We have been working together with school principals to determine the best possible levels of specialized teaching and support staff for their buildings for day one of school.

Update from the Director of Instruction/Human Resources

Executive Assistant, Melanie Graham, was hired in the HR department August 1st. Welcome to the Human Resources Department Melanie!

135 teacher postings have been posted and filled since the first round of postings began in May.

CUPE postings (EAs) continue to be ongoing based on school needs; 45 postings filled since June to date.

All elementary EAs within the District have had their day extended 15 minutes as a result of SSEAC (Support Staff Education and Adjustment Committee). The money to support this increase has been provided through the Learning Improvement Fund.

Local Bargaining with CUPE local 4165 is scheduled to resume on September 5th. We have several dates booked in September and look forward to a successful conclusion to bargaining.

Important Dates for Trustees:

Committee Meetings – Sept. 29
BCSTA AGM – December 4-6

Lynn Hauptman
Superintendent