



World Class Learning in a Rural Environment

December 10, 2019
Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer Report
*Presented at the Education Partnership Committee,
 and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education*

1. December Enrollment notes

- No changes in overall enrollment since last month
- Indigenous Learners – 87 students or 19.1% of our student population
- Students with diverse learning needs – 55 students or 12.1% of our student population
- Below is the monthly enrollment chart by school and grade:

My Education BC: Student Enrollment Numbers																
As of:	Dec 4															
Grade:	Gr.K	Gr.1	Gr.2	Gr.3	Gr.4	Gr.5	Gr.6	Gr.7	Gr.8	Gr.9	Gr.10	Gr.11	Gr.12	TOTALS	Nov	Dif
ALDL	1	0	1	4	0	3	3	3	3	4	1	1	11	35	35	0
BES	1	5	4	4	3									17	17	0
EES	2	3	1	0	2	1	0	7						16	16	0
LESS	5	7	9	5	5	8	7	10	10	8	4	6	5	89	89	0
NES	27	23	11	18	24	22	24	24						173	174	-1
NSS									28	20	32	27	16	123	122	1
TOTAL		36	38	26	31	34	34	44	41	32	37	34	32			
District Total														453	453	0

1. Goat Mountain Child Care Centre News

- Goat Mountain School Society AGM was held on December 3rd with a new slate of directors elected; this is the non-profit society which will operate the Child Care Centre
- The Society will soon be reaching out to engage prospective children and families seeking child care starting in September 2020 when we aim to have the construction completed
- Meanwhile, our SD 10 district staff have been busy getting the capital project underway
- Architect Chris Fairbanks did the original conceptual drawings for the centre, and has been engaged as the project architect; Manager of Operations, Art Olson, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Shelly Woolf and Superintendent Terry Taylor have been meeting with him to iron out the architectural design details and begin work on the RFP for a General Contractor



Thanks to Paula Shandro, Sara Wearmouth, Evelyn Goodell, Richard Allen, Patti Sebben, Morgen Bardati, Ric Bardati, Helen Davis and Daniel Hellyer, Directors and members of Goat Mountain School Society



Welcome to the new Goat Mountain Child Care Board of Directors: Nick Graves, Jess Rayner, Nyree Caton, Valerie Piercey-Wilson, Michael, McLellan, Jessica Bernhof (missing from photo: Chelsea Lada, Richelle Johnston)

1. NSS Climbing and Bouldering Wall Project Update

- How exciting that construction has BEGUN! on the bouldering wall as of December 10th thanks to the efforts of our district carpenters, Jamie Peterson and Riley Gerber
- Climbing wall construction is due to commence December 16th and continue through December and early January with Madden Construction on the job
- Our goal is to have the climbing and bouldering walls built and ready for an engineer's inspection in mid-January with final project completed by end of February
- Stay tuned for the official ribbon cutting ceremony sometime in February announcing the completion of this long-awaited school and community project!

2. Electric Bus Talks

- At a recent BCASBO meeting attended by Superintendent Taylor, there was discussion about districts piloting electric busses in alignment with government's CleanBC carbon neutral initiative
- We are due for two new school busses in the 2021 Bus Capital Plan which would yield new bus purchases for the 2021-22 school year
- Costs for diesel busses are covered by the Ministry at present up to about \$140,000
- District staff are putting together data for mechanical repairs to one of our current busses which has not yet aged out to allow the Ministry to determine whether an ample case for a new bus one year early may be merited
- In discussion with Ministry colleagues, the cost of electric busses continues to fall about 10% each year with current electric school bus costs at \$325,000, about twice the cost of a diesel bus
- This year and next, there is special Ministry funding to pay for all but \$50,000 to \$60,000 of the cost of an electric bus, and also grants available for charging stations in school districts
- We continue to explore this exciting possibility moving us closer to emissions reductions and fighting the climate crisis
- Estimates of fuel and maintenance savings vs additional capital expenditures will be forecasted

3. Environmental Education Committee District Waste Audit

- Growing environmental education is one of the Board's five Strategic Plan priorities for 2019-20 and aligned with Goal 1: Enhance Teaching and Learning
- This year, the environmental education committee met on November 1st and besides local teachers, the teacher Union President and senior district staff, also includes students
- At the November 1st meeting, our NSS and Lucerne youth expressed a keen desire to not only craft a climate action plan for the district, but also to start taking action - sooner than later
- As a result, a district-wide waste audit was scheduled for Tuesday, December 3rd with garbage collected from all district schools from the previous day
- In all, eight students from three schools: NES (Grade 5s, Emily and Lincoln), NSS (Dustin, Oriah and Kaziah), and Lucerne (Juniper, Casandra, and Amelie) participated along with teachers Katrina Sumrall and Andrea Volansky, Manager of Operations, Art Olson, custodian, Tracey Fetters, and the Director of Learning, Peter Dubinsky, and Superintendent
- The findings were surprising to most Environmental Education Committee members
- In one day, the district garbage weighed over 89 pounds – almost 450 pounds of garbage per week! All the garbage was sorted into three categories: food waste, recycling, and actual garbage



School garbage in pounds	Number of students
BES – 2	17
EES - 2	16
Lucerne – 10	89 + Strong Start open

NES - 35	173 + Strong Start open
NSS - 40	123

➤ Not only was the amount of garbage surprising but also what was in the garbage and could be diverted in future was interesting

- One third of the “garbage” was recyclable with the majority being paper towels
- One third of the “garbage” was compostable food waste
- Lots of math calculations and environmental education thinking went on as the audit continued
- The team came up with 9 recommendations to reduce waste in their schools and the school district and will hold another waste audit in the spring with hopes of seeing big reductions

Waste Reduction Recommendation	
1	Use smaller garbage bags and also smaller garbage cans in all schools
2	Re-use garbage bags each day unless soiled for two weeks (currently one week per bag)
3	Encourage students and staff to use reusable lunch containers
4	Set up composting programs at each school
5	Install paper towel recycle bins in all washrooms
6	Create lists of recyclable items to help educate students and staff about what can be recycled
7	Put paper recycling bins in school hallways along with current plastic recycling bins
8	Recycle washroom soap dispenser containers
9	Rinse recyclable food containers out so they are not contaminated and can be recycled

4. January 27th Pro-D – Indigenous Education Focus

- High quality professional learning is a cornerstone of Goal 1 in our Strategic Plan: Enhance Teaching and Learning and plans are underway to make the January 27th Pro-D day a meaningful one as we focus on indigenous education
- Our shared focus aligns with the Board’s 2019-20 Strategic Plan priority to “Improve indigenous student success and embed indigenous education cultural programming”
- A variety of indigenous culture learning experiences including sessions by Circle of Indigenous Nations (COINS) and a welcome from Sinixt elder Marilyn James will connect with the First Peoples Principles of Learning and Indigenous Worldviews and Perspectives
- A range of indigenous education resources compiled by our Indigenous Education Support teachers will allow teachers and Education Assistants to have time to engage in using resources for planning

5. TechBC Grant to provide Student and Teacher Professional Learning in tech careers

- We have been successful in an application along with TechBC aimed to increase students’ and teachers’ engagement with technology and tech careers
- On February 13th, Grade 6-10 students from across the district will gather at one of our Nakusp schools to create a mobile app along with tech industry experts – a Hackathon!
- Students will engage in a design thinking approach and then make an app in inter-school teams
- A range of careers in the tech industry will also be profiled by the tech career guests
- The next day, February 14th, all SD 10 teachers are invited to attend a morning Pro-D session hosted by Tech BC focused on technology applications and careers in the tech sector
- All costs of the two day event – bus transportation, lunches for students and staff, and teacher travel costs to the Pro-D as well as creating a short film of the events will be covered by the Supercluster technology grant
- This project aligns with both Goal 1 – Enhance Teaching and Learning and Goal 2 – Cultivate Community Connections and Relationships in the District Strategic Plan and 2019-20 Board Priority “Community Connectedness: Enhance communication and advocacy for our schools”

6. Growing Innovation Grant Received for Virtual Reality Project

- Three schools in the district will engage in a Growing Innovation inquiry initiative this year, focused on teachers and students learning by creating short Virtual Reality films

- Students and teachers at Edgewood Elementary, Nakusp Elementary and Lucerne Elementary Secondary will connect with one another virtually and share short films documenting their place with one another
- This \$1000 Growing Innovation grant and District Initiative funds will help purchase two more sets of VR goggles (for a total of five sets in the district) which will be shared across the district
- Rural Education Advisory and UBC provide funding for Growing Innovation grants each year
- Projects from across rural districts in BC connect to learn from one another through the year and then meet in a culminating symposium at UBC with travel costs paid by REA and UBC
- Both Goal 1 and 2 of the Strategic Plan are evident in this innovative project

7. School Winter Concerts Showcase Student Performing Arts Talents

Be sure to take in the winter concerts at our local schools in the next few weeks!

School	Winter Concert Date
BES	Thursday, December 19 th at 11 am
EES	Wednesday, December 18 th at 6:00 pm
Lucerne	Wednesday, December 18 th at 6:45 pm
NES	Dress Rehearsal: Monday December 16 th at 1 pm Concert: Tuesday, December 17 th at 6:30pm

8. International Education Program Partnership

- SD 10 and SD 8 are forging a new partnership to create an International Education program between the two districts, a Kootenay International Education program
- Director of Learning, Peter Dubinsky and Superintendent Terry Taylor met December 4th with District Principal for International Education, Jann Schmidt and Superintendent Christine Perkins to explore the possibilities of a partnership between the two school districts
- School District 8 has had a strong International Ed program for the past two decades and has recruitment and administrative infrastructures in place
- It's been three years since SD 10 had international students in the school district, as a result of the challenges for a very small district to manage and sustain an International Ed program
- At its peak in 2016-17, SD 10 had 8-10 international students from China, Japan, Germany and Spain all adding to the cultural diversity of our school communities
- Given very positive feedback from parents, students, staff and community during Fall 2017 District Strategic Plan consultations, and encouragement from the Board of Education to continue
- Tentative plans are for SD 10 to host five Grade 8 through 12 international students in the 2020-21 school year
- A contracted homestay coordinator will be needed to help find and support five homestay families in the school district area
- Homestay families are paid \$850 per month to support the costs of hosting an international student and also benefit from having a young person from another country join their family
- The district will be seeking potential homestay families in the new year once details of the partnership are worked out
- Both Goal 1 and Goal 2 of the District Strategic Plan are encompassed in this exciting new venture to enhance teaching and learning through connecting our learners with students beyond the bounds of SD 10 from around the world