



World Class Learning in a Rural Environment

January 15, 2019

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

1. January Enrollment notes

- Enrolment in our schools is steady; down by 1 student since December but up since 2017-18
- Below is the monthly enrolment chart by school and grade:

My Education BC: Student Enrollment Numbers																
As of:	Jan 8-19															
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	Dec	Dif
ALDL	2	2	6	1	3	3	4	3	1	2	0	6	8	41	41	0
BES	3	3	4	2										12	12	0
EES	1	1	1	2	1	0	7	2						15	15	0
LESS	8	8	7	3	10	7	12	8	6	4	7	5	5	90	91	-1
NES	25	12	16	26	22	21	27	24						173	173	0
NSS									21	32	28	19	23	123	123	0
TOTAL Per Grade		39	26	34	34	36	31	50	37	28	38	35	30	36		
District Total														454	455	-1

2. Support Staff Increases at NES and BES; School Budget Increases

- Additional operating grant funding announced in December 2018 as a result of increased student enrolment over projections in this school year, has allowed us to increase support to schools where needed
- Due to increased needs for supporting students with diverse learning needs at NES, an additional 26 hour per week Education Assistant has been hired
- As a result of increased needs at BES, with enrollment almost double projections at our newly re-opened Burton School, secretarial time has increased by 1.5 hours per week to 8 hours
- We've also increased allocations to school budgets as a result of enrolment increases

3. M in STEM Pop-Ups – February 5th and 6th

- We are very excited to host two M (Mathematics) in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) days and evenings with guest UBC professor, Dr. Cynthia Nicol and PhD candidate, Lindsay Reynolds
- Students, staff and parents from three schools in the district, NES, Lucerne and ALDL, are participating in math problem-solving and challenges both in the evening and during the school day with a focus on critical and creative thinking in mathematics
- The UBC M in STEM team will return to the district in the spring to work with high school students, teachers and families as well as our Southern Zone schools

4. NSS Climbing Wall Update

- Slowly, but surely, the climbing wall project at Nakusp Secondary School is coming closer to becoming reality, despite a number of hurdles

- The Climbing Wall Society has met a number of times and completed their non-profit society status
- Liability insurance for community use of the climbing wall will be covered by the Village of Nakusp as passed at their July 2018 Council meeting, while School Protection insurance will cover our students, staff and any parent volunteers using the facility
- We are currently awaiting engineering drawings for the wall which are necessary before ordering the climbing wall parts
- We remain hopeful that shortly, the engineer's drawings will be completed, equipment ordered, and plans for installation made
- With luck, installation of the climbing and bouldering wall in the NSS Gym and weight room could potentially take place over the March break

5. Grants, grants, grants

- Certainly one of the creative ways we support innovation is by applying for grants from a variety of sources to support our students' learning
- NSS has been successful in applying for a \$2600 grant from a non-profit society, Breakfast Club of Canada; the grant will support hot breakfasts at the school through \$2600 in Save-On Foods gift cards
- Lucerne School has successfully received an ArtStarts grant to deepen student learning in the arts with professional actors, dancers and musicians working alongside students. Katrina Sumrall at Lucerne is excited that her ArtStarts application for funding to produce the musical theatre play, *Once Upon a Mattress*, in the spring was approved
- The district is applying for a \$1000 Growing Innovation in Rural Sites of Learning grant; this will be the tenth year we will have received this Ministry funding through the Rural Education Advisory
 - This year's Growing Innovation place-conscious learning inquiry project features EES and Lucerne working collaboratively on an paddle carving project that will incorporate cross-curricular learning, indigenous cultures and the core competencies
 - Senior students will carve paddles out of maple and younger students from cedar.
 - Principal Nick Graves is spearheading the project in collaboration with Lucerne School parent, Jonathan Reynolds, who, with his non-profit society, [Sustainability Education](#), has initiated such projects previously.
 - Indigenous Elders, Eloise Charet and Al Richardson are key partners in the project
- Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality innovations are the topic of the Ministry/Rural Education Advisory grant that we are applying for on behalf of three schools: NES, EES and Lucerne
 - The grant's focus is to connect teachers in all three schools as well as the students using AR/VR technology
 - Using AR and VR is a new initiative and the district IT Manager has purchased technology to support student and teacher learning
- Applying for small micro-grants each year to support innovative projects, combined with the talents and vision of our amazing SD 10 teachers, school leaders, and student learners go a long way to helping to realize our district motto: *Global Learning in a Rural Environment*

6. Youth Capital Trades Grant Update

- We are in Year Three of receiving over \$368,520 in funding from the ITA; so far our two secondary schools have spent \$273,230 (76% of the total funding) for amazing updates to trades equipment for our learners with the remainder to be expended this year!
- Much of our shop and food classes' equipment was decades old and often not functioning well, so we are very grateful for the ITA support! It's really made a difference for our kids!

- We applied in the spring of 2016 for Industry Trades Authority funding for trades equipment at both of our secondary schools – NSS and Lucerne; all three shops at NSS, the Lucerne shop and Foods rooms in both schools have benefited from the new capital equipment
- In order to qualify for the 2018-19 Year Three funding, our secondary principals, Director and the Superintendent worked this fall with ITA to identify future *Youth Trades Explore*, *Youth Train in Trades* and *Youth Discover the Trades*, and *Maker Club for Educators* programs for the 2019-20 school year and beyond
- Each of the new ITA programs in our 2019-20 Plan for Trades Program Plan will garner additional ITA funding and further support the learning of our students using the new capital equipment
- Kudos to Shelly Woolf, our Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, for her detailed trades equipment spending report for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years, now submitted to ITA
- Thanks also to Art Olson, Manager of Operations, and district carpenters, Jamie Peterson and Riley Gerber for their expertise in problem-solving and installing all the new equipment in our school Shops and Foods labs

7. Environmental Education Initiatives

- Environmental Education remains a key part of our school and district culture with a number of initiatives underway
- SD 10 is happy to host the annual Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network conference, *Voices for Sustainability*, to be held in September 2019 at Whatshan Lake; environmental educators from across the Columbia Basin will gather to learn and share at this annual conference
- Tentative plans are to connect our September 2019 Pro-D day to place-conscious learning and environmental education, laddering onto the CBEEN conference dates and facilitators
- Senior district leaders and our EEPSA teacher leaders will meet in the coming month to discuss the CBEEN conference, potential fall Pro-D day, and ways to deepen EE student learning in the district
- On behalf of the BC School Superintendents' Association's [Kootenay Boundary Environmental Education](#) initiative, the Superintendent is working on a Vancouver Foundation research grant application with Dr. Leyton Schnellert as lead researcher and David Istance, formerly lead researcher with the OECD Innovative Learning Environment research
- The proposed EE research would focus not only on researching our current practices of environmental education and their impact on student and teacher learning as well as benefits to our communities, but also build capacity for our educators in SD 10, and collaboratively with other educators across the Kootenay Boundary region
- Past multi-year Vancouver Foundation grants with groups of school districts have nurtured innovation and student learning in those districts, as well as added to the compelling research about quality education in BC

8. Ministry Special Education Audit

- Preparation continues in our schools for the Special Education audit scheduled for the week of March 11th
- Our Director of Learning and Superintendent will attend a conference call with the Ministry Audit Team Chair on January 22nd

9. Fauquier School Property Update

- Status of the district's application to subdivide the current Fauquier School property into two lots is nearing a close
- We have submitted a rezoning application for the larger second lot to AG4K which will allow a potential vendor to build a residence on the property

- Current zoning for the parcel of land is institutional; RDCK will also amend their Community Plan once the rezoning is approved
- The district is also working to ensure the sewer connection to the new lot is done before selling the property; this will cost approximately \$1500-\$2,000
- Currently, the RDCK is holding a \$6,000 water utility deposit paid by the district
- Timeline for rezoning includes sending out referrals to other agencies in early January, a 30 day waiting period, then hopefully, if all goes well, first reading of the bylaw amendments will be sent to the RDCK Board as early as February 2019

10. January 21st Pro-D day Plans – Investing in Educator Wellbeing

- We are looking forward to an excellent shared ALTA/District Pro-D day on Monday, January 21st with Wade Repta, from [Humanworks](#)
- Plans for the Pro-D professional learning workshop were chosen collaboratively and the Pro-D day planned by the Arrow Lakes Teachers Association and senior district staff
- All Education Assistants, all teachers, and our Leadership team of PVPs, Director and Superintendent will participate in this experiential learning workshop focused on enhancing educator wellness
- Wade is the author of [The Well Teacher](#), an excellent resource on fostering and maintaining teacher wellness
- Based on a recommendation from ALTA President, Ric Bardati, the district also purchased copies of *The Well Teacher* book for all teachers and PVPs to help support their wellbeing
- There's a growing body of research that indicates investing in employee wellness is integral in successful organizations; in the education sector, research shows that teacher wellbeing is highly correlated to student wellbeing and student success

11. Ministry Funding Review Update

- In late December, the long-awaited [Independent Panel Funding Review Report](#) was released
- After an extensive series of consultation meetings with Boards of Education, Superintendents and Secretary-Treasurers across the province, analysing written submissions and thoughtful meetings with all education stakeholders, the Panel's report makes 22 recommendations encompassing three themes: 1) Equity of Educational Opportunity, 2) Accountability and 3) Financial Management
- On December 19th, the Minister of Education announced that for the upcoming school year in 2019-20 there will be no changes to the current Operating Grant Funding Formula
- The additional year before implementation of a new funding formula will give the sector and all stakeholders an opportunity to review the Panel's recommendations and give input to the Ministry of Education
- Of particular note in the report, are the recommendations in Theme One: Equity pertaining to rural and remote districts which clearly outline the higher costs in operating schools and districts far from urban centres and recommend provisions in the new funding formula to address the unique geographical and educational needs of rural and remote districts

12. SD 10 Annual Budget Consultation Process Begins

- Each year, for the past five years, the school district has engaged in thoughtful consultations with our school staff, parents and communities about school and district priorities and considerations, as the Board and district staff establish the budget for the upcoming school year
- The Board of Education, along with the District Leadership team, visit each of our schools and listen to parents and staff in visits across the district each February
- Further consultation occurs as the Board meets with our Principals and Vice-Principals, and in a series of three Finance Committee meetings held in February, March and April

- Representatives from CUPE, ALTA, PVP, DPAC and secondary students attend all 3 Finance Committee meetings along with the entire Board of Education, the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer and Director of Learning
- We greatly value the input that comes from this in-depth budget consultation process as it helps the Board and our school and district leaders understand the unique contexts of each school, and consider the diverse strengths and challenges in our rural schools and communities
- The 2019-20 Budget By-law will be passed by the Board on Monday, April 29th, 2019