



World Class Learning in a Rural Environment

**September 17, 2019**  
**Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer Report**  
*Presented at the Education Partnership Committee,  
 and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education*

### 1. September Enrollment notes

- Enrolment as school begins shows a slight increase from last school year at 460 students; September 2018 headcount was 452 students.
- Our enrollment projections indicated 469 students for September 2019
- Currently one student is cross-enrolled at both ALDL and NSS
- Final 1701 snapshot and subsequent Ministry funding will be based on September 30<sup>th</sup> FTE
- Below is the monthly enrolment chart by school and grade:

My Education BC: Student Enrollment Numbers																
As of:	Sept 12															
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	June	Dif
ALDL	0	0	1	3	0	3	3	6	2	3	2	1	18	42	45	-3
BES	1	6	4	4	3									18	14	4
EES	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	7						15	15	0
LESS	7	7	8	5	5	8	7	9	8	8	4	6	4	86	90	-4
NES	28	23	11	18	25	23	24	23						175	169	6
NSS									27	21	33	27	16	124	118	6
<b>TOTAL Per Grade</b>		38	38	25	31	34	35	34	45	37	32	39	34	38		
<b>District Total</b>														460	451	9
Notes:	Grade not applicable to school															

### Welcome to our New Staff!

- It's been a busy spring and summer hiring season, and we are excited to welcome many new employees, and employees new to their positions to our SD 10 staff!!!

School/Position	New/Returning Employee	Role
<b>District Staff</b>	Peter Dubinsky	Director of Learning
<b>NSS</b>		
	Karlee Cook	Electives Teacher
	Dominic Raso	Math Teacher
	Jared Strand	Humanities, Outdoor Education Teacher
<b>NES</b>		
	Hannah Boomer	PE, Outdoor Ed, Indigenous Ed Teacher
	Michelle Jackson	Grade 3/4 Teacher
	Biz Tupper	Kindergarten/Grade 1 Teacher
	Andrea Volansky	Grade 5/6 Teacher
	Brent Cook	Vice-Principal and Classroom Support Teacher
	Michele Hildebrand	Education Assistant
	Faye Fox	Custodian
<b>Lucerne</b>		
	Margot Baker	Secondary English, Electives Teacher
	Kyoko Conne	Kindergarten/Grade 1 Teacher
	Donna Hicks	Intermediate and Secondary Teacher

	Debbie Dubinsky	Grade 2/3 Teacher
	Mark Lada	School Counsellor, Secondary Teacher
	Justin Bisson	Vice-Principal, Intermed/Secondary Teacher
	Suzanne King	Education Assistant
	Bob Gould	Eastern Zone Bus Driver
<b>BES</b>		
	Kristi Mortell-Leblanc	K-4 Literacy Support Teacher
	Ken Rogers	Custodian and BES Bus Driver

### 1. Key 2019-20 Budget Decisions

- The Board of Education passed its Annual Budget By-law last spring with the following key budget decisions based on feedback from the Finance Committee and budget consultations at our schools:
  - Increase of a 1.0 teacher at Nakusp Elementary School to address increased enrollment
  - Increased staffing at NSS to enhance secondary elective and academic choice offerings
  - Increased .25 FTE intermediate teacher staffing at EES for continuity and to allow VP to provide Classroom Support an additional day per week at NES
  - Increased 1.0 Teaching VP staffing at Lucerne to enhance secondary elective and academic choice options and support Principal of two complex K-12 schools
  - Increase .5 FTE teacher staffing at Burton Elementary to support increased enrollment and a K-4 classroom learning environment
  - Continue additional Arts program funding from 2017-18 budget with flexibility for schools to choose which areas of fine and performing arts to enhance their schools
  - Increase school secretary time at BES and EES schools
  - Add a school bus route for K-4 children at Burton Elementary School

### 2. NSS Climbing Wall Update

- Engineered drawings for the NSS climbing wall were finally received from the engineer in July; engineer plans for the bouldering wall have not yet been received
- These delays have caused delays in estimating costs, materials and starting construction
- The climbing wall plans involve more extensive structural alterations to the school building than were anticipated, and also additional labour costs
- School district staff met with three members of the Climbing Wall Society during the first week of September to discuss the concerns, as Society members were not available during the summer
- A local contractor has been engaged to assess labour and building material costs for the climbing wall based on the new engineer drawings; those costs are estimated at \$49,000
- Superintendent and NSS Principal met Friday September 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss project feasibility and planning with an updated timeline and budget to be provided to CBT by the end of this week
- The project must be completed by December 2019 to access grant funds

### 3. Fauquier School Property Update

- RDCK has now passed rezoning bylaw amendments and OCP amendment on the Fauquier School property subdivision application
- Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Shelly Woolf is currently:
  - Working with RDCK to get water connection to property line installed
  - Requesting approval letter from BC Hydro – then sending that on to RDCK
  - Awaiting RDCK letter to MoT that all requirements have been met
- We look forward to soon receiving the Ministry of Transportation approval
- School district process and next steps will commence as soon as we have Ministry approval:
  - Disposal of land will be executed as per [Ministry regulations](#)
    - Appraisal of both lots, and statements of valuation of net proceeds
    - Documentation of property title and how it was originally acquired (for restricted and local capital fund purposes), site plan, rationale for disposal of the property, etc

- Community consultation held in Fauquier to allow final input on the disposal of property plans
  - A Board by-law regarding proposed disposal of the property
  - Work on an agreement for sale with the community organization in Fauquier
  - Interviewing and selecting a real estate agent to sell the second lot; and selling that property
- District staff will continue to move ahead on the details over the next few months

#### **4. New Spaces and CBT Child Care Centre Grant Applications Submitted**

- In collaboration with Goat Mountain School Society, and a local Child Care Committee in the New Denver area, the school district has submitted grant applications to both MCFD New Spaces and CBT Child Grant program to build a Child Care Centre in two unused classrooms at Lucerne School
- The proposed Goat Mountain Kids Child Care Centre would create 16 new child care spaces for 0-5 year olds and after school care spaces for twenty-four 5-11 year olds
- Many thanks to Goat Mountain Society and especially to Sara Wearmouth and Julia Greenlaw of the Child Care Committee for their assistance gathering some of the extensive documentation required for these grant submissions
- We hope to hear by end of September, as the application is now sitting in adjudication

#### **5. Ministry Data Room**

- On Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, the district Leadership Team participated in a two-hour video conference with Ministry of Education Data and Analytics staff to look at provincial data for our schools and district
- We are working with the Ministry to get better and more fulsome data for cohorts over time on Grade 4 and 7 FSAs, graduation rates, success rates for indigenous learners, students with diverse learning needs and Children and Youth In Care – all these are required areas to report
- Given the small size of our classes and school district population, data for a given year needs to be seen in context of trends over time and also district data on reading, writing and numeracy
- Ministry staff were impressed with the high level of engagement and thoughtful questions that our team presented, and they were able to share data with us that we had not been able to access previously
  - For example: After Grade 12, our students' transition to post-secondary institutions is the same or better than provincial averages when viewed over a ten year period, which is longer than the 6 year period commonly reported.
  - Speculation is that this may be due to our rural and remote location and students needing to save more money to go to school. Overall though, our students are as successful as their urban counterparts at transitioning to post-secondary
  - Selkirk College was the primary post-secondary institution sought by our students
- The Ministry will assist us in putting together data that can be used in School Growth Plans and the District Plan for Learning under the new Framework for Enhancing Student Learning policy
- At the October Board meetings, updated School Growth Plans and District Plans for Learning will be shared

#### **6. Playground Completed at Lucerne School**



The Lower Playground – 2-5 year olds

- Kudos to our amazing maintenance staff for completing the new playground project by end of July
- This summer, the pressure to complete installation of the new playground at Lucerne amidst all the other capital projects was intense but the rewards of a new and safe playground for our kids is well worth it!



The Upper Playground - 5-12 year olds

## 7. Funding Review Update

- Work on reviewing the funding allocation system for the province continues this fall
- Working groups concluded their recommendations and mitigations to implement the Independent Review Panel recommendations in the summer with Final Reports submitted to the Minister at the end of August
- On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Ministry will bring back together representatives from the various partner groups to share the next steps and overview the reports from the Working Groups
- Fall 2019 will see the Ministry connect with partner organizations including BCSTA, BCASBO, BCSSA, BCPVPA, BCTF, FNESEC, at their fall conferences etc to communicate final reports and help get input on next steps
- Plans at present by the Ministry, remain to change the funding model prior to March 31<sup>st</sup> as recommended by the Independent Review Panel with input from the four Working Groups

## 8. Basin Plays - \$15,200 for transportation

- This is the second year that funding has been received from the Columbia Basin Trust Basin Plays program
- Support for all six schools will help Arrow Lakes Distributed Learning, Edgewood, Burton Elementary, Lucerne Elementary Secondary and the Nakusp Elementary and Secondary Schools encourage more physical literacy and activity as follows:
  - NES – Spring swimming at Halcyon Hot Springs
  - Lucerne – Fencing equipment and sports equipment (soccer, baseball bats and balls)
  - ALDL – Sports equipment soccer balls and gloves, indigenous Northern Games equipment, admission and tickets Nakusp Hot Spring for swimming and hiking and ski to Whitewater or Revelstoke
  - EES – Support for skiing, golf at Fauquier Golf Club and swimming programs
  - BES – Support to supplement the school ski and swim programs
  - NSS – Support for a ski day, replacing junior and senior outdoor ed equipment including snowshoes and cross country skis, and supplementing the PE equipment budget



## 9. Nakusp and Area Community Foundation

- Many thanks to Nakusp and Area Community Foundation for two grants which will help support extra-curricular programs in our schools in the Nakusp area
- \$1500 received for Wednesday after school late bus transportation so more students can attend after school programs at NSS and NES
- Plan is to assist students living in Nakusp area and down the lake as far as Fauquier
- NACF has also granted \$3500 to NES PAC to support after school activities with a fine arts focus

## 10. ArtStarts - \$3500 Arts in Classroom Grant for NES

- Nakusp Elementary PAC was successful in receiving a \$3500 ArtStarts Artist in the Classroom grant to support dance programs at both Nakusp Schools
- The [Jess Dance](#) dance program will be offered to students at NES and NSS during a week long residency October 28<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>
- Morning dance classes will be held at NES and afternoon classes at NSS
- An NES student performance is planned for the afternoon of November 1<sup>st</sup>

## 11. RDCK Support for Longstanding SD 10-Summit Lake Ski Program

- NES has received a \$5000 grant to support the school's Summit Lake Ski Program
- Many thanks to RDCK Director, Paul Peterson, for his assistance in garnering this support to help pay for the cost of ski lessons and lift tickets
- For several decades now, the school district has the ski program included in the annual budget
- With the cooperation of Summit Lake Ski Hill, SD 10 offers ski lessons and skiing to all elementary students and ski days for our secondary students

## 12. Back to School Safety: Reminder of School Zones and School Busses

- It is back to school, and time to remind our parents and community members that school zones are in effect from 8 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday
- Of particular note, is a reminder that the law states that all traffic in both directions must stop when a school bus has on its flashing lights and the stop sign protrudes from the driver side of the bus
- In the first week of school we had an incident where a driver passed the bus with its lights flashing and stop sign out on a double line while children were boarding the bus
- Our bus drivers report that it is not uncommon for drivers to pass school busses when children are boarding or disembarking from the school even though the lights are flashing
- Please pass on the word that these rules are for the safety of our children and need to be followed

## 13. UBC WKTEP in situ Partnership for Class Reviews – September 18<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>

- For the fourth year in a row, teacher candidates from the UBC-West Kootenay Education Program will be in SD 10 for three consecutive weeks as our teachers are immersed in the fall Class Review process
- A Class Review or Class Profile, uses reading, writing and numeracy data and observations to learn about the strengths and stretches of a particular class, which then assists the teacher to hone their teaching to fit the needs of their learners.
- Class reviews will be repeated in January and in May throughout the district during this school year so we can better address the learning of our students and also monitor their progress and make changes to teaching as the information is meant to inform classroom instruction
- Dr. Leyton Schnellert, Faye Brownlie and Catherine Feniak write about the Class Review process in their book, *Student Diversity* (2006)
- There are four West Kootenay school districts in the West Kootenay Teacher Education Consortium – SD 8, 10, 20 and 51
- Superintendents from each of the four Consortium districts help shape and give feedback on the WKTEP teacher ed program based on the districts' contexts and needs in meetings each year with the Dean of Education, Faculty Advisor and WKTEP Program Coordinators
- Initially the idea to have teacher candidates in our district early in the fall in situ, came from a consortium meeting where the SD 10 and 51 Superintendents wanted to encourage student

teachers to consider practicums in SD 10 and SD 51, the two more remote and distant rural districts in the consortium

- Our District Leadership team in SD 10, decided that the teacher candidates could assist with the district-wide Class Review process, and each year, teams of teacher candidates join classrooms from Edgewood to New Denver with all schools in between
- This year, we have eighteen SD 10 teachers who have opened up their classrooms to their new-to-the-profession WKTEP colleagues in classrooms in every school in the district
- Our teachers and students benefit from having the WKTEPers come visit and for our educators, it is also a way of giving back to the profession – this next group of teachers...
- WKTEPers will assist with K-8 EPRA and DART school reading assessments which help inform teachers about how our learners are doing in reading as the school year begins, and help teachers make decisions about ways to improve reading success for all our learners
- The in-situ sessions also allow teacher candidates to teach a short lesson to our students – always fun activities for the students!
- Our teachers will also be doing Grade 2-10 writing assessments in all schools this fall as part of the Class Review process

#### **14. Head Lice – an early visit from some unwelcome guests...**

- It's earlier than usual this year, but our first case of head lice was reported in the first week of school
- School principals and vice principals were quick to reference the district Lice Protocol, contact the Public Health Nurse, and provide information to parents with a letter home
- Just a reminder to parents and children to not share hats and to check regularly for lice if there are cases in their school

#### **15. Free Menstrual Products in all Schools**

- Late last spring, the Ministry of Education announced that all BC schools will provide menstrual products for free to address access and equity issues, and in SD 10, this was an easy task to achieve as our schools already provided free products to students on request
- Now, our schools have baskets in the high school washrooms, school office and small supplies with teachers in classrooms for student use
- We are also investigating refitting the old vending machines in the school washrooms for free dispensing of menstrual products



#### **16. Recruitment Challenges**

- This past spring and summer have been very difficult one in our efforts to recruit employees to the school district – a now common rural dilemma
- We are short school bus drivers for regular routes, and don't have enough qualified custodians, Education Assistants, school secretaries or bus drivers for casual work
- We posted 16 teacher jobs and in a number of cases, had to repost five or six times in order to hire teachers; the same was true for the teaching Vice Principal role at Lucerne which we posted five times
  - The Superintendent has spoken to the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister about our concerns