



World Class Learning in a Rural Environment

**February 18, 2020**  
**Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer Report**  
*Presented at the Education Partnership Committee,  
 and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education*

**1. February Enrollment notes**

- Slight decrease since last month of two students overall
- Indigenous Learners – January enrollment - 22% of our student population
- Students with diverse learning needs – 12.1% of our student population
- Below is the monthly enrollment chart by school and grade:

My Education BC: Student Enrollment Numbers																
As of:	Feb 18															
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	Jan	Dif
ALDL	2	1	1	4	1	3	3	3	3	4	1	1	12	39	38	1
BES	1	5	4	4	3									17	17	0
EES	2	3	1	0	2	1	0	7						16	16	0
LESS	4	7	8	4	5	7	7	10	11	8	3	6	5	85	88	-3
NES	27	23	11	18	23	22	23	24						171	171	0
NSS									29	21	32	27	16	125	125	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	36	39	25	30	34	33	33	44	43	33	36	34	33			
<b>District Total</b>														453	455	-2

**1. Ministry Funding Review Update**

- The Ministry of Education has released information regarding implementation of Phase 1 for 12 of the 22 recommendations of the Independent Funding Review Panel as follows:
  - Continue targeted indigenous education funding to support students
  - Work towards three year operating grants for better funding predictability for districts
  - Committee to be established to work on province-wide financial management policies including reserves or surpluses, clarity for capital program funding
  - Work towards student outcome analysis in compliance audits
- Funding supplement in the operating grant for children in care, to support mental health and for low income students was also announced by the government – funds to be either within the current funding envelope or as additional funds – TBD
- Recommendations that district strategic plans are tied to the framework for Enhancing Student Learning accountability policy and that budgets are linked to Strategic Plan goals
- The remaining 10 recommendations comprise Phase 2 and will continue to be refined
- Operating grant funding announcements for school districts occurs on or before March 13th, 2020

**2. Bus Driver Recruitment and Bus Maintenance Challenges Continue**

- The district and our schools know that interruption of regular school bus transportation is very distressing and inconvenient for students and parents and we are working hard to resolve the underlying issues which are threefold:
  - Lack of casual bus drivers,
  - maintenance issues on regular busses and spare busses out of service, and
  - pressure of busses booked by schools for curricular or extra-curricular field studies
- Last week the Crescent Bay bus route was cancelled for the third time in a month and the Fauquier run and Burton runs have also been cancelled this school year

- We know that the impact on our students and their parents is significant and are committed to solving these student transportation problems as our efforts to date have not solved the issues
- The district continues to struggle with filling casual positions for drivers and if drivers are unexpectedly ill, we have had to cancel bus routes
  - Our Manager of Operations and Transportation has frequently driven regular school bus routes in order to ensure that student bus transportation is maintained when we cannot find drivers; sometimes however as in the Crescent Bay run cancellation, two routes had no drivers, one at the last moment
- Bus maintenance issues have also continued to plague our small fleet of busses
  - We have attempted to remediate the maintenance issues by contracting out bus repair work when it is an emergency, although by that point, bus routes have already had to be cancelled
- Given the significant challenges this year, Manager of Operations and Transportation, Art Olson, is engaging an external consultant to review the district's Transportation Department and our student transportation services with the aim of restoring and increasing reliable bus services for all our students and making recommendations for changes if needed

### **3. Bus Garage and Maintenance Shop Upgrades on Horizon**

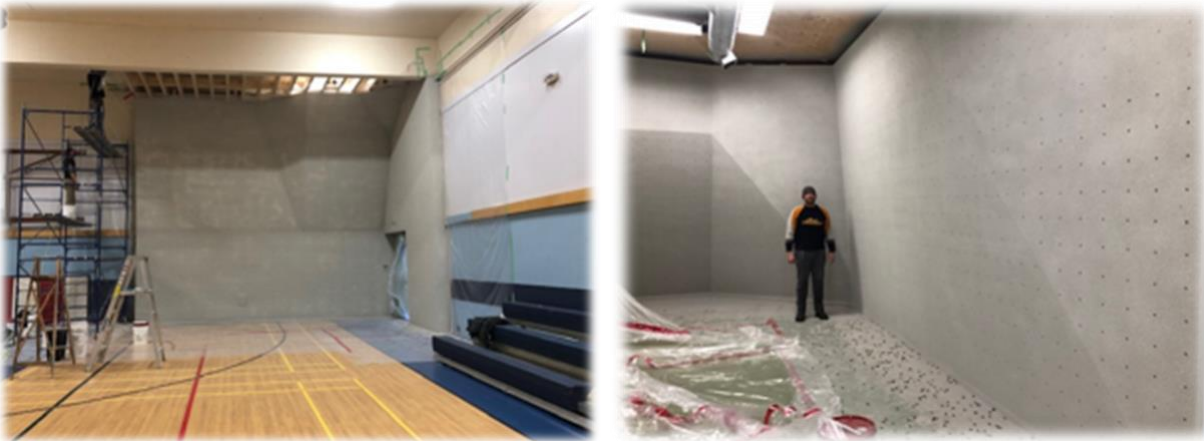
- Plans are underway to update and renovate the school district maintenance shop and bus garage making it safer and more energy efficient; this project is an important infrastructure project
- Architectural drawings are now complete with total cost projected to be \$350,000 and an additional \$71,000 for an in-ground hoist; the RFP (request for proposals) for Stage 1 will be released shortly
- The project will be funded over a series of years as Ministry capital funding is unavailable
- We will allocate a portion of our Annual Facilities Grant each year to complete the project in phases

### **4. Goat Mountain Child Care Centre Update**

- The first phase of the project has begun with deconstruction of the old carpet, tile and bathrooms and pre-construction preparation underway by our district carpenters and maintenance staff
- We are behind our original schedule as the Climbing Wall project and snow removal has taken precedence but will quickly catch up on the work plan
- The recently re-formed Goat Mountain Kids Society has made key design decisions along with district staff in order to inform the final Working Drawings
- Regular communication between the Superintendent and the Society to bring this project to life is occurring through emails, phone calls, in person meetings and evening meetings with the architect and the Society
- The Society's Design Committee, Manager of Operations and Superintendent meet next with the architect on the evening of February 26<sup>th</sup> to determine final design decisions; the RFP will follow
- We have had some slight delays to the timeline but continue to be on track for completion by August 2020 on this project aligned with Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan

### **5. NSS Climbing and Bouldering Wall Project Update**

- 14,000 holes and several buckets of special paint now adorn the NSS Climbing and Bouldering Walls as the final stages of this major project unfold
- Work continues on this exciting project: paint is drying for the next two weeks, and then handholds and ropes attached to the anchors
- An official ribbon cutting ceremony will tentatively be held on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm in the NSS gym celebrating the completion of this long-awaited school and community project with the public and all those many organizations and individuals involved invited to attend!
- The opening ceremony date may also be held the week of March 30<sup>th</sup> after spring break to ensure that all the final touches are completed
- To whet your appetite, below are a few recent photos of the climbing wall:



## 6. February 13<sup>th</sup> Technology Workshop for Students and February 14<sup>th</sup> for teachers

- All Grade 9 and 10 students in the district participated in a day long design thinking and technology workshop with four tech sector guests from Vancouver
- NSS and Lucerne students teamed up to work on creating an app that would help solve some of the human problems faced during natural disasters such as forest fires, floods and resulting challenges such as power outages and communication issues
- Throughout the day, students engaged in ideating, designing, drawing and refining an online app and then finally, pitching their design idea to the entire Grade 9/10 student design team, with students voting on those apps that were most innovative, most community-minded, most likely to succeed as an innovation and most creative
- Our student app developers created designs for solar-powered water systems, for monitoring sensors inside freezers and fridges to avert food spoilage, and apps to help with communication and mapping for enhanced safety during natural disasters
- Our tech experts from the coast were amazed at our students' engagement and deep problem-solving abilities and their ability to work in diverse teams with students from other schools
- At the end, they listed the most desirable skills in the world of work and technology and noted that SD 10 students had shown very strong evidence of the creative and critical thinking, communication, collaboration, complex problem-solving, and individual and group skills to succeed in the wide range of technology careers now and in the future
- The workshop was funded by a [BC Digital Technology Supercluster grant](#) in partnership with [BCTech](#), a non-profit society aimed to support the development of the tech sector in BC
- A half day teacher education workshop on careers in the tech sector followed on the Pro-D day




## 7. Annual Budget Consultation Process Underway

*Superintendent's Report – February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

- The Board and district staff have been in schools throughout the district this month listening carefully to our staff and parents about how the current year's budget resources are bringing the District Strategic Plan goals to life and what factors need to be considered in the 2020-21 budget
- Overall, feedback indicates that our current levels of staffing (our major budgetary resource allocation) are working well in all schools, with hopes in the coming year to sustain current staffing
- One secondary school visited so far spoke of the increased academic options available to students as a result of this year's staffing increases and higher student engagement
- A number of schools have spoken about wanting to ensure that arts programs and environmental programs including gardens and greenhouses continue or are developed
- Strong support for the district ski program at Summit Lake was voiced at all schools and also the benefit afforded by school budget and CBT Basin Plays funding for physical literacy skills in swimming for elementary students and skiing in Revelstoke and Nelson for secondary learners

**2020-21 Budget Consultation Process**  
Consultation: February to April 2020



Budget Consultation Components	Dates	Who's Involved
<b>Consultation Component 1:</b> Leadership Team Consultations with Board of Education	Tuesday, January 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2020 4 pm - 5 pm	Principals and Vice-Principals, Trustees, Assistant Sec- Treasurer, Director of Learning, Superintendent
<b>Consultation Component 2:</b> Finance Committee Meetings - Consultations and Working Group - Budget Scenarios developed and discussed	#1 - Tuesday, March 10 <sup>th</sup> 3:30 - 4:45 pm #2 - Tuesday, April 7 <sup>th</sup> 3:30 - 4:45 pm #3 - Tuesday, April 21 <sup>st</sup> 3:30 - 4:45 pm	2 DPAC parents 2 ALTA teachers 2 CUPE members 2 P/YPs All trustees Director, AST and Superintendent
<b>Consultation Component 3:</b> Meetings with staff and with parents - One date at each school - Feedback shared at March 7 <sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting	Mon Feb 10 - RES 12 pm - 1 pm (staff); 1-2 pm (parents) Mon Feb 10 - RES 3:30-4:15 pm (staff); 4:30-5:30 pm (parents) Tues Feb 11 - NES 3:30 - 4:30 pm (staff) 5 - 6 pm (parents) Wed Feb 12 - Lucerne 3:30 - 4:30 pm (staff); 5 - 6 pm (parents) Wed Feb 19 - NSS 3:30 - 4:30 pm (staff); 5 - 6 pm (parents)	Trustee from each zone Principals and Vice-Principals Superintendent Director of Learning
Board of Education - Consultation Review	Wednesday, April 22 <sup>nd</sup> 3:30 - 5 pm	Board of Education AST; Director, Superintendent/ST
Budget By-law Discussed Final Approval by Board of Education	Wednesday, April 29 <sup>th</sup> - 3:30 - 4:30 pm Special Regular Board Meeting	Board of Education AST; Director, Superintendent/ST Interested public

- Input from NSS parents and staff will be heard on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, with a summary of all six school's feedback to be collated and shared at the March 10<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting
- The Board will hear from our principals and vice principals on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>
- Our three upcoming Finance Committee dates are: March 10<sup>th</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup> and April 21<sup>st</sup>
- Budget consultation and budget decisions are strongly aligned with the District Strategic Plan goals and the Board's annual priorities

## 8. NSS Ski and Snowboard team shines at Zone Championships; wins a berth at Provincials

- Congratulations to NSS for yet another strong showing at the Zone championships!
- NSS went to Kootenay Zones at Golden's Kicking Horse Mountain Resort February 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>
- The top three scoring teams go onto Provincials and top placed individuals who are not already placed on a successful team also go on to Provincials.
- NSS had a strong representation at Kicking Horse and we are proud to announce that the Nakusp Girls Snowboard Team placed first in the Kootenay Zones, with two of the boarders, Lexus Coates and Dharia Phillipson, placing first and second overall.
- Dustin Lasseter from the Boys team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and will also be going onto Provincials.
- Provincials will be hosted in Invermere at Panorama Ski Resort March 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> with 17 Ski and Snowboard team members heading for the tournament
- Good luck to all the skiers and snowboarders, their coaches, and school staff at provincials

## 9. School District Applies for Grants to Ease the Nakusp Child Care Crisis

- As presented at Education Partnership meeting, the district is pursuing applications for MCFD New Spaces Capital funding for a new child care centre to be located at Nakusp Elementary School
- Initial plans are to create twenty-four 0-5 year old multi-age licenced child care spaces and thirty before and after school child care spaces in a newly built Early Learning HUB space located near the current NES school gym
- The aim is to ensure that full time high quality affordable licenced child care is available to families for 12 months a year for children from 0-5 years of age
- The project addresses significant gaps for parents who want to return to school or work including creating licenced Infant Toddler childcare spots; this demographic is a high community need

- Although the grant application guidelines have recently changed with applications received only twice a year instead of on an ongoing basis, we are working with a range of partner organizations in order to have the application submitted in the Feb 10 – May 11 window
- We are very grateful that the Columbia Basin Trust is supporting the district with funds to hire a consultant who will conduct a child care Needs Assessment, now a key criteria for MCFD funding
- Although UBCM has had child care needs assessment funding in place, this work has not yet been done in the Nakusp and area and so a thorough needs assessment is an important factor
- The CBT-hired consultant is working with the Superintendent on the extensive application criteria and an architect will soon begin conceptual drawings for the project
- The interests of the school district, aside from assisting our community with the critical need for full time child care by using school property, is also to create stable enrolment for our Nakusp schools, encourage young families to move or relocate to the area, and ensure stronger transitions from early learning to our primary classrooms
- The project proposal aligns with both Goals 1 and 2 in the Strategic Plan
- We invite community partners and potential funding donors to join us in this exciting venture

#### 10. Whatshan Lake Retreat for Lucerne students



- On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 52 students from Lucerne travelled to Whatshan Lake Retreat to engage in a week of reflection and learning focused on exploring place, wellness and leadership.
- This was a week of amazing highlights with students taking part in seminars based around their interests and connected to their needs, aligned with one of the Board's 2019-20 priorities: Enhance Physical and Mental Well-being
- Some of the top activities were wood carving, bird watching, winter exploration walks, the predator-prey game, and amazing meals made by the students themselves.
- Two teachers on maternity leave came with their babies and engaged the students in reflecting on their needs as children and how to better meet their needs now as youth and young adults
- In all, 42 community volunteers and educators from the school came together to work with the students and support their learning, clearly aligning with Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan: Cultivate Community Connections!
- The week capped off with a trip to the hot springs allowing the students to come back fresh, rejuvenated and ready to get begin the new term truly embodying both Goal 1: Enhance Teaching and Learning and the Board's priority to Enhance Physical and Mental Well-being



#### 11. Ministry Visits SD 10; SD 10 Joins Ministry Small District Consortium

- On January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Katherine McIntosh, Ministry Superintendent for the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning, and Roger Hazelton, Director of Data and Analytics visited the school district to learn about our small district and the F4ESL in SD 10
- McIntosh and Hazelton met with district and school leaders to learn how we are embedding the new Framework for Enhancing Student Learning policy in school and district plans and how we are currently using data to inform planning
- We shared our District Strategic Plan, School Growth Plans and the [District Plan for Learning website](#) with our Ministry guests
- The District Plan for Learning website tells the story of student achievement and success through both quantitative and qualitative data and narrative evidence
- Our Ministry colleagues were impressed with the work that we have done to embed the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning policy and noted that we have made relevant connections between the Strategic Plan and reporting on outcomes and planning in School Growth Plans and the District Plan for Learning site
- On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Principal Peter Gajda, Director of Learning, Peter Dubinsky and Superintendent Terry Taylor will join with teams from the six other districts in the province with fewer than 1000 students and the Ministry Framework for Enhancing Student Learning team
- The March 3<sup>rd</sup> Small Rural District Think Tank will be facilitated by Drs. Judy Halbert and Linda Kaser and investigate ways that the Ministry can better support small districts and small districts can learn from one another
- The F4ESL Small Rural District Consortium project is expected to be supported by the Ministry for 2 to 3 years and offer Ministry assistance with data and analytics and an annual meeting in Vancouver