



World Class Learning in a Rural Environment

February 16, 2021
Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer Report
*Presented at the Education Partnership Committee,
 and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education*

1. Enrollment update – slight decrease of 4 students from January

My Education BC: Student Enrollment Numbers																
As of:	February 5, 2021															
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	13-Jan	Dif
ALDL	1	8	8	6	8	6	9	5	10	4	4	4	9	82	81	1
BES	4	2	5	6	7	4	3							31	31	0
EES	2	3	4	0										9	9	0
LESS	11	9	8	10	5	5	7	8	9	7	10	6	7	102	101	1
NES	23	22	21	13	15	22	22	20						158	163	-5
NSS									29	28	21	31	27	136	137	-1
TOTAL	41	44	46	35	35	37	41	33	48	39	35	41	43			
District Total														518	522	-4

2. District Ski Program Makes for Winter Well-being



- Each year, the district invests in the health and well-being of our learners through the ski program held at Summit Lake Ski Hill; this year, the ski program is valued more than ever!
- Though due to COVID restrictions at the hill, we were unable to accommodate primary students, our intermediate and secondary learners have been having a blast learning how to ski, snowboard and have fun in the snow from January through March
- Primary students and other classes have also been engaging in cross-country skiing at Valhalla Hills Ski Area and other local trails, as well as regularly getting outside for winter learning
- Our ski programs dovetail with the Strategic Plan Goal 1: *Enhance Teaching and Learning* and Goal 2: *Cultivate Community Connections* as well as the Board's Strategic Priority to *Enhance the Mental and Physical Well-Being* of students and adults
- Staff too, are nourished by the joy and excitement of seeing the kids learn these important healthy recreation skills



- Ensuring that our students have access to high quality outdoor and physical learning opportunities right here in our own communities is a key part of realizing Strategic Plan goals while also supporting local recreation programs

3. New Ministry of Education/BC Centre for Disease Control Guidelines for K-12

- On Thursday, February 4, the Minister of Education, Jennifer Whiteside and Dr. Bonnie Henry announced updated guidelines for the K-12 sector. Dr. Henry noted that:
 - We continue to do an **excellent job of keeping our schools safe** for all students and staff.
 - The **risk of transmission or exposure in schools remains low** because of our diligence and strong safety plans. Exposures in schools happen when there is community spread of the virus.
 - There are **lessons learned over the past six months** back to school that have caused some **areas of the PHO and Ministry guidelines to be revised and updated for implementation in all schools.**
 - The wearing of masks in all staff to staff interactions and increased mask-wearing in secondary are highlights of the updated guidelines with exceptions for when sitting in one's work space, eating or drinking and being outside
 - The most important health protocols based on scientific evidence, remain those in upper and middle areas of the pyramid below.

The Hierarchy for Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures for Communicable Disease



- A [letter to parents](#) was sent out to all schools and posted on the SD 10 website February 5th
- School and district COVID safety plans are in process of being reviewed and updated and will be posted on the district and school websites by the end of February

4. District Music Program Fuels the Heart, Mind and Soul

Superintendent's Report – February 16, 2021



- One of the Board's program initiatives included in the budget passed last year was to restore a district music program for elementary learners with a dedicated music specialist augmenting the fine arts curriculum provided by our elementary classroom teachers
- Music educator, Leah Holden, a former NSS graduate has been infusing music and the love of music in our elementary programs across the district since September
- Through rhythm, singing, dancing and playing musical instruments, children are deepening their understanding of music and engaging in the power of ensemble to create music together



- Research evidence is clear that music and arts education benefit students' academic learning, well-being and their creativity, competency and social-emotional learning
- Kudos to the Board for reinstating the district music program!
- Throughout the district we continue to ensure that school and district budgets support learning in fine arts from Kindergarten through Grade 12 aligned with Goal 1: *Enhance Teaching and Learning*

5. Nakusp Child Care Centre Update

- Work proceeds on the childcare centre project with geotechnical study soil testing begun and portables being readied for demolition
- District staff have reviewed two areas of the project design: the outside cladding and the parking area and made recommendations to the Board Committee of the Whole
- The Request for Proposals for the project will be put out to tender on BC Bid this week or next
- *Enhance Teaching and Learning, Cultivate Community Connections, and Build Advocacy for SD 10*

6. Federal Safe Return to Class Funding

- We anticipate that the second phase of federal funding to support COVID Health and Safety will be announced in the next week, with allocations for districts forthcoming
- The district received \$150,000 in September 2020 and will receive \$30,000 in FSRC holdback funding; we are hopeful that the \$150,000 second phase funding will be allocated as like all districts, SD 10 has hired staff and allocated resources in accordance with our FSRC spending plan shared with the Board and public at the October Board meeting:
- There are four categories of spending allowed under this COVID federal funding: Learning Resources and Supports, Health and Safety, Transportation, and Before and After School child care; SD 10 has allocated funds in all four categories as below:
 - **Learning Resources and Supports**
 - Additional DL teachers and DL School clerical time given increased COVID enrollment
 - Additional mental health supports
 - Additional noon hour supervision time to support staggered lunch breaks
 - **Health and Safety to provide safer and protected learning environments**
 - Enhanced cleaning supplies and equipment for all schools
 - Three outdoor classrooms (NSS, BES and Lucerne) will be completed by spring break to allow safer and protected learning environments not only this school year but into the future

- Increased custodial time for second high-touch cleaning required under BCCDC K-12 protocols and not provided for in the provincial Safe Return to School funding or the funding increase that had already been approved by the Board's April 2020 budget
- **Transportation**
 - Additional cleaning supplies and equipment for cleaning busses
 - Additional bus driver time added to all routes allowing for second high-touch cleaning
 - Routing software for ridership and route planning
- **After school childcare**
 - High quality fine arts and recreational programs will be provided for free for all K-7 students at BES, NES and Lucerne beginning after spring break to end of June
 - Principals and vice principals are working with local fine arts and physical activity specialists to organize after school programming and child care at their schools
 - Enhanced cleaning will be ensured for all schools operating after school child care

7. Phone System Upgrade Brings Good News for Communication and Accessibility

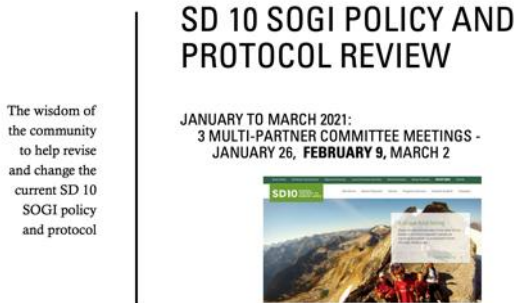
- Our school district phone system is about to be upgraded and should resolve long term issues with power outages knocking out the phone system, 911 call reliability and phone system challenges, lack of maintenance support, and many other frustrations with the current phone system
- Replacement phone hardware for the 12 year old phone system now at the "end of life" will also be included in this new upgrade
- Kudos to Patrick Martin, district IT Manager, for initiating this process to solve a long-standing expensive and time-consuming issue with the phone system that also has safety implications when phones go out and are not reliable as a result of power outages and other events
- Patrick and the Superintendent/ST have done an extensive review of the current phone system costs and operational challenges and have engaged with Telus Business Connect to rebuild a 21st century phone infrastructure both in the cloud and using conventional hard phones
- Through the Ministry of Education's provincial Service Delivery TSME contract with Telus for school districts, the Telus Business Connect replacement hardware phones will cost 99 cents instead of \$350 - \$400 each, and monthly costs will also be reduced with this hosted maintenance solution
- Transfer to initial licencing, installation and training will cost about \$9000 this spring with the aim to have the new system installed by the end of Spring Break
- Some training for staff in using the new phone system will be required
- Cost savings of about \$11,000 annually will be realized by the school district and significant improvements in phone reliability and access regardless of location will result

8. Indigenous Education Council Reviews Land Acknowledgment, and Defers Renewal of Enhancement Agreement

- After thoughtful consideration and review at their January 18th meeting, the Indigenous Education Advisory Council put forward a recommendation to the Board of Education that the Land Acknowledgment for the District be revised as follows:
 - "We gratefully acknowledge that we live, work and learn on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Sinixt Peoples, and we honour their ongoing presence on the Land."
- The Council acknowledged that archeological and historical evidence makes clear that while the Sinixt were declared extinct under the Indian Act in 1956, the Land on which the school district operates is the territory of the Sinixt Peoples, and the Sinixt are not extinct, and live on the Land
- We are grateful that one Sinixt Elder serves on the Indigenous Ed Council and helps guide our work
- The Council also reviewed the recent Equity Scan documentation from Equity Scans held with Indigenous students and parents at Lucerne and in Nakusp
 - Interest from Indigenous students and parents for our learners to learn the Sinixt language, Michif (language of the Metis Peoples) and other Indigenous languages was discussed
- Finally, the Council talked about the planned renewal of the Indigenous Education Enhancement Agreement and Council agreed to defer this process until such time that in-person gatherings could be held in order that the most honouring and thoughtful engagement process could happen

- As a result, rather than proceeding this spring, the Council agreed to revisit the Enhancement Agreement renewal timeline when they meet next on April 12th
- Tentatively, the Enhancement Agreement Renewal process may take place in the early fall when we can safely gather

9. SOGI Policy and Protocol Review



- The Board of Education has begun a thoughtful and deep review of its Policy 301: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and the related SOGI Protocol
- A committee of 19 including four students, two parents, teacher, CUPE and PVP representatives, two subject matter experts, three senior staff and the entire Board met via Zoom on January 26 and February 9 to review and amend the policy presented at the Regular meeting tonight as a Notice of Motion
- The SOGI Policy Committee is using Zoom breakout rooms and a digital dashboard to record

input, feedback and ideas on the strengths, omissions and recommended changes to Policy 301 and the related Protocol

- At the February 9th meeting, the Committee began work on the SOGI Protocol which puts the policy into operation; Protocol revision work will be finalized at the March 2 meeting
- Once the SOGI Protocol is completed, the Board Committee of the Whole will review changes
- The intention of the SOGI Policy Committee has been to:
 - Review and provide input to the Board on the draft policy and protocol
 - Ensure that all educational partners have voice and authentic consultation
 - Grow understanding and learn from one another
 - Continue to grow a SOGI-inclusive culture in SD 10

SOGI POLICY AND PROTOCOL REVISION PROCESS – WE ARE HERE



10. Compassionate Systems Leadership



- In our next stage of growing Compassionate Systems Leadership in the district, three teacher leaders have been chosen to participate in a four day training during the week of February 16-20
- Many thanks to teachers Biz Tupper from NES, Tessa Wiseman from NSS, and Mark Lada from Lucerne for leadership in their schools with compassionate systems
- All SD 10 principals and vice principals and four members of our senior district staff have already engaged in this important learning to infuse compassion and systems thinking tools into our work

- Compassionate Systems Awareness is one of the foundational pillars of the [Ministry of Education's Mental Health in Schools](#) strategy and supported by provincial Mental Health funding
- Building teacher leadership capacity is a crucial next step in ensuring that compassionate systems leadership helps build stronger adult and student mental well-being

11. SD 10 In the News Again

- In the Winter 2021 edition of the Canadian Association of School System Administrators, SD 10's success in the face of the pandemic is featured
- The article entitled, [Keeping our Gaze on Equity and Inclusion](#), features some of the many ways in which all of us in this tiny school district have supported high quality teaching and learning, equity and access for all learners, and how we have helped those most vulnerable and marginalized throughout this challenging year:
- Goal 3 *Build Advocacy for SD 10* is an important pillar of our Strategic Plan and is achieved by getting the word out about what we do to support learning. This advocacy:
 - Creates stronger culture and success for our learners
 - Encourages confidence of parents and community in our schools
 - Builds further enrollment and sustainability
 - Helps recruit high quality staff to our small and amazing school district

12. Welcome to Angela Davidson, our new part-time Executive Assistant!

- Now that Michelle Grenier has moved into the role of HR Manager and Senior Executive Assistant, demands for support have increased
- As a result, SD 10 is delighted to announce that Angela Davidson has joined our School Board Office staff working mornings from Monday to Friday to support the many areas of a busy school district office
- Welcome Angela to the team!



13. February 26, 2021 Pro-D day Plans

- Our next Professional Learning day for educators will involve a range of learning options for teachers, Education Assistants and Strong Start Coordinators as follows:
 - Morning session: Sheldon Franken on "The Beauty of Coping" building resilience in students and ourselves
 - Morning session: POPEY workshop - "Literacy in the Early Years" with Jennifer Seravallo
 - Afternoon session: "Working with Students with Diverse Needs" with Laurie Meston
 - Afternoon session: "A Settler Perspective on Addressing Truth and Reconciliation in the Classroom" *facilitated by teachers Naomi Smedbol (SD 10) and Amber Norris (Burnaby)



2021 Budget Consultation Process Consultation: February to April 2021

Budget Consultation Components	Dates	Who's Involved
Consultation Component 1: Leadership Team Consultations with Board of Education	Tuesday, February 16th, 2020 3:30 pm - 5 pm	Principals and Vice-Principals, Trustees, Assistant Sec-Treasurer, Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent/ST
Consultation Component 2: Finance Committee Meetings - Consultations and Working Group - Budget Scenarios developed and discussed	#1 - Tuesday, March 9th 3:30 - 4:45 pm # 2 - Tuesday, April 6th 3:30 - 4:45 pm #3 - Tuesday, April 20th 3:30 - 4:45 pm	2 DPAC parents 2 ALTA teachers 2 CUPE members 2 P/VPS All trustees Assistant Superintendent, Assistant Sec- Treasurer, Superintendent/ST
Consultation Component 3: Meetings with staff and with parents - One date at each school - Feedback shared at March 7 th Finance Committee meeting	Mon Feb 22 - EES 12 pm -1 pm (staff); 1-2 pm (parents) Mon Feb 22 - BES 3:30 -4:15 pm (staff); 4:30-5:30 pm (parents) Tues Feb 23 - NES 3:30 -4:30 pm (staff) 5 - 6 pm (parents) Wed Feb 24 - NSS 3:30 -4:30 pm (staff); 5 - 6 pm (parents) Wed Feb 19 - Lucerne 3:30 -4:30 pm (staff); 5 - 6 pm (parents)	Trustees from each zone Principals and Vice-Principals Superintendent Assistant Superintendent
Board of Education - Budget Consultation Review	Wednesday, April 21st 3:30 - 5 pm - Final recommendations Monday, April 26th 3:30 pm - 5 pm - Review draft budget	Board of Education Assistant Sec-Treasurer; Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent/ST
Budget By-law Discussed Final Approval by Board of Education	Wednesday, April 28th - 4:30 - 5 pm Special Regular Board Meeting - Approve Budget By-law	Board of Education Assistant Sec-Treasurer; Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent/ST Interested public

14. Budget Consultation for 2021-22 Annual Budget Begins

- This year marks the 7th year of a transparent budget consultation process in the school district
- Meetings with parents and staff at each school and with partner groups in the Finance Committee ensures that there is voice and accountability in the budget-building process undertaken by the Board