



January 18, 2022 Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer Report

1. COVID Update:

With the Ministry of Education delaying the start of school to January 10th, schools in SD10 used the first week of January to implement the updated health and safety guidelines as well as prepare for three possible types of closures:

Health Closure:

- This closure would be based on consultation with Interior Health and in conjunction with school attendance data.
- Parents/caregivers and staff would be notified if there is a “Potential Activity Signal” that has been met (high case of student absenteeism) and Interior Health would then investigate and work with the school district to determine next steps.
- Parents/caregivers and staff would be notified if a health closure is issued, and schools and or classrooms will move to remote learning.
- Schools are fully prepared to shift to remote learning in this type of closure, and information around learning programs will be sent to parents/caregivers and students from their school and/or teacher/s.
- Duration of a health closure will be determined, and regular updates will be provided to parents/caregivers.
- Essential Service Worker care **may not** be available for students in grades K – 7 during a health closure, and the school will provide information on this.

Functional Closure:

- This closure is based on a school not having enough staff on site to safely operate.
- Each school has a thorough plan to determine if a functional closure is needed and this would be a last resort measure.
- Parents/caregivers and staff would be notified as soon as possible, and the school will move to remote learning.
- Schools are fully prepared to shift to remote learning and information around learning programs will be sent to parents/caregivers and students from their school and/or teacher/s.
- Duration of the functional closure will be determined, and regular updates will be provided.
- Essential Service Worker care **should** be available for students in grades K – 7 during a functional closure, and the school will provide information on this.

Transportation Closure:

- This type of closure is only for bus service if there are not enough bus drivers to transport students to and from school.
- Schools would continue to be open for in-person instruction but students who could not attend school due to a lack of bus transportation would shift to remote learning until transportation service could be restored.
- Duration of a transportation closure would be determined by the district and regular updates would be provided to parents/caregivers.

We want to thank all our staff for their efforts meeting the ever-changing landscape and ensuring that students and staff remain safe and in-person at school. We are also thankful for the support of our families and students as we work through this together.

2. Update on Nakusp Early Learning and Childcare Centre:

Construction on the Nakusp Early Learning and Childcare Centre is progressing, however there have been some unforeseen challenges that will be delaying the completion and opening of the Centre. COVID-19 has delayed the delivery of some materials that are necessary for construction completion, and the recent snowfall accumulation has also delayed progress in parts of the outdoor area construction. The initial completion and opening date was scheduled for May, 2022, but these unforeseen challenges will push the opening at this time, still yet to be determined .

The district continues to seek a qualified childcare coordinator to oversee the licensing, development, and operation of the Centre. We are excited at all the opportunities this project will provide for the community and look forward to the completion and opening in the coming months.

3. Mental Health Outreach Coordinator Making a Difference for Youth in SD10:

Thanks to special purpose mental health funding by the Ministry of Education, the district was able to implement a Mental Health Outreach Coordinator position that started in January 2021. We are thrilled to again be able to use these targeted ministry funds to continue the position in the 2021-2022 school year. Teresa Weatherhead has assumed the part-time position this school year which continues to focus on youth in grades 8-12, to support them primarily in the after-school hours through programs and outreach opportunities.

Teresa has coordinated programs in both Nakusp and New Denver that are facilitated by dedicated teachers and community members. The programs were created with input from youth in September around the question, "What makes you feel successful?" with the intent of creating programs that provide a safe space for youth to engage in high quality, fun activities that focus on creating a strong sense of self-worth. Programs include art, drama, creative thinking, hands-on applications, building, and Indigenous perspectives. Feedback from students has been extremely positive and they are excited about the continuation of programs and the introduction of new programs in the coming months.