



## November 21, 2023, Superintendent's Report

### 1. SD10 Focuses on Well-being:

One of the four priorities of the Board is health. The district is committed to the physical and mental health of students and several initiatives and programs support students and staff. Some highlights offered this year are:

- District Elder, Michael Garvey, is working with Indigenous students on physical and mental health skills.
- Professional learning series for staff focusing on resiliency by counsellor, Sheldon Franken is scheduled for January.
- A district license for an online resource, "Open Parachute", for teachers to use with students. This program uses student-led videos and comprehensive lesson plans that cover such topics as conflict resolution, stress reduction, and building positive relationships.
- A newly formed District Wellness Committee that includes representatives from each school and district staff meets monthly to discuss resources and initiatives available. The committee also spends time sharing best practices and then reports back to each school.
- Thanks to mental health special purpose funding from the Ministry, District Mental Health Outreach Coordinator, Chelsea Hanet, is working with Nakusp Secondary and Lucerne Secondary students on after-school programming that supports physical activity, arts, mental health, and literacy. Chelsea is integrating student interest with community expertise to create engaging and meaningful programs after school.

### 2. Arrow Lakes Distributed Learning School and R.E.A.C.H Program Update:

Elementary Arrow Lakes Distributed Learning School is off to a strong start this year. With both the K to 9 division, the high school division and the Rural Education Academy of Cooperative and Hands-on Learning program having strong enrollment. This year is a transition year for DL schools around the province. The Ministry of Education and Child Care has modified the way distributed learning is organized, creating two new categorizations: District Online Schools and Provincial Online Schools. The main distinction is between who can enroll. ALDL is a district online school and while we anticipated an enrolment decrease due to the new structure, we did not see a substantial drop in numbers. This has allowed us to continue to provide a rigorous and engaging program. The K to 9 program has gone on many field experiences and the high school program is progressing along nicely. We have a strong community of learners forming, helped by our Friday high school lunch program. Finally, the R.E.A.C.H program has seen solid growth in its second year and is meeting the needs of our diverse learning community.

### **3. District Five-Year Strategic Plan completed:**

After a successful process of information sharing, consultation, feedback options, and a steering committee working alongside the Board of Education, SD10's five-year strategic plan has been completed. Competency, Health, Environment, and Collaboration are the four priorities that emerged through the process. Now that the plan has been completed, an implementation-action plan will be completed to ensure that the priorities will be actualized. A working group has been established to develop the action plan to align with the strategic plan and school growth plans. Regular progress reports will be brought forward, and ongoing consultation will take place in each school community to ensure that feedback is provided. We offer gratitude to all staff, students, parents, and community members who made the process so valuable. The future of SD10 is very bright.

### **4. SD10 Welcomes New Principal:**

I am pleased to introduce Mitchell Hemphill, who is joining School District 10 (Arrow Lakes) as the Principal of Lucerne Elementary Secondary School and Arrow Lakes Distributed Learning School starting on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Mitchell has over 20 years of combined experience in K-12 education as a classroom teacher, Vice Principal and over 5 years as a principal. His experience spans both elementary and secondary schools, including leading a K-12 school and brings experience working at both the Ministry and district levels as well. Mitchell's work has been rooted in community and has spent most of his administrative career working in rural communities and community schools. He is passionate about learning, building relationships, and ensuring all students feel safe, welcomed, and successful at school.

Please join me in welcoming Mitchell to SD10!