

# Superintendent's Report

## June 17, 2025



### STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL - COMPETENCY:

#### 1. 2025 Student Achievement Data

Each spring, the district undertakes a process to collect student achievement data in reading, writing, and numeracy. This data is collected by each teacher from kindergarten to grade 9 and is a triangulation of ongoing assessment data, teacher observations throughout the year, and benchmark assessments administered in late May. The data is collated by grade groupings and included in the district's Framework for Enhancing Student Learning report, which is submitted to the Ministry each September. The data is used to examine trends in student achievement, track cohorts of students over time, and help develop educational goals for classrooms, schools, and the district. It helps inform our practice and direction, create professional learning opportunities for staff, and target specific focus areas for students in the coming year. This district-generated data is also examined in conjunction with other Ministry data sets, such as the Foundation Skills Assessment in grades 4 and 7, and the Graduation Numeracy and Literacy Assessments in grade 10.

#### 2. Indigenous Education Update

The district has much to celebrate and be thankful for regarding Indigenous Education. A strong district team of Elders, Indigenous Support Teachers (ISTs), and community members has resulted in numerous initiatives being undertaken and accomplished this year. Some highlights include:

- The Elder in Residence program continued to develop. Our District Elder, Michael Garvey, works in all our schools to support ISTs, classroom teachers, and students in each building. Michael is joined by Elder Pearl Last and Marnie Lindgren, who also support students.
- Cultural events have been planned throughout the year at all schools, and National Indigenous Peoples Day will be celebrated as a district-wide event on June 19<sup>th</sup>, hosted by NES/NSS.
- Indigenous Support Teachers continue to provide resources and support for teachers to provide Indigenous perspectives across the curriculum for all students.
- ISTs also continue meeting with and supporting Indigenous students academically, socially, and emotionally.





- The Indigenous Education Advisory Council is being reformed to meet legislative requirements. In the fall, representatives from Okanagan Nation Alliance and Ktunaxa Nation will lead the council's formation and develop its membership and Terms of Reference.
- ISTs conducted an Equity Scan this spring to connect with Indigenous Students to hear their voices on their school experiences and the level of support they are receiving. They provided input about what is working and not working for them at school, the level of support they are receiving, and ways to improve service and support.

### 3. Strong Start Update

The StrongStart BC program is a free, school-based early learning initiative for children aged birth to five, accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Led by qualified Early Childhood Educators, it offers play-based activities like stories, music, art, and movement, fostering children's development across physical, cognitive, social, and emotional domains. Parents and caregivers actively participate, enhancing their understanding of early learning and building community connections. SD10 offers five programs in the district. Lucerne, Nakusp, and outreach programs in Burton, Fauquier, and Edgewood. Highlights of the programs included:

- Southern Zone: 17 preschool children enrolled in SZSS and often have five families attending on a Wednesday. Each SZ community has one session per week, and attending neighbouring communities is encouraged
- BES is a unique scenario. For Tuesday's SS session, the K-1 classroom is transformed into the Strong Start room, and we invite the kindergarten students to join us for some time after lunch. Several families attend, and the hour-long session is thoroughly enjoyed. The extra hours added by the board make this additional setup and takedown time, as well as extended gym time, possible.
- NES has 67 children enrolled, with more expected registrations on the way. The extra hours provided have allowed a late afternoon time from 12:30 – 5:30 pm on Thursdays. This session has been well-received, allowing working parents the opportunity to attend Strong Start. The program is well-supported by community services, and the residency, facilitated by West Kootenay Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR), has been an excellent addition to the program.
- New Denver Strong Start has had a successful year with 33 children registered. The extra hours provided allowed for an early morning session, which was well received by parents and caregivers. Highlights of the year included the integrated sessions with the K/1 class, a drumming session facilitated by the Early Years



Coordinator in collaboration with the Circle of Indigenous Nations, and the residency with CCRR.



#### **4. SD10 Students Participate in National Math Contest**

Student participation in the Gauss Math Contest on May 14 reflects our district's commitment to fostering competency in mathematical thinking and academic excellence. This year, the district had six students in Grade 7 and four in Grade 8 who participated in the contest. This national competition, administered by the University of Waterloo, challenges students with engaging and thought-provoking problems beyond the regular curriculum. Our students demonstrated strong problem-solving skills, perseverance, and enthusiasm for mathematics. Participation enhances their confidence and critical thinking abilities and provides valuable experience in a competitive academic setting. We are proud of their efforts and the support provided by our dedicated educators, who encourage a love of learning through enriching opportunities. Congratulations to all our participants and to Talia Thompson, Grade 8 (NSS), and Jed Herlitz, Grade 7 (NES), who will both receive awards of distinction.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL - COLLABORATION:**

#### **5. School Growth Plans Aligning with District Strategic Plan**

Each year, schools are required to submit their school growth plans for approval by the Board. Schools utilized the four priorities of the strategic plan and the associated inquiry questions to develop their school-specific inquiry questions, thereby fostering and exploring school growth. Staff met monthly at staff meetings and during collaboration time to examine current realities and student data, helping to identify where their focus is needed for the upcoming year. Schools then developed structures and strategies, as well as the necessary resources and learning requirements, along with feedback and evaluative methods to monitor progress throughout the year. Focusing on school goals with an inquiry-based approach enables a deeper investigation, ongoing dialogue that incorporates student voices, and the flexibility to adapt and shift throughout the year. Once approved, school plans for next year will be posted on each school's website and the district website.



## 6. BEST WISHES FOR THE SUMMER!

As the end of the school year approaches, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all our students, staff, parents, caregivers, trustees, and community members for another productive year.

There is so much to be proud of in our district, and it has been wonderful to highlight all the fantastic learning that occurs in our schools at each board meeting this year. As we say goodbye and offer our best wishes to the graduating class of 2025, we are also excited to say hello to new students and to those early learners who are not only entering Kindergarten in September but those who will be entering our Strong Start programs as well as the Nakusp Early Learning and Child Care Centre.

I am pleased to see that the priorities of our strategic plan are being embedded in our daily work, and this focus is having a positive impact on the achievement, growth, and well-being of students and staff. We continue to focus on improving our offerings and achievements in all areas of learning, and the feedback we have received has been invaluable in helping us continue to grow. We should all be proud of our accomplishments and excited about the work still ahead. Best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy summer!

