

Superintendent's Report Le rapport du surintendant Asset Aknutmaq



Monthly report to the Board

Nov. 22, 2017

November is the month of Remembrance and many ceremonies took place throughout our communities honouring those who have served and fallen in sacrifice for us. Many of our schools put a great deal of thought and effort into their own recognition ceremonies that teach our students the importance and respect for this important time.

It is my pleasure to introduce Mr. Brian Bonia as the Interim Director of Human Resources for SSRSB. Mr. Bonia started on Nov. 8 coming to us most recently from Yukon College. Brian has extensive experience in the human resources field and is in the process of meeting as many staff as possible and learning about our organization. Welcome Brian!!

Transgender Awareness Week

Transgender Awareness Week is a time for transgender people and their allies to take action and bring attention to the community by educating the public and advancing advocacy around the issues of prejudice, discrimination, and

violence that transgender people face. For additional information visit <https://www.glaad.org/transweek>.

Congratulations to Instructional Coach Evan Monahan and Nina Matthews from Bluenose Academy for completing their Aspiring Leaders Program culminating assessment on Nov. 1. Evan and Nina had to work through a school change leadership simulation over the course of a full day. Great work!!

Snow Closures

During the winter months, school will occasionally be cancelled due to poor weather and dangerous road conditions. The decision to cancel school is normally made by 6:00 a.m. after consulting with Environment Canada and Transportation and Public Works road crews throughout the region.

When the decision is made to cancel all or some SSRSB schools – first thing in the morning or during the school day – local and provincial media are notified first (CKBW, HANK FM, CBC Radio, AVR/Magic 97, QCCR and Global Halifax).

Information is also posted on Twitter, Facebook and our website. Alert messages are also sent through PowerSchool via email to families in the region. Please note that power outages throughout the region can affect social media. Parents are urged to prepare for these days and monitor the radio.

Important Meetings

Education Minister Churchill had an informal meeting with the governing school board and senior staff on Nov. 1. The conversation included the Education System Administrative Review, the school review process, school board finances and interagency service delivery. The SSRSB looks forward to working with Minister Churchill to support any improvements to enhance service to our students.

The SSRSB Chair, Vice-Chair and I met with the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL) Mayor, Chief Administrative Officer and Deputy CAO on Nov. 14 to discuss the July 2017 meetings organized by MODL on the issue of potential school closures within the municipality. The SSRSB voiced its interest in working with MODL to increase its understanding of the Board's work on this topic moving forward. Additionally, we discussed how to strengthen our working relationship, including sharing our strategic plans and looking for places of common interest.

Restorative Approach

One priority in the SSRSB business plan is the strengthening of restorative practices across the board. Twelve staff from all divisions in the SSRSB are attending basic restorative practices training next week in Antigonish. Restorative practices training focuses on practical strategies to build strong, collaborative and healthy relationships with students, staff, parents/guardians, colleagues and the community in general. Staff attending are from all divisions and a variety of job responsibilities and positions. Approximately 50 more staff will have the opportunity for this training in January.

Scott Milner, Superintendent of Schools

From garden to kitchen to table to tummy!



Congratulations to Petite Rivière Elementary School (PRES) for winning one of three Farm to School Month Canada 2017 grants! PRES was one of about 80 schools from around the country that applied for the \$1,500 grant for its commitment to healthy food initiatives. Their submission sums it up nicely:

“Our students are “digging in” the garden this month to harvest everything we planted back in the spring. Students have harvested plenty of veggies and are using the produce to make coleslaw, salsa, stone soup, mashed potatoes, parley potatoes. Some of the food is being used in our school breakfast and lunch programs. Students get to see how planting a seed and tending to it over the summer benefits us with local healthy food in the fall harvest. “From garden to kitchen to table to tummy!”

SAC community conversation

On Nov. 7, a workshop was held at Forest Heights Community School for all School Advisory Councils in the SSRSB. Board members presented to participants from their electoral districts about their roles and responsibilities under the Education Act, the roles and responsibilities of board office staff, and the SACs' relationship with each. Breakout sessions allowed SAC members to learn more about topics they had previously expressed interest in, including SAC letters of agreement, school-based funds, communicating with the community and the board, Collaborative Learning Teams, Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, Inclusive Education and the South Shore School Food Project. About 80 people attended the event with good representation from principals, school staff, parents, students and community members. The response was very positive and many

participants want to see ongoing collaboration. To view the presentations and feedback, visit <http://www.ssrbs.ca/nov-7-2017-school-advisory-council-workshop/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 6	Programs & Student Services Committee meeting
Dec. 6	Corporate Services Committee meeting
Dec. 13	Regular Board meeting
Dec. 22 - Jan. 2/18	Holiday break - no school

Strengthening SSRSB communication

Following an incident at Forest Heights Community School this month, the SSRSB has begun a careful review of its protocol and procedures around communicating serious situations. Although we hope it is never needed, if a serious situation arises, the SSRSB is committed to timely and accurate communication with students and families.

Attendance workers to be hired

The Council to Improve Classroom Conditions announced it will be spending \$1.9 million over the next two years to hire 14 attendance support workers across N.S. to decrease the number of students missing class. These support workers will work in cooperation with parents/guardians and school staff to address the challenges that may be keeping a student from regular attendance at school.

National Child Day

Nov. 20 of each year is National Child Day. This has been celebrated across Canada since 1993 to commemorate the United Nations' adoption of two documents: the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child on Nov. 20, 1959 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on Nov. 20, 1989. Canada has made a commitment to allow children to have a voice, be protected from harm and be provided with their basic needs and every opportunity to reach their full potential.

Let's all celebrate children as active participants in their own lives and in our communities!

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