

October Presidents Report

Hello All, and welcome back!

With the first month already behind us, it's abundantly clear that our "normal" may not be as near as we would have hoped. We are more familiar with restrictions, mandates, contact tracing and protests. We almost never leave home without a mask or hand sanitizer and we have become accustomed to living in a virtual world. All of these topics have, at one time or another, been a part of our dinner table talks. Through it all, one thing is for sure- we are resilient and our children are resilient. We are rebuilding connection despite isolation and relearning the need for community. Our advocacy on behalf of our children has never been more important.

-The SPAC (Strategic Planning Advisory Committee) had its first meeting in August, and another in September where the consultation process was delayed until an agreement could be made on how to present the plan to the community in a way that would facilitate the most engagement. The three key themes throughout the 2022-2027 strat plan are:

Early Literacy- (initiative example) *"The district is working on a comprehensive K-12 literacy plan with an initial focus on early literacy in elementary grades to guide our direction over the coming years. This plan will include a focus on supporting consistent literacy practices, improving equity across our district, expanding literacy intervention strategies and supporting smooth transitions between grades and schools"*

Indigenous Learner Success- (initiative example) *"We have committed to addressing systemic barriers to meaningful graduation by ensuring that Indigenous students are supported as they engage in courses and programs that provide for future academic and personal success.*

- *We have allocated resources to offer SENĆOŦEN language instruction to all students at KELSET and Brentwood elementary schools in response to the student and community request for increased language instruction."*

and **Mental Health and Wellness-** (initiative example) *"The district will address mental health literacy through implementing specific curricular resources at the middle and secondary level and maintaining a continued focus on building professional capacity for all staff through in-service and other opportunities. Parent and community engagement will further enhance student learning by reducing stigma and supporting a greater understanding for students' mental health."*

-At the September Board meeting it was stated that Keating is to receive \$500,000 in funding from The Ministry of Transportation for a traffic safety update. This update will include flashing lights, painted crosswalks and speedometer.

-Director of Instruction, Monica Braniff released the first Mental health snapshot of the year. It can be found here-

September - Managing Stress and Adapting to Change

-The BC covid tracker website is a database of confirmed by Island Health Covid-19 cases and can be found here. Please see the disclaimer listed on the website.

bcschoolcovidtracker.knack.com/bc-school-covi...

-The Ministry is asking for feedback from parents about the way they receive learning updates about their child(ren) and how frequent those updates are throughout the year. The K-12 student reporting policy survey will provide value feedback to the Ministry that will help implement a new reporting policy for January 2022. The survey can be found here:

https://feedback.engage.gov.bc.ca/944758?lang=en&fbclid=IwAR1fYj7pnC1nibXj0NOI1_a3gv9Q_ebuGP_zi_o96iicr3vo9qbQxehVse8g

- For your reference I have included the letter written to the MOE and the MOH- by SD40, Vancouver.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56baeb4337013bc5ec5fd5d5/t/6151e6cc3b63df51165d41a8/1632757452586/Joint+DPAC+Letter+to+Ministry+of+Education+and+Ministry+of+Health+-+09272021.pdf>

-This document explains some of the language used in public statements relating to Covid-19. It is a reference document used by schools that may help to clarify some of the protocols you have seen put into action recently. It outlines expectations, roles and responsibilities and has a quick link to the “Communicable Disease Guidelines” which are the guiding safety principles our district is currently following.

https://bccpac.bc.ca/images/Documents/Resources/covid-19-protocols-for-administrators_Aug24-2021.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3mqnktl6_jkdnZW2e7TQq8i3xFGGe2OoigWQhdd0UPDqGawS0aV7hFdyX

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-Please see two attached documents on **Sexual orientation and Gender Identity** for your information following a Notice of Motion at the September 22nd Board meeting. Please provide feedback or input by November 10th.

-In late August a Special Meeting was called to address the allocation of available funding for pandemic needs. I have attached the briefing note for your viewing. The document identifies two funding priorities and lists allocated and unallocated funds.

-Superintendent Dave Eberwein released a letter outlining the new Communicable Disease Guidelines. The letter can be found here:

<https://www.sd63.bc.ca/>

-I attended a Special Meeting with several other DPAC chairs from across the province to discuss concerns around Covid-19 with the Minister of Education, Honourable Jennifer Whiteside and Deputy Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Reka Gustafson. We as a group identified some key priorities- ventilation,

enforcement of mandates and data around the new k-3 mask mandate. The entire Q and A is available here:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR1fbfUfX8LDKgFh9A1ym6AVWeCktP8A2iFMrXuNhC8OeqwWh0-mKzoesRI&v=4IZvl_UJSQ&feature=youtu.be

-New EASE program launched. You can learn about it here

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021CFD0062-001926?fbclid=IwAR2AGrLZ7xXZRmdB8xJi-Gf6-qs3HVhkEWqdjgmQd0tH7A6MbqpYfPZf7PY>

That concludes my first report for the 2021-2022 school year. As always, thank you for your continued avocation and hard work. We are stronger and louder as a collective!