



October 29, 2018

## EDUCATION TOPIC

Two staff members, **Sylvain Menard** and **Darren Coates**, from Clearwater Secondary reported on an inquiry project funded by a grant from the Board of Education. The inquiry looked at how a micro-credential system can help students in self-assessment of Core Competencies. The project involved developing language to describe three levels of achievement in each of the Core Competencies that students could use as a yardstick. Students used the website to gather evidence and reflect in preparation for a panel interview with three adults. The school devoted a week to hands on activities to help students engage in experiences that would lead to growth in the Core Competencies. Students worked on one project for the entire week which allowed for projects that would not typically fit in an 80-minute class. Students wrote short stories, produced their own play, installed a disc golf course, and earned certifications allowing them to work during the summer fighting wildfires.

## REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS

### CommunityLINK

A CommunityLINK update was provided by Director **Trish Smillie** outlining the allocation of the \$1,582,336 funds designated for vulnerable learners by the Ministry of Education. Programs funded by CommunityLINK include before and after school care, social groups, academic intervention and resource rooms. More than \$1.15M of the budget is allocated for staffing positions that address child and youth mental health supports.

### Task Force on School Safety

An advisory committee will undertake the work set out by the Superintendent's Task Force on School Safety. Representatives include a member from each of the stakeholder groups who will provide feedback to the District's response to the seven recommendations and will be complete by end of April 2019. **Michelle Marginet** has been asked to chair the Committee. The Ministry of Education and the Office of the Ombudsperson have reached out to SD73 to learn more about how we are addressing this critical issue.

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### **District Learning Plan**

A draft of the District Learning Plan was presented by Director **Lisa Carson**. The plan draws on the work of School Learning Plans and aligns with the three strategic priorities addressing education. It is designed to extend student thinking through a focus on critical thinking, creativity and the foundational skills of literacy and numeracy. The goals of the Plan are to improve our graduation rate from 85% to 90%; reach parity between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal graduation rates and have 70% of our students “on track” or “extending” in numeracy for grades 4 and 7.

### **Westmount Elementary Consultation**

Assistant Superintendent **Rob Schoen** recommended the Board move forward with a public consultation regarding the future of Westwold Elementary School. The public meeting will be held Nov.22 at 7 pm at Westwold Elementary. Interested parties are invited to submit comments and petitions regarding the possible closure of the school which currently has no students enrolled.

### **Enrolment Finalization**

As of September 28, 2018, there are 14,405 students enrolled in SD73. This is approximately 171 more students over last year. Enrollment growth has been modest but steady over the last 5 years with an approximate increase of 500 students since 2013.

### **Grade 7 Students playing on Grade 8 Teams**

Concerns raised regarding grade 7 students losing opportunities to play because of the configuration of schools in rural communities (grades 7 – 12) may be addressed at the BC School Sports AGM on April 26 and 27, 2019. An amendment allowing schools with less than 350 students to have some flexibility with regard to the age of players making up a team will be presented.

## **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR**

### **Trustees’ Goodbye**

October 29 marked the last Board of Education meeting for Trustees **Denise Harper**, **Joan Cowden** and **Gerald Watson**. Between them they served the board for 51 years. Joan Cowden became a trustee in 2008, after she had retired from her 35-year teaching career. Gerald Watson was first elected in 2002 and has served as vice-chair for the last two years. Denise Harper was a trustee for more than 25 years and spent 7 years as board chair. Chair **Meghan Wade** thanked each of them for their years of service and wished them all the best in their retirements and future endeavours.