

TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee McKay

Meeting:

Ministry of Education and Childcare Regional Meeting. Equity in Action: Supporting Indigenous Student Success.

Attended on behalf of Board Chair Keller, with Superintendent Saywell, Director of Instruction Bartlett, and 2 Leaders for Learning Committee members.

Location:

In-person meeting held in Campbell River January 19, 2022.

Overview:

- SD68 was 1 of 6 pilots district for the Equity in Action Plan.
- Currently, all school districts are participating and are at different points of participation. Some districts are invested in an annual review cycle of their work, where other districts are just beginning to identify goals and writing their first reports.
- SD68 has the highest percentage increase in graduation rates compared to the other pilot districts.

Sharing of Success:

- Policy and Governance:
 - 2014 Board Strategic Goal of Reconciliation
 - 2018 Board Strategic Goal of Truth and Reconciliation
 - Syeyutsus Policy Framework
 - Current review of Inclusion policy; anti-racist lens
 - Board of Education financial support to move forward strategic objectives
 - School and field name changes
 - Leaders For Learning Council
 - Syeyutsus Family
 - Te'tuxwtun Project
 - MOUs – Multiple
 - LEAs – Multiple
- Learning environment
 - Following local protocols
 - Using traditional language within school communities
 - Transforming physical environments
 - Art in schools
 - Welcome poles
 - Planting indigenous plants
 - Outdoor classroom space
 - Indigenous Outreach Program at every secondary school
 - On-reserve satellite site
 - Indigenous Education staff in every school
- Pedagogical core
 - TRC 57 speakers series
 - Land and language program

- EFP 10 across school system
- Singing with Syeyutsus
- Syeyutsus PVP meetings
- Language programs for students and staff
- NMT
- Employment Equity Committee
- Learning Profile
 - Highlighted that this is woven throughout all the above areas
 - Indigenous focused day care on-reserve
 - Grad rate increases
 - Red, Yellow, Green tools to stay connected to student progress
 - Connection between Indigenous Education Department and families

Barriers to Success:

- Colonial values still in place that can discourage students from feeling successful
 - Example: Late slips instead of welcoming students with a smile and telling them you are glad they are at school today
- Unconscious bias and assumptions about Indigenous families and their values
- Teacher Qualification Branch
 - Pay equity barrier
- Designations
 - Lack of funding for students who require additional supports but do not have a designation
 - No consideration of a community-wide designation where intergenerational trauma creates barriers to learning. This creates a lack of funding to support a whole school rather than a single student

Items for Follow Up

- Attendees were asked to answer the following questions as homework based on the four quadrants of the Medicine Wheel.
 - Spiritual:
 - When were you last in ceremony?
 - Mental:
 - Can you speak 10 words in the language of the land you work on?
 - Emotional:
 - Who is your Elder?
 - Physical:
 - When was the last time you were in community?
- Trustees are encouraged to consider these questions for their own connection to Indigenous Education in NLPS.