

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.46 (SUNSHINE COAST)

STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT: POSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Submitted by Superintendent Patrick Bocking
March 10th, 2021

2e Our staff will engage in **positive partnerships** with students and their families.

“Partnerships are not hard work, but heart work. Not more work, but the work. Not harder work, but smarter work to mobilize all available resources that will contribute to student success.”

- Dr. Joyce Epstein

Background:

Family engagement in their child’s learning leads to happier, healthier, and more successful students. We support family engagement through communication structures and initiatives and through positive partnerships with students and families.

Discussion:

Our staff do their very best to engage in positive partnerships with students and their families. To that end we connect in many ways:

- The active **District Parent Advisory Council** continues to develop deeper connections amongst PACs and with trustees and district staff. Staff provide a wide variety of information to these sessions. Excellent discussions take place related to parent engagement and student success.
- **The District Parent/Caregiver Survey** in June 2020 provided valuable insight into how our families were doing during spring lockdown and areas as a district to focus on leading in to the September start up.
- **The Superintendent’s Fall PAC visits** provided the opportunity to hear from our families. These check-ins confirmed that our community feels heard, supported, and well informed.
- **Parent/teacher interviews and one-on-one meetings with families via ZOOM** during the pandemic. We all shifted to a virtually connected world and adapted to the use of new technologies this year. With it came some surprising discoveries! Meeting via ZOOM can often provide a space for deeper connection and understanding. Instead of hallway chats which can be distracting and lack preparedness and resolve, set up ZOOM meetings provide a chance to really connect with parents/caregivers and also opens up more convenient times for families to participate.
- **Website and social media posts as windows in to the classrooms and schools** during a year when parents/caregivers are not able to be physically present in our school spaces.

- **FreshGrade, Google Classroom, District Website Digital Forms:** increased application/usage as education and communication tools during the pandemic.
- **Digital Forms School Pilot project:** training and roll out of digital forms on school websites with both Gibsons Elementary and West Sechelt Elementary.
- **The District Family Engagement Committee** examines effective communication and develops strategies to ensure the school/ home partnership is well developed. Initiatives this year include:
 - **ZOOM webinar learning opportunities for parents/caregivers:** 'September Start Up' joint webinar with VCH and 'Coping with Anxiety' webinar. The webinar platform opens up the chance for a wider audience to be able to partake in the virtual sessions and, with recordings available after the sessions, a convenience for parents/caregivers to share in the opportunity and learning.
 - **Grade 7 Transitions to Secondary School Resources and Activities:**
 - Proposed, developed and facilitated the making of secondary school tour/spirit videos for the incoming grade 7 families to be shown at the May Secondary PAC's Family of Schools ZOOM Meet & Greet sessions.
 - Developed a Grade 7 Transitions to Secondary Schools Overview on the district website communication and engagement page.
- **FreshGrade:** new template pilot project for reporting with West Sechelt Elementary.
- **Kindergarten Registration for 2021-2022: Welcoming our new families to their schools!** This year a simpler online registration process has rolled out online via MyEducation. The Kindergarten Registration campaign in February included radio messages, newspaper ads, posters, videos, social media, and website information. KinderSPARK! also kicks off in April helping families and their children prepare for Kindergarten transitions and familiarize themselves with their new school space.

Formats for Engagement:

- ZOOM
- District and School Websites (calendars)
- School Messenger
- Email: questions@sd46.bc.ca
- Coast Reporter and the Local Weekly
- Coast 91.7 FM Radio
- Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube
- Secondary Apps

Next Steps:

- Pilot project expansion and training: digital forms on all school websites
- Pilot project expansion and training: new templates for FreshGrade reporting and continue the support of FreshGrade to all interested teachers.
- Ensure Ministry of Education reporting guidelines are followed while still being creative in their implementation.
- Bang the Table Engagement tool: research possibility of this integrative tool for our district.
- 2021-2022 FEC Learning Events: (D)PAC: How to Run an Effective Meeting
- To continue to encourage a culture of collaboration and innovation in all that we do!