

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

STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT: INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Submitted by Superintendent Bocking
December 11th, 2019

-
- 1j Our students will explore Indigenous cultures in our community and the diversity of cultures in the world.
-

“Education is what got us here, and education is what is going to get us out.”
- Justice Murray Sinclair

Background:

School District 46 has a proud tradition of working in close partnership with the Sechelt Indian Band and the Squamish Nation. Additionally, staff in all of our schools work with determination, understanding and compassion to ensure that each of our students achieves success in their learning and in their communities.

Discussion:

- The structures in place begin with the Board’s Strategic Plan Affirmation, *The Board affirms its commitment to Indigenous Peoples and Reconciliation by building relationships and deepening understanding o Indigenous history, worldviews, and ways of knowing.*
- The Indigenous Education Team supports all staff to ensure that Indigenous students have the supports they require to attain success, and that all of our students understand indigenous worldviews, history, and ways of knowing.
- District staff and school principals review the academic success of students on an ongoing basis as the data becomes available. From this, they determine areas of improvement in our learning opportunities.

Data Interpretation:

- EDI data indicate significant vulnerabilities for our youngest students in most scales except for language and cognitive development.
- Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) indicates that our indigenous students are mostly achieving above the 75th percentile for Indigenous students in BC in literacy and numeracy.
- Indigenous students are not consistently performing on the FSA at the same level as “all our students” in literacy and numeracy.
- After many years of steady improvement in Indigenous completion rates, district completion has declined this year.

Next Steps:

- Each Indigenous student's specific learning profile is carefully considered by Indigenous Education staff and school staffs.
- Careful analysis of the academic and completion data is taking place and will be discussed at the Education Committee in January. From this review further plans regarding professional development and student support will be confirmed.
- Elders in Schools program with handbook support for school staffs is being prepared.
- Cultural baskets are available to all schools to support learning about Indigenous culture.
- English First People's is at Elphinstone Secondary School for the first time this year.