

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

STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT: FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Submitted by Superintendent Bocking
March 4th, 2020

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

“If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

– African Proverb

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 Family Engagement Committee** examines effective communication and develops strategies to ensure the school/ home partnership is well developed. Initiatives this year include:
 - **Family Engagement Committee Learning Series Part 1**, October 2019: Betty Baxter facilitated a session with (D)PAC chairs and principals on running effective meetings.
 - Development of a **Communication and Engagement** page on the district website with pertinent information for families.
 - **Transitions:** Developed the idea of secondary PAC’s hosting a tour/meet & greet with feeder elementary school PAC’s/Families. Elphinstone PAC is running a pilot with Roberts Creek and Langdale Elementary.
 - Developing informative **videos** for families on the coast.
- **FreshGrade:** Principals and teachers are working together to offer support and training opportunities for FreshGrade integration.

- The following **brochures** were updated and placed in schools to help guide families: How to Communicate with Us, Welcome to Kindergarten, and a general district overview brochure.
- New **school websites** have all updated staff contact information lists and all staff have updated their email signatures to create a consistent and welcoming connection with families when corresponding electronically.
- **Kindergarten Registration for 2020-2021: Welcoming our new families to their schools!** This year the convenience of applying online was offered for the first time. The Kindergarten Registration campaign in February included radio messages, newspaper ads, posters, social media, and website information. Families were encouraged to visit their catchment school to meet the principal and see their new school. KinderSPARK! also kicked off in February helping families and their children prepare for Kindergarten transitions and familiarize themselves with their new school space.

Next Steps:

- **Family Engagement Committee Learning Series Part 2:**
 - Part 2: April 2020: Plans are in place to run a session led by John Talbot with (D)PAC executive and principals on creating a culture of connection.
- Ensure Ministry of Education reporting guidelines are followed while still being creative in their implementation.
- Continue the support of FreshGrade to all interested teachers.
- We will continue to encourage a culture of collaboration and innovation in all that we do!