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COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

Highlights from the Council of Commissioners

The Council of Commissioners met in Montreal, from December 6 to 9, 2016.

At that meeting the commissioners reviewed and approved the proposal for a new visual identity of the school board, which includes a new logo. The logo will be unveiled after the March Council of Commissioners' meeting.

The Commissioners also reviewed the mid-year reports of the school board's departments. Some highlights from these reports are presented below.

Compassionate Schools

Launched in August 2012 as a pilot project, the Compassionate Schools project is now implemented in all our schools. With the Compassionate Schools project, the school board seeks to address more effectively the social, emotional, and academic needs of students so that they can learn better and succeed. Many of the students we welcome in our schools arrive in the morning with a heavy load on their heart. This has an impact on their ability to learn.

The Compassionate Schools project helps teachers and school administrators to incorporate trauma-informed practices in the way they teach and manage our schools.

As project implementation progresses, the schools develop and apply a school-wide framework to proactively prevent problems and reinforce the positive behaviours of students. They also collect data on the patterns related to students' problematic behaviour within their specific school environment. This helps gain a better understanding of students' behaviours. It also ensures that intervention decisions are based on data. Furthermore, when a consistent way of responding to problematic behaviours is in place within the school, the integration of new employees and teachers becomes easier.

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A team of five staff oversees the implementation of the Compassionate Schools project: a coordinator and 4 regional pedagogical counsellors. They visit the schools regularly to provide support and guidance.

Curriculum development

The department of Education Services announced plans to develop a Nunavik History Program consisting of 12 modules. The program would cover the period from 1600 to 2016.

Work continues to strengthen numeracy and literacy skills through the use of new technologies in Inuktitut. Since 2014, a total of 1,570 SMART Table activities were developed to complement the Grade 1, 2 and 3 curriculum. Inuit teachers are also provided training and support as they integrate new technologies into their pedagogical approaches.

For three years now, the school board has been implementing a cultural instruction pilot project in 4 communities (Umiujaq, Akulvik, Kangiqsujaq and Quaqtaq). Simultaneously, a review of land survival instruction provided by some of our schools and a review of the regular cultural instruction provided in class were undertaken. The Council of Commissioners mandated the Education Services department to work on a renewed culture program that could be rolled out in all schools. The program development team was asked to incorporate best practices from the pilot project and weave cultural content into the second-language curriculum.

School Operations

In June 2016, the Complementary Services department was integrated to the School Operations department. This structural change has led to further integration of the services offered in our schools by Complementary Services employees and the approach developed by the Compassionate Schools project.

Work on anti-bullying also progressed. Research was conducted to assess the situation in Nunavik communities. Existing training material and policies were reviewed and 8 recommendations were presented. These recommendations point out to the necessity of involving Nunavik communities in order to successfully address bullying issues.

The next steps will involve defining bullying and fostering a common understanding of this issue amongst our employees and students, mainly through training and awareness initiatives. Work on an anti-bullying protocol will also be undertaken in 2017.

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