

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020

1. Year End Update

The official end of the 2019-2020 school year is upon us and, despite the challenges we have collectively faced since Spring Break, it is more important than ever to learn from our experiences in managing and leading student learning during a pandemic.

Since June 1, the school district has been engaged in implementing the Ministry of Education's Stage 3 approach for the K-12 Education Restart Plan, resuming in-class instruction for students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 (K-12). As part of that plan, the focus for the K-12 sector was to increase in-class instruction in a gradual and controlled manner while ensuring the health and safety measures to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 were in place. School density targets were established to ensure the number of students and staff in schools was manageable and all public health protocols and procedures were strictly enforced and adhered to.

The numbers of students attending schools for in-class instruction varied over the past 3 weeks. While some elementary schools' attendance rates on cohort days averaged between 7% and 24%, secondary schools saw average attendance rates between 2% and 9%. Attendance varied from school to school and for days of the week. Overall, the average weekly attendance rate for students in the district's elementary schools between June 1 - June 19 was 13%; the average weekly attendance rate for students in secondary schools during the same time period was 6%.

The district's summer session will begin on July 2. And like our regular session, this year's summer learning programs will look and feel different. As of Friday, June 19, we had 4163 spaces filled for all classes. Programs will be operating in 15 of the district's elementary and 4 of the district's secondary schools. Approximately 95% of elementary and 50% of secondary school program spaces have been filled at this time.

Registration for summer session will close on Thursday, June 25. Procedures are in place to support students and families in understanding the district's safety protocols and expectations prior to summer session start-up. And again, strict adherence to health and safety protocols will be actively monitored in all district sites throughout the summer.

As a district we have learned a great deal since Spring Break and will continue to do so in the coming weeks. Government has indicated that a mix of in-class and virtual learning is likely for September and, as we look ahead to the start of the 2020-21 school year, the district is seeking input on the experiences of parents, students and staff. While we do not know for certain what the state of public health will be in the coming months, or in what stage of government's Restart Plan school districts across the province will be, the experiences of our local community matter to us and will assist us in our planning and shape our schools for September.

The survey, which opened on June 16, will close tomorrow, June 24, at midnight. Please consider sharing your ideas and comments with us. District staff will be reviewing the data and working through the summer months to ensure our schools are responsive and ready for school-start up once again.

I would once again like to extend my deepest gratitude to all school and district staff, our district's partner groups, students, families and community members. These have been trying, extraordinary times for everyone. Together, we have "done our part" and without a doubt, will continue to do so in managing the challenging times ahead.

Whatever you have planned for the summer months, please take good care of yourselves, those you love and all those around you.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.