

Annual Report 2001-2002
School District 8
June, 2002

Mandate:

Given clearly defined and high expectations, all children can and want to learn. The mission of School District 8 is to responsibly and cooperatively provide all students with the opportunity for learning, to a measurable standard, through quality instruction in a safe environment.

Achievements in 2001-2002 (educational):

- Provincial assessment results show an improvement/gain in many areas; a pattern since the inception of the testing program.
- February Pre-Kindergarten screening, to identify children at-risk, included all elementary schools.
- 2 Pre-Kindergarten programs were established in Prince Charles School and Hazen-White/St. Francis School in partnership with the YM-YWCA.
- The D.A.R.E. program was offered in all elementary schools including those outside the city limits – Brown’s Flat, Westfield, Inglewood. The outer limit schools program was offered by the RCMP.
- First Steps Reading training was given to 54 new teachers. All elementary teachers were given the training within the past 3 years. This year’s initiative provided training to teachers new to the system.
- All books in our elementary schools have now been leveled. This provides teachers with guided reading texts for use with their students.
- The “Literacy Hour” in all elementary schools continued including the establishment of three model schools to showcase teachers in classrooms employing this approach to literacy instruction. Some schools in District 8 increased Language Arts instruction to 90 minutes per day.
- The Elementary Curriculum team continued to support teachers in the development of a balanced approach to literacy instruction by planning, conducting or facilitating teacher in-service sessions on a variety of topics and by working with teachers in the teacher’s classroom to bring theory into practice. One focus in 2001-2002 was at the grade 3-5 level with particular attention provided in the area of process writing.
- Reading assessments were undertaken with all French Immersion students in grades 1 and 2.
- Writing assessments were undertaken with all French Immersion students in grades 3 through 5.
- The district SPR for Middle Level Science, supported by release time, provided inservice to all grade 6 teachers in the new Science 6 curriculum.
- Secondment of technology advocate for Middle Level technology education to support ongoing enhancement of and support to curriculum
- Participated in a pilot, developed in part by District 8 personnel in conjunction with Debbie Good of the Department of Education, for the 9/10 Technology

entitled "Introduction to Applied Technology". This program will be continued in 2002-2003 and will be offered in other school districts in the province.

- Continued support, and inservice where needed, on accelerated reader and math programs
- Grade 8 Math Intervention. Eight classroom teachers were seconded for three months to provide short-term intensive intervention with grade 8 students struggling in the area of Mathematics.
- Expansion of student led conferencing
- A district team of teachers, mentors, and Supervisors participated in the development and field testing of assessments in Language Arts and Mathematics at the grade 6 and 7 levels.
- A peer tutoring initiative was undertaken at the grade 9 level in Mathematics for French Immersion students, in French. More than 50 students received in excess of 1,000 hours of tutoring.
- Individual school initiatives - eg River Valley after school activity program, Simonds Middle playground, Beaconsfield/St. Martins literacy centre/initiatives, Bayside weekly meetings of administrators with ML teams.
- Math 10 implementation in all schools. Teacher team met during the year to consult and collaborate on the implementation process.
- Math 11 implementation plan organized. A team of 16 Grade 11 teachers training for full implementation at that level for September 2002.
- Expanded work by math mentors in K-8 with support and inservice provided through a variety of activities from individual classrooms, to staff inservice, grade level meetings, focus hours, and district professional development.
- Continuation of a Literacy/Numeracy-based program for grade 9 students in 2 of 4 high schools.
- Students attending district 8 alternate learning centre, Woodlawn, and writing provincial assessments achieved a 100% success rate.
- Senior band and strings groups combined, under the leadership of their respective teacher/conductors, to form the first full student orchestra with a combined complement of over 75 musicians.

Achievements in 2000-2001 (administrative):

- Completion of a model and support documentation for a program of supervision and evaluation of teachers - in service, familiarization, feedback in coming year.
- New format for probationary teacher reports introduced based on the domains and components of Enhancing Professional Practice.
- Completion of development of supervisor and principal domains based on Enhancing Professional Practice.
- Resource Binder in support of the District 8 Positive Learning Environment Plan completed with appendices, which include resources, ideas, and support materials for K-12.
- District initiative completed in the area of Safe Schools – Safe Communities including a binder and desk flip chart (with emergency procedures). The

binder includes a compilation of all policies, regulations, plans, etc. related to making schools safe.

- A record number of educators, Teacher Assistants, other school personnel and parents participated in the District 8 Professional Seminar Series. The January-February offering saw approximately 23% of the district teaching staff enrolled in evening professional development sessions topics ranging from curriculum implementation, computer technology, classroom management, and brain theory.
- Partnerships (Continuations and New):
 - With Big Brothers and Sisters, and support from the Saint John Board of Trade, the continuation of the In-School Mentoring Program initiated in September, 1999. The program has grown in size to incorporate 8 schools with more than 60 mentors and plans for further growth in 2002-2003.
 - With John Howard Society and support from FCS, and Public Safety, continuation of the Intensive Social Learning Centre (ISLC) program in support of 15-18 year olds continuing education.
 - With FCS to continue with the educational and personal support program for children in 'Protection', SHARP. A further partnership with the YM-YWCA has provided a wonderful enhancement to this program.
 - With Family Services Saint John, the FAST Program (Families and Schools Together), this program is in its second year. It is a developmental program for parents and children. Forest Hills Elementary School was the pilot site.
 - With Saint John Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative (BACPI) and the YM-YWCA, the continuation of an in-school daycare facility for student parents. The daycare is situated in Prince Charles School (K-8 building) allowing parents to attend their community high school on an altered schedule.
 - With New Brunswick Carpenters and Millwrights the on-going initiative in Coop Education 120 providing students with experience in the trades area. Students were able to receive credit for hours toward a pre-apprenticeship.

Priorities for 2002-2003 (educational):

- Maximized hours of instruction K-8 with slight increases at the high school level.
- K-2 focus on Literacy including the establishment of a 90-minute uninterrupted teaching block for Language Arts.
- Continuation of the Intervention Program for Grade 2 students with literacy learning difficulties.
- Implementation of new Math curriculum at Grade 11 level and participation in pilot of the new Grade 12 curriculum.
- A continued focus on literacy and numeracy initiatives K-12 with all teachers placing an emphasis on Reading and Writing across the curriculum.

- Expansion of parent information sessions in the area of curriculum in support of student learning and parental involvement.
- Continued support and encouragement to schools in formulating strategies to meet the needs of children and work toward the enhancement of teacher skills in the area of curriculum delivery.

Priorities for 2002-2003(administrative):

- Inservice for administrators, as identified by them, in the areas of effective communication, dealing with the media, and supervision of staff.
- A two-day seminar for all new administrators, to be held in August, entitled "What I Wish I'd Known When...". This is a joint effort of district staff and present administrators. Presenters have volunteered their time and expertise to this initiative.
- Continuation of the Beginning Administrators Program, initiated by District 8. (Other districts within the province have emulated this program.)
- Continued support of BTIP, Professional Seminars Series, and other professional development opportunities.
- Continued support to supervisors and school administrators and teachers toward parent initiatives to increase/enhance parental involvement in the learning process for children.
- Continuation of partnership ventures developed during 2000-2001 and to advance new partnerships based on identified needs to provide for a more community approach to education.
- To work toward initiatives/projects that will support a positive learning environment for all students and staff.
- To actively participate in the Joint Provincial Committee on Positive Student Behaviour. This committee is new and District 8 will participate through both teacher and district representation.
- Conduct review, in partnership with Department of Education, of District 8 Student Services.
- Continued enhancement of the District 8 web site.