

Annual Report 2003–2004
School District 8
June 2004

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 2003–2004 (educational):

- Meetings on Core French at the middle school level. Simonds Middle School has been the pilot site for new Core French middle school curriculum and resources in the fall of 2003 and spring of 2004.
- Meetings during the fall (2004) for elementary Core French teachers regarding recent new resources and up-coming new curriculum guide. All day in-service in the fall of 2003. Committee proposed to review literacy in Core French.
- The implementation of the Peer Helping Program at the middle school level (all but Fundy Shores) and high school level.
- Train the Trainer workshop for the new health curriculum, grades 6–8 (as a result of the pilot program for the human growth and development curriculum).
- Simonds High School implemented the Respect Program as part of the continuing effort to support initiatives for bullying and harassment and have presented these to other schools in the district.

- St. Malachy's High School has completed a student survey to support "Responding to Harassment and Intimidation" and have had various school initiatives to support the need assessment.
- Continued to participate in the Greater Saint John Teen Pregnancy Committee.
- Continued to support the Positive Learning Environment: schools are starting to use the Behavioural Tracking Form to help collect data and give indicators where problems are occurring so we can implement programs (Department is working on being WinSchool friendly this fall). Distributed Educational Act poster to all schools. Further distribution of "When Conflict Arises" pamphlet to district schools.
- Questionnaire (from the NBTA) was distributed to all teachers in the province to provide valuable information as to the initiatives already in place from PLEP (results will be known in June).
- The NBTA discipline handbook was distributed to all school personnel in the district with a power point presentation for staff implementation.
- Continued to support and implement anti-bullying initiatives (K-12) in conjunction with the Positive Learning Environment Policy 703.
- Language Arts assessment for all grade 11 students.
- Continuation of literacy/numeracy based program for grade 9/10 students in two high schools.
- New Brunswick math competition for grade 9.
- Medal winners for national math competitions.

- Participation in the Ray Hnatyshyn Youth in Science initiative.
- Participation in the Acadia Discovery Quest.
- Harbour View High School provincial first in English oratorical.
- Harbour View High School provincial second in French oratorical.
- Grade 2 and 4 district writing assessment.
- Expanded primary intervention program (QLA) including early French Immersion students.
- Continued field test of “You and Your World”.
- Participation in CRISP initiative.
- Additional training of teachers in First Steps writing component.
- Completion of the introduction of Art Connections throughout District 8 elementary schools.
- Continuation of pilot of a new grade 6 music curriculum at Forest Hills.
- Pilot of Music Play, a new elementary music curriculum at Lakewood Heights, Bayview, Seawood, Morna Heights, Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood schools by Cynthia Munn and Kathy Molloy. New materials for District 8 schools have been received and this new program will be implemented in 2004–2005.
- Continued development of band and orchestra programs shows an ever increasing standard of musical accomplishment with the correlative demonstration of student leadership and

accomplishment, including academic, athletic as well as musical, for students participating in these ensembles.

- Development of a band program at Prince Charles School. Plans are currently underway which should see the band program extended to a select number of schools within the district for 2004–2005. It is also hoped to be able to extend instrumental instruction into Simonds High School and Harbour View High School in 2005–2006. It is expected that these program initiatives will be accomplished using existing fte.
- Development of an instrumental ensemble at Harbour View High School, the Harbour View Stage Band. Although this group is still in its infancy, it has been enthusiastically embraced and should serve as a focus for further musical activity in the school.
- All four district 8 high schools participated and received awards at the annual High School Drama Festival in Fredericton.
- Musical productions at St. Malachy's Memorial High School, Saint John High School, and Harbour View High School all show increasing levels of artistic achievement.
- There is also an increase in musical/theatrical productions at a number of elementary and middle schools.
- The District 8 String Orchestra won the Glennie Award for most outstanding performance by an ensemble at the 2004 New Brunswick Competitive Festival of Music.
- Saint Rose School choirs continue to win awards for elementary and middle school choirs at the New Brunswick Competitive Festival of Music.

- Harbour View High School Choral Ensemble won the Royal Canadian College of Organists Award for the most outstanding performance of a selection of sacred choral music in the entire festival.
- District 8 senior band will be traveling to Toronto in mid-June to perform at Canada's Wonderland.
- The Honourable Hermenegilde Chiasson, Lt. Governor of New Brunswick, visited the district on three separate occasions. In October, to visit Art Theatre, and music facilities at Harbour View High School; in November, he toured all of the art programs in the four district 8 high schools, and in March, he attended a special concert marking the 60th anniversary of the installation of the Casavant pipe organ at Harbour View High School.
- Art students from Harbour View High School were commissioned by the Lt. Governor to contribute to an extended art display on a winter theme, at Government House in Fredericton.
- Saint John High School and St. Malachy's Memorial High School had impressive and successful displays of IB and AP art students.
- A New Song Contest, sponsored by Morris Music and Yamaha in districts 6 and 8, saw 9 of 15 finalists from district 8 high schools (Saint John High - 3; Harbour View High - 5; St. Malachy's Memorial High - 1.)

Achievements in 2003–2004 (administrative):

- District participation in the review process as external reviewers.

- Development and delivery of curriculum days for K–12 schools.
- High school brochure.
- On–going discussion about growth plans (met twice during the school year).
- Principal reviews: As part of our “Pathways to Growth: Supervision for Excellence in Teaching and Learning” model, reviews of principal and vice–principal performance were conducted for 1, 2 and 5 year administrators.
- Further development of locally developed professional growth model for educators.
- Introduction of administrators’ performance review.
- Performance evaluation model developed collaboratively with school administrators and supervisors.

Future:

- Expand district writing assessment in elementary schools.
- Introduce provincial performance standards in reading and writing.

Partnerships (Continuations and New):

- UNBSJ TESL Program students tutoring immigrant students in district schools. (UNBSJ Faculty of Education).

- Career Centre at Simonds High School in partnership with Training Employment and Development, the center will help to address the immediate and long-term needs and concerns of students and others. It will respond to those needs by providing counselling, consultation, referral, information, and training.
- With a number of agencies including FCSS, Mental Health, Saint John Business Community Anti-poverty Initiative (BAPCI), Atlantic Health Science Corporation.
- Continuing to work with HealthNet and its implementation (peer helping groups have been added to the HealthNet list).
- DATE program continuing at Grade 5 and beginning in the fall at Grade 7.
- Continuing to work closely with Post Secondary Institutions to help support the Six Destinations for students after high school.
- To begin the search for a community partner to help support and maintain an anti-bullying harassment and intimidations campaign for district 8.
- Promote community police connections within our high schools.
- Dialogue with probation officers, social workers, and support workers.
- See Harassment Stop Committee at Simonds High School, partnership with police, home and school.
- Year two of the NIS project.
- Grassroot projects in the sciences and humanities.

- Saint John High School student to participate in a cultural trip to South Africa for three months.
- Student recognition for volunteer organizations.
- Participation in the seminar of safety.
- Saint John High School student chosen to attend Lakehead University for the Shad Valley Program Drama Fest awards.
- Appreciation celebrations for volunteers.
- Relationship with Ridgewood Counselling Services.
- J.D. Irving and Prince Charles partnership grew to include more than 140 employee volunteers and 75 parent volunteers now active in the school.
- With the separation of the district 6 & 8 superintendency, Music Alive, which supported music programs in both districts was dissolved. District 8 has formed the District 8 Musical Opportunities Organization comprised of parents, teachers, and community members with the mandate to support the musical activities of the entire district through the establishment of scholarship programs, funding and opportunity for private music instruction, assistance with the purchase of instruments, providing extra musical opportunities, such as workshops for students, assisting with trips, and undertaking fund raising to assist the district in providing equipment not ordinarily possible under capital expenditure projects.
- Through the efforts of a number of district 8 art teachers, a New Brunswick Visual Art Educators Association has been formed. This is a group of like-minded professionals with the aim of advancing

the cause of art education in New Brunswick through their own level of artistic involvement.

- Curriculum Delivery Days provided art and music teachers with a wealth of professional development opportunities, rarely experienced in the current Subject Council structure.

Priorities for 2004–2005 (educational):

- Acquisition of appropriate French resources to support the Grade 1–2 intervention increasing to 5 interventionists and two teachers grade 1 –5 (Fall, 2004). Work of French Immersion intervention program to be presented at two major conferences fall, 2004.
- Continued support and encouragement to schools in formulating strategies to enhance the Comprehensive and Developmental Guidance Program (K–12).
- Continued work on partnerships with community agencies, such as city police, probation officers, etc.
- To continue to support the Quality Learning Agenda and its mandate for the K–12 Comprehensive and Guidance Program.
- To continue to support initiatives for Policy 703.
- To continue the guidance delivery at the middle school level.
- To continue to support and develop programs and awareness for anti-bullying programs.
- To continue the use of the guidance teams to address behavioural issues.

- To continue to support the Career Centre at Simonds High and to have many students visit the site from other high schools and middle schools.
- To continue partnership ventures to help support district initiatives as well as working with community agencies.
- Encourage numeracy/literacy in all four high schools.
- Differential instruction.
- Learning style workshops.
- Harbour View High School interested in a Renaissance learning program.
- DARE Program will be implemented in middle school this coming fall.
- Implementation of new music curriculum from grades 1–5, and middle school curriculum in grades 6 and 7.
- Pilot of grade 9/10 Art Outcomes in a district 8 high school.
- Continued development of the music program at the middle school level. Ultimately, this program should also move into grade 8.
- To ensure that the Fine Arts programs continue to engage students in a meaningful way while retaining curricular integrity.

Priorities for 2004–2005 (administrative):

- Continued enhancement of the BTIP.

- Continued work on partnerships with community agencies, such as city police, probation officers, etc.
- Support high school principals in delegating and continuing their educational leadership role.