

Livingstone Range School Division #68

Superintendent Report

2019-2020 School Year



Darryl Seguin
For the Month of: October

Highlights

Functions & Meetings

- Teacher2Teacher session saw participants participating in the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People Signature Program. A total of 34 staff completed this professional development opportunity.
- Monthly Admin. Council meeting
- KBE ESA meeting
- PBOE ESA meeting
- Leader2Leader Steering Committee—Met with four School Admin and two Division Office reps. Updated on a PLC for Administrators conference attended by two L2L members last June. Sketched out the PD proposed for Admin Council for the 2019-20 school year. Each month has PD aligned with the new LQS
- Board/CEO Evaluation—reported on my work meeting the requirements of Board Policy 13 The Role of the Superintendent. Great opportunity to reflect on the work accomplished in the 2018-19 school year and identified areas of growth moving forward.
- Inspiring Leadership Session #1—18 participants Focused on Relationships, Understanding Leadership Principles and Visionary Leadership
- Art Gala—Great turnout. Students and parents enjoyed the evening celebrating the Arts in LRSD
- ATA Executive and LRSD Liaison Committee—discussed ISC Days, PD days, Teacher2Teacher and Leader2Leader programs
- AB Ed Provincial Budget Press Release & Follow up Teleconference
- CASS Fall Conference—Attended sessions on...Ed Act & Regulations, Human Resources, Bargaining and a session for Chief Superintendents. Keynote speakers: Santiago Rincon-Gallardo and Eva Olsson
- Attended Division Office Staff Meeting
- Attended meeting with Xerox provincial reps
- BMO Agreement Signed—Anthony, Jeff and I met with the BMO rep to review our products and services
- Orientation of FPW Acting Principal
- LRSD Chair, Vice-Chair and I met with with PSBAA who shared their organizations purpose
- Weekly Communications Coordinator meetings
- Board Policy Committee meeting—work related to updating School Act references to the new Education Act
- 17 School Visits during the last month
- Wrote Eye on Education article, **My Kid is Never in School!**

Key Areas for Next Month

- Board Retreat
- ASBA FGM
- WCCHS Fall Academic Awards
- Zone 6 ASBA meeting
- Teacher2Teacher
- Inspiring Leadership sessions #2 & #3
- KBE ESA meeting
- PBOE ESA meeting
- Meeting of the Whole—Breakfast with the Board (Livingstone School)/Tour of Bus Shop at MHHS
- Regular Board meeting—Audited Financial Statement, 3 Yr Plan & AERR
- CASSIX meetings and Retirement Evening

Oct. 30, 2019

Lethbridge Herald Eye on Education Article

My Kid is Never in School!

Throughout my career the phrase, “my kid is never in school” is one I have heard many times from parents frustrated with the complications of additional childcare arrangements, altered schedules and concerns that children cannot possibly be receiving a good education with so many days off.

The Education Act stipulates that teachers cannot be scheduled to work more than 200 days in a school year. Teachers in Alberta can only instruct a maximum 907 hours in the classroom and be assigned 1200 hours of work. Instructional time generally includes direct children–teacher interaction; it does not include teacher preparation, parent/teacher meetings, staff meetings or professional development. These types of activities along with recently increased legislative requirements for schools such as occupational health and safety training for employees and first aid training are part of the maximum assignable time of 1200 hours.

Teachers, administrators and division-based leaders must comply with these parameters as they face increasingly complex classroom conditions. Today, it is common to have a class of students with an incredibly wide range of abilities, foundational knowledge and life experiences. Most classrooms today are inclusive of students with various medical, physical and psychological needs. Despite these challenges, however, Alberta’s education system, consistently ranks among the highest in Canada and around the world according to the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

Most school jurisdiction calendars consist of 197 operational days with student days varying anywhere from 180-185 days. Within those 197 operational days most school divisions plan twelve to sixteen professional development days during which staff participate in workshops, conferences, team meetings and other methods of learning to increase their professional understanding, knowledge and skills. By the end of October, many schools have had at least two staff professional development days for the 2019-20 school year.

So what are teachers learning when kids are not in school? Teachers are working on first aid training, health and safety courses and numerous other professional development activities. During a professional development day earlier this month, Livingstone Range School Division teachers chose from thirty-one professional development sessions including: Understanding Autism & ADHD, Supporting Individuals through Valued Attachments (SIVA), Effective Technology in the Elementary Classroom, Supporting students with Down syndrome, Speech and Language Strategies, Brain Development, Indigenous Numeracy, various subject specific training, Leadership Training and Mental Health & Wellness Sessions.

Although it may seem that children have too many days off during the school year, ongoing professional development is a vital component for educators to stay current in their practice and to provide quality education to the next generation of leaders. So, the next time your child is not in school ask yourself; I wonder what staff are learning about today that will help them become a better teacher for my child?