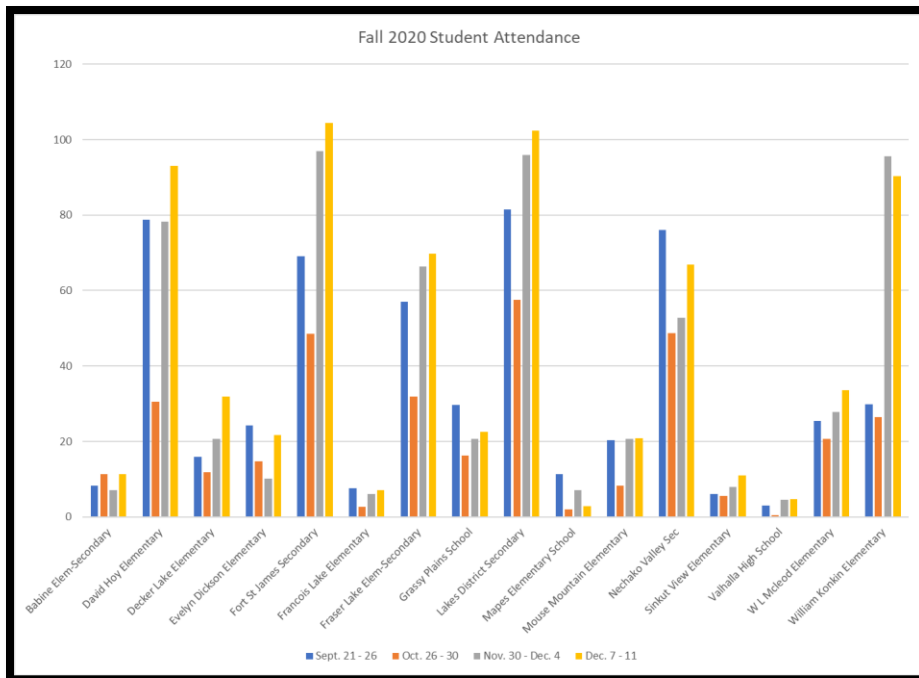




2020 – IT'S A WRAP

This final report of the year to the Board is different in format primarily because my sense is that our entire system is in much need of the upcoming winter break. Over the last month we have seen COVID transmission in the north increase; and, this has taken a toll on overall anxiety for families, as evidenced in declining student attendance patterns at many of our schools (*see graph below*). The promise of a vaccine rollout is much needed and promising news; however, we also know that the coming months will require continued attention to health and safety protocols.



With increased community transmission, we know that we will see increased school exposure notices which have occurred for a few of our schools over the last few weeks. The data that has been shared with us from the Provincial Health Officer continues to indicate that, as long as schools are following their safety protocols, they continue to be seen as controlled environments that minimize the risk of COVID transmission. We had hoped to have our Northern Health partners respond to the many questions that are percolating for families and ourselves, but that Town Hall event had to be cancelled due to their shift in priorities with increasing caseloads. We are attempting to come up with a future date as soon as possible.

With the current Provincial Health Order restricting traditional holiday events and gatherings, we know that the continued

stress for families will continue into 2021; and, so we will continue to focus on sharing personal wellness and mental health strategies across our schools. A big thank you to **Barb McLean, Claire McKay** and our **Learner Services team** who did an outstanding job of presenting to our CUPE staff on Personal Wellness during the last professional development day.

Although I will send a personalized holiday email to all in our organization later this week, I want to publicly acknowledge the contributions of every member of our School District over the last nine months. The examples of compassion and caring for students and families have been numerous across our district, and it is difficult to express the level of gratitude that we all have for the many, many contributions. Unlike many jurisdictions across the world, we have been able to safely open schools for our learners and minimize the impact of the pandemic on our youngest and most vulnerable. My knowledge of the Dakelh language is limited to a few phrases and words, but I do know that they have many expressions for gratitude. The most fitting for each of our employees translated as, 'We are so thankful for what you have done' is expressed as **NENACHALHUYA!**





Superintendent's Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of Dec. 14th, 2020

STRATEGIC GOAL - HONOUR DIVERSITY

Rather than speaking to specific examples from our schools or departments around Honouring Diversity, I wanted to use this section of my report to the Board to speak about the partner structures within our organization that help contribute to our focus on diversity.

Our most important governance structure is our Board of Education, comprised of seven elected Trustees. I have had the distinct pleasure and privilege of working with these individuals from when many of them were first elected and have counted on their student-centered perspective to create policies and direction that support our schools. Our current Board has released the 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan graphic that has created a compelling vision for our School District which includes four goal areas including 'Honouring Diversity.' It is the job of the Board to direct myself and district staff to ensure that schools are equitable and accessible to ALL our students and so have appreciated their attention to outcomes associated with Indigenous, Special Education and Children-in-Care outcomes.

In addition to our Trustees, I also want to ensure that the public is aware of the additional partner structures that guide the work of the district leadership team and our Board.



Trustees: Nadine Frenkel, Rick Pooley, Nyree Hazelton, Cheryl Peterson, Sarah John, Steve Davis, and Dave Christie



Student Voice

- This group of high school students from across our district, supported by Vice Principals **Denise Dowswell, Shelley Leatherdale, Mike Leduc**, and LDSS teacher **Patti Dube**, continue to provide us and our trustees with honest, student focused and informed feedback. The picture is from a few years ago and most of these students have been replaced by new Student Voice representatives.
- Student Voice representatives are invited to every Board meeting to provide Trustees with an update on their activities as a group and to provide insight into emerging student issues. This group is a key advocate and partner in ensuring that all student diversities are considered in Board policy.

District Parent Advisory Council

- Our SD91 DPAC is a relatively new structure, and I want to recognize the hard work of this dedicated, small group of parents in revitalizing our DPAC structure to help advocate for parent issues. Thank you to **Cheryl Work, Carrie Smith, Pam Higginson** and the other members of DPAC who have committed to supporting parents across our district and forwarded to the Board their thoughts, questions and feedback. We look forward to continued opportunities to partner in the coming year.

Aboriginal Education Council (AEC)

- Our school district has the privilege and responsibility of providing educational services to 14 First Nations across our region. Each of these communities is represented on the AEC which meets every two months. I am honoured to attend these meetings with **Leona Prince**, our talented District Principal Aboriginal Education, along with two of our trustees; and, I appreciate the continued respectful dialogue that helps to ensure our system's accountability and responsibility for Indigenous learners.

CUPE and BLNTU

- Our system works with the provisions of collectively bargained contracts, and I am thankful for the leadership of both of our unions. **Florence, Rick, Jennifer** and **Melissa** have excellently represented their members while continuing to help us navigate difficult circumstances and issues. Our health and safety protocols are stronger because of our mutual conversations.



Superintendent's Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of Dec. 14th, 2020

STRATEGIC GOAL — ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

As in the introduction to this report, our workforce is completely responsible for all of the incredible activities that occur for our students both prior to the Coronavirus and for the last 9 months. Here is a recap of stories / pictures that show why we are so proud and thankful for our incredible workforce:



NVSS Small Business Market – Jana-Rae Kadonaga



Parent Literacy / Numeracy Workshops – Michelle & Roberta



William Konkin's Sue Martens who has been so essential in helping with food programs for students and families. Sue is referred to as the WKE Angel! Thank-you Sue for all that you do!



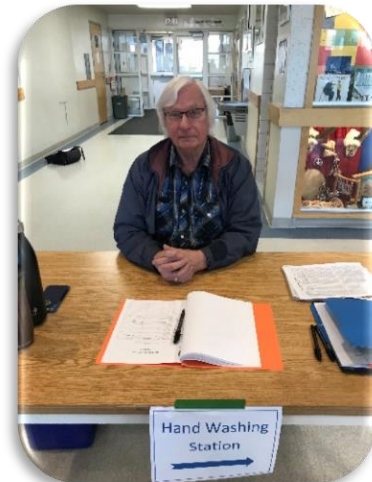
Haircutting Potlatch - Nikki Arnold / Sarah John



Moose Hide Campaign - Cheryl Parsons / Brian Cross



Project Trails - Pat & Patti Dube



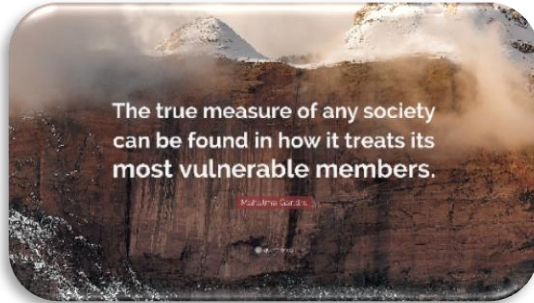
William Konkin Elementary greeter, Bryce McGinnis, who drives in from Topley daily to be at WKE with a smile. Thanks Bryce!



Superintendent's Report to the Board

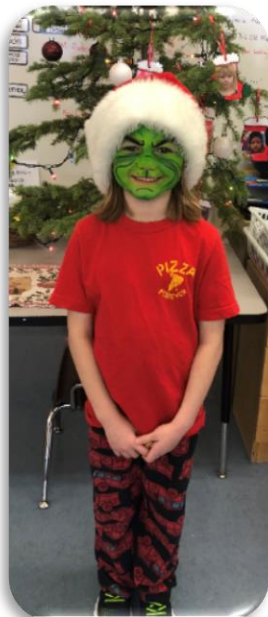
Regular Board Meeting of Dec. 14th, 2020

STRATEGIC GOAL — STUDENT LEARNING



As in most years, many, many of our schools are involved in campaigns to collect toy and food donations to assist community organizations helping families across our region. These initiatives are too numerous to mention school by school, but a very big thank you to our students and their sponsors for the many hours spent on these activities.

With our much-loved holiday concerts and gatherings suspended due to the Covid context, our innovative schools are coming up with alternate ways to share songs and celebrations with their students and families. Here are some pictures / videos from across our schools sharing the holiday spirit.





Superintendent's Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of Dec. 14th, 2020

SD91 IN THE NEWS AND QUICK FACTS:

- [WL McLeod's Leadership Group donates \\$2000 to Kinette's Club](#)
- [Sinkut View Christmas Tree Silent Auction](#)
- [WKE Eagles Christmas Message of Kindness, Joy and Hope](#) (Facebook Video)