

*OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR*

*Chair: Goronwy Price  
C.E.O./Director of Education: Anthony Stack*

May 29, 2020

Dear Principals,

I want to take this opportunity to update you on our planning, from a District perspective, regarding preparations for the 2020-2021 school year.

We have collated inputs from all District divisions: programs, human resources, information technology, finance, student transportation, and facilities. There are myriad intertwined factors which must be considered in granular detail in developing possible scenarios for what happens in September. These scenarios run the full gamut from everyone back 100% to everyone operating from a distance. I know you want and need clarity, and I would like nothing more than to provide it. What I can tell you is that we are in regular and frequent discussions with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) and the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association (NLTA) and this collaborative process has forged a unity of purpose in arriving at a comprehensive and dynamic plan that has the health and safety of our students, families, and employees as the highest priority.

It is important to note that the District work to date does not constitute a plan, rather it is a compilation of information and analysis to help inform a plan. A bona fide plan for reopening schools in September is dependent on a number of external factors over which the District has no direct control. We have identified three key inputs to EECD required from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador so that the District can design its plan. They are:

1. Finalized detailed guidance from the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) and Health and Community Services (HCS).
2. The provision of special funding to enable the District to better operate in a virtual setting as required.
3. Direction from the EECD with respect to modified curricular requirements and provincial assessments.

Please note our work to date is based solely on the efforts and expertise of the Directors of the various Divisions involved with some consultation with the Director's Principal Advisory Group. This was done deliberately to quickly identify the guidance, direction and resources we needed externally. In the weeks ahead, there will be an opportunity for employees and other stakeholders to participate in a consultation process to inform an operational plan.

I am very cognisant that you need detailed direction and guidance from the District so you can do what must be done to prepare your schools for September. I beg your understanding and

your patience. This is a complex task involving numerous interconnected internal and external factors. We will absolutely need your critical input when the time is right. I have no desire to waste your valuable time. So, we need those key inputs from EECD first, and I respect that they need time to work through these requirements. Ultimately, this plan will need to be a flexible one that can adjust to changing medical circumstances and can adapt to the varying individual school situations. I thank you for your stellar leadership in guiding your school communities through very rough uncharted waters these last months. Please remember to look after your own well-being as you care for others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Stack', with a stylized, looped flourish at the end.

Tony Stack  
CEO/Director of Education