

ABC Consultation # 1 – February 4, 2021

SD52

Group 1

Facilitator: Roberta. Notetaker: Michele

1) What are the obstacles to student success?

- Kids need more help than they are able to get in the classroom setting. Noticed with the low numbers lately the extra help they have been getting is very beneficial. Middle School.
- Agreed with above at an Elementary school. Big concern for those kids that are not attending right now.
- Agreed with above about the pockets of absences throughout the year and the inconsistencies. Not just missing out on school but on breakfast program and extra-curricular.
- Need to meet students where they are at has been an issue for a long period of time. Kids often in fight, freeze or flight mode. We will see an increase in this after COVID. Physical presence isn't the same as ready for learning. We will see a lot of kids affected by trauma.
- Social emotional learning and self regulation more important now. Need to build a strong support plan. Need to focus on top goals and have a plan on how we can do this. Create classrooms that serve students with executive functioning issues and this will benefit everyone. We are integrating right now, we need to be inclusive.
- Concern with how we will bridge the gap and how will we catch up students that have not been attending.
- It is going to be tough to bridge the gap and we will all have to come together, will need to network and communicate with other districts.
- Our Strategic Plan is being reviewed and revised this year, some of the language is not language we are using anymore. Our plan and our framework need to mirror where we are at now. Need to think collectively about how we can plan our budget around this.
- Connecting with other districts across the province, some districts can tie every budget line to their strategic plan, every decision that we make needs to tie back to our strategic plan.
- The kids that are at school right now and have been coming regularly have been growing in educational goals, social emotionally.
- It is terrible having to cut every year. Hoping with a new strategic plan we can get away from this.

2) What is needed to help students be successful?

- So many gaps, academic, social emotional, that we are going to need to overcome. How are we going to help with the social emotional issues to help students be able to be ready to learn.
- More SEL support, more wrap around support from all.

- Curious to see how families that are seeing improved behaviour from kids being at home are feeling. Reduced anxiety.
- Keeping staff mentally healthy, it is taking a toll on staff having to counsel parents and kids and community members.
- Keep class sizes small, keep EA's, classroom supports – LST, reading supports, numeracy supports, mental health supports.
- Look carefully at budget, where is their money being wasted?
- More parent support, PAC's are really small, how do we get parent volunteers in, how can we include families more? Schools can share with each other ways that they are getting parents in.
- Things you can do that don't cost money – yoga, telling students how much they are wanted, tea and talk, make classrooms trauma informed. Have a sharing of these strategies, we have teacher leaders in these areas.

3) What specific suggestions do you have for the school district budget?

- So much in having kids feel validated. And staff as well.
- More counselling is going to be required in the months to come.
- Compile a list of counsellors that are available to kids and families outside of school. More available now that counselling has gone virtually.
- Wondering how long we are going to pay employees to stay at home.
- Looking at the budget and where are we spending money that is not necessary.
- Concerned about going back to large class sizes which is not beneficial to kids. Cuts are always to teachers and EA's, don't want to see the new teachers we have recruited not having a job next year and leaving. Still paying wages for people who are not here.
- Loss of access to physical activity for kids on OT caseload. New playground equipment at Lax Kxeen will be beneficial. Would hate to see cuts to playground, PE equipment, advocate that this not be reduced.
- Do not cut time or amount of EA's, would like to see increased time for EA's.
- Technology support, our sites are not adequately equipped with technology.
- Pandemic showed us where we are lacking in technology. Kids are moving ahead in technology and we are not catching up. We need someone who keeps up with the kids in technology and can support teachers to incorporate this into learning.