

# AS I See It

A newsletter from the Assistant Superintendent of School Effectiveness  
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Throughout the summer I thought about how I might open a window on to my new role as the A.S. of School Effectiveness. I thought about having an “open door”, but realized that is not as effective when everyone you want to visit you is working behind their own closed doors. So to start the new school year, I thought I would share my New Year resolutions with you. I hope it will be a good way for you to get to know my priorities. I know it was a great way for me to articulate them for myself. The

bonus is that if you keep this you can use it to determine if I was able to stay on track or not!

## My New Year Resolutions

- I want to try to **explain the WHY** more often. Whether it is explaining to students that we are spending time putting information into categories because the brain naturally looks for patterns, or explaining to teachers that a KWL chart will help students make connections between new information to what they already know, I want to be more **intentional** about helping everyone understand the *why* behind each issue. Research shows, and common sense reinforces, that we are more invested in doing something if we clearly understand how it will directly benefit us.
- I want to include **more FUN**. There is no reason not to work to find the fun in learning and working with others. Games and puzzles act as great warm up, a smile and a look at the lighter side can make meetings, lessons, conversations or coffee breaks more enjoyable.
- I want to **observe** the practitioners at work. How else will I know about the great things happening in our system if I do not get out there and see how all of our staff is performing their best practice and sharing their knowledge? I can hardly wait! **Collaboration** is the key to building strong healthy systems!

I hope that by setting out some of my intentions now, I will be more reflective. I want to look back to these resolutions at the end of the year to see if I kept to my goals. I'll let you know how it all turns out!

*Components that impact student achievement in the effective schools research:*

- *student learning and achievement*
- *instructional leadership*
- *assessment and evaluation*
- *curriculum and instructional strategies*

## School Improvement

How are we going to get even better?

Plans for this year include a new revamping of the School Effectiveness Framework (SEF) process for our schools. You may have encountered the SEF in the past when you were asked to identify which areas you felt were ready for review. You may associate the SEF process with the District Review Team. However, there is much more to the process than that!

In every school we have an active school improvement team. That group is currently looking at the needs assessment information that they have gathered (perhaps by talking to you!) and they are trying to create a plan that will meet those assessed needs and create more effective ways of helping all of our students succeed.

The school improvement plans need to be ready to be discussed at the board level by September 10. At that time the board improvement team will be meeting to prepare the board improvement plan for submission to the Ministry.

The improvement plans describe a plan of action that will include a review in October for two or three of our schools. The review will generate an immediate assessment of needs and a quick response of resources and support to help teams move toward their school improvement goals.



*The chairs are “open for discussion” – what can we do to build collaborative cultures?*

***New this year: District Review in October to create plans for improvement and allocation of support and resources, two year review team process (one year “on”, one year of consolidation), end of year review to determine needs for next year.***

**The Assistant Superintendent of School Effectiveness is a new position being filled by Mary Cunningham**

**Please direct comments and/or questions to [mcunningham@kcdsb.on.ca](mailto:mcunningham@kcdsb.on.ca)**