

Staff Report



May 14, 2024

To Board of Education (Public Meeting)

From Sean Nosek, Superintendent/CEO

Re **Safe and Caring Schools**

This report is presented to the board for information.

BACKGROUND:

The Abbotsford School District has a comprehensive team of individuals supporting the goal of creating safe and caring school communities. The Safe and Caring Schools team provides support in four primary domains: mental health, social-emotional learning, equity and crisis response. The team works proactively within each domain with staff and students to build their capacity and understanding in these key areas. Professional development is geared to meet the individual needs of schools and to address emerging global issues in our district and community. The team also responds to critical incidents throughout the school district, helping schools navigate traumatic events and assist in analyzing threats against the school, staff and students

The importance of this work has only been amplified as risk assessments in schools are increasing and student mental health concerns become more prevalent. We cannot do this work alone. Strong community partnerships are vital to developing multi-dimensional supports and interventions for our families. Together we are able to create safe and caring school communities.

David de Wit, District Principal, Safe Schools will be in attendance to present to the Board.



Safe and Caring Schools

DAVID DE WIT

District Principal, Safe Schools

May 14, 2024

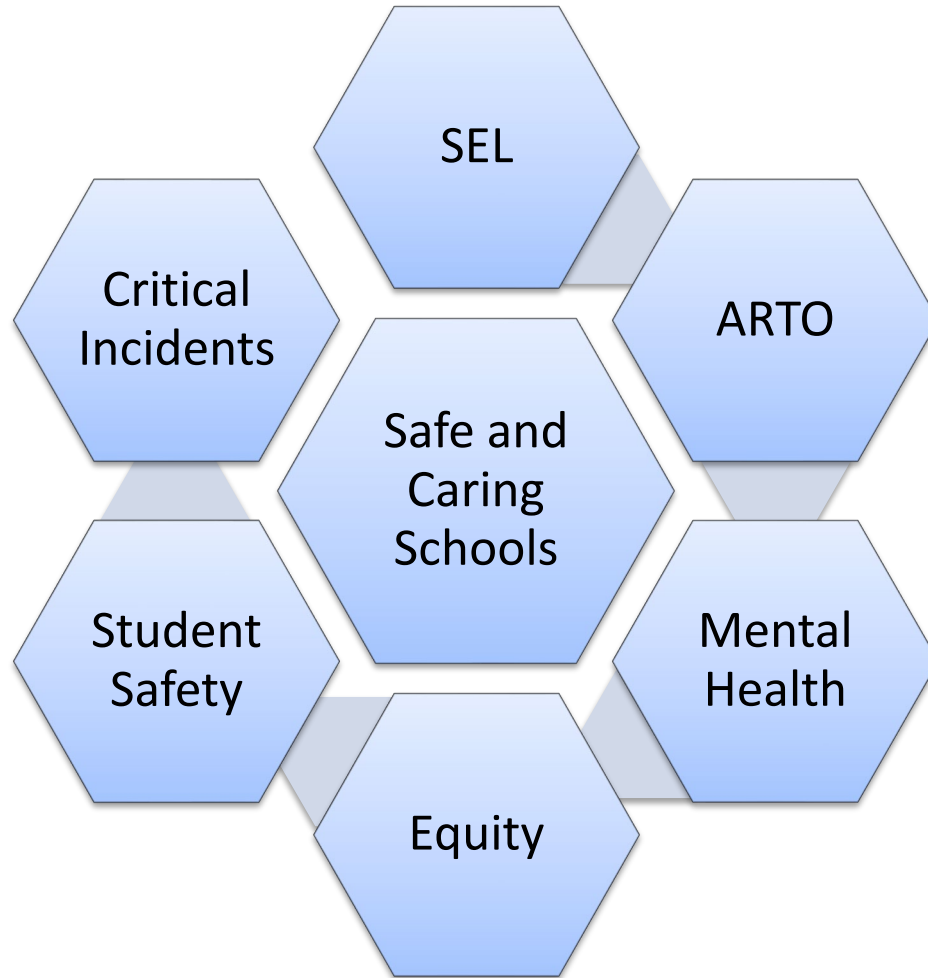


Safe & Caring Schools Team

OUR VISION

To create a circle of support that fosters a safe and inclusive environment for all members of the school community.







Current climate in our schools

- Risk assessments increasing post COVID and are happening at a younger age.
- 49% of gr. 8's and 37% of gr. 5's reported low well-being in at least 1 of the 5 measures of well-being (MDI)
- 44% of gr. 8's unable to identify an important adult at school (MDI)
- 74% of gr. 5's were able to identify 2 or more important adults at school (MDI)
- 48% of gr. 11's ranked their mental health as fair or poor (YDI)
- 39% of youth screened positive for depression (YDI)

Social Emotional Learning

- Gr. 5 transitions
- Noon hour supervisor training
- Book Studies
- CALM Curriculum
- Roots of Empathy
- Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction
- Professional Development



Equity – How are students and staff seen, valued and heard for who they are?

- Cultural Affinity Groups
- EDIA working group
- Supporting staff with resources
- Equity calendar and toolkit
- Professional development

Equity

Diversity

Inclusion

Anti-Racism

Crisis Response



- Supporting schools through traumatic events
- Assessment of Risk to Others
- Suicide Risk Assessment training
- Critical incident support
- Liaising with community partners

Mental Health and Well Being

- Engaging parents in the conversation
- Professional Development
 - Ask, Assess, Act training for administrators
 - Recognizing and understanding newcomers' mental health needs
- Supporting schools in accessing mental health supports
- Increasing middle school counsellors' capacity to run groups
- Adolescent Day Treatment Program



Perceptions of APDs Youth Squad Officers in Our Schools

Significant Findings

- Students want more connection
- Indigenous students had a strong relationship with officer and wanted him to come to school more
- Interactions in our schools have been positive

Recommendations

- Creating a greater understanding of what our youth squad members do
- Opportunities to participate in more school events
- Possibility of a set schedule at each school
- Remove traffic duties from youth squad
- Abbotsford School District and APD develop an MOU

Questions?

