

## **Reflections on the Professional Standards for BC Educators**

### **1. Educator's value the success of all students. Educator's Care for students and act in their best interests.**

- Student's want to feel seen, heard and valued. I know from my own children how important this is, and that their success, self view and desire to be successful hinges greatly on how they view the relationship they have with their teacher; when students believe their teacher likes them, believes they are intelligent and cares about them, they flourish. I plan to highlight students daily and make them feel valued in the classroom.
- Meaningful education for the individual student will look differently student to student with IEPs and different learners needs, but all learners needs must be met; I believe this will make my assessments more like a spectrum of how understanding of the information/subject matter is shown.
- Equitable treatment in a classroom is important, as by definition it means that we try to level the playing field and give learners what they need to succeed in a way that brings about fairness and equality in the classroom; in practice this may mean some students will need more time than others, and some will need different learning outcomes for some learners or some learners may need to be modifications to the task. A teacher is in a great position of power, and as a professional must care for the emotional, mental, physical well being of the students entrusted in their care and do so in a sensitive, thoughtful way.

### **2. Educator's act ethically and maintain integrity, credibility and reputation of the profession.**

- Educator's must remember that their behavior whether at work or not, reflects upon the profession as a whole and that they could be at any point reported for any perceived standard violations in the public realm.
- This in practice means I need to ask myself what the public may perceive from what I share on social media, and from my behaviour/participation at different events I may opt to participate in.

### 3. Educator's understand and apply knowledge of student growth and development.

- I feel that being a parent, and working in schools previously, will help me understand apply the knowledge we gather. Being open and sensitive to culture, learner needs and the personal identity of students is an important factor as well in developing a plan that works for all.
- I am a fan of Dr. Gordon Neufeld's body of work on children's development, and would definitely look at using some of his relationship research/knowledge/methodology in the classroom.

### 4. Educator's value the involvement and support of parents, guardians, families and communities in schools.

- The community feeling in a school comes from parents/families, administration (principals/Teacher's in charge/Counsellors), invested teaching/support staff, community support (business, non-profits, neighboring homes, churches etc.) and students feeling these supports create a strong feeling of support.
- A feeling of community in a school, is very important. I cannot overstate how important from experience; I personally have worked in almost every highschool in District No. 73 and can say that those with the feeling of community and camaraderie in the staff and student body were the most enjoyable places to work; I would imagine, they were as well, the most enjoyable places to learn.
- Happy teachers create happy classrooms, in my experience in schools where the teachers feel valued and heard, happy teachers reside, and I would imagine it is very likely where the happiest students reside in a classroom environment and the community is key in creating this feeling.

### 5. Educator's implement effective planning, instruction, assessment and reporting practices to create respectful, inclusive environments for student learning and development.

- Effective planning, reporting and assessment are currently undergoing an evolution, and there are some really great resources to create more comprehensive unit plans with rubrics that assess more than test scores with the new K to 9 grading system. Including metrics like self assessment, observation of skill, testing, projects and many more ways of assessing their understanding from emerging through to extending. I find this all very exciting and look forward to developing some lesson plans and rubrics that will encompass all learner types, and will make everyone feel included and respected in this evolution of new curricular assessment and reporting techniques.

## 6. Educator's demonstrate a broad knowledge base and a understanding of the areas they teach.

- This is a one of the reasons, I love the teaching profession. Teacher's are life long learners. I enjoy learning, and growing as an individual through learning and forming new relationships.
- I believe I have a broad knowledge base, and while planning a course you refine your content and knowledge you would like to share. If students have questions that are outside my knowledge, I would tell them that I don't know and that I will find out or ask them to research it and share the findings the next day; or potentially google it then and there, only if I think the class would not be distracted by this from a classroom management point of view.

## 7. Educator's engage in professional learning.

- As an Itinerant Science Assistant with School District No. 73, I was uniquely placed in a support staff role, that was at times invited to teacher professional development opportunities because it more closely fit our roles. There were only 3 (sometimes 4) of us in the School District covering all the Secondary Schools, so professional learning opportunities tended to not be geared for us. Thus I have engaged in many years of professional learning opportunities (most science related), which I enjoyed.
- I think this is one of the greatest parts of being a teacher, the continuity of learning and the evolution of our understanding.

## 8. Educator's contribute to the profession.

- I believe that educator's contribute to the profession by helping their students find their passions in education, which in turn helps to foster the next generation of teachers to the profession.
- Innovation! Looking at blending seasoned methods with new methodology where it makes sense and finding the right mix of innovation for your classroom to support and inspire learners.

## 9. Educator's respect and value the history of First Nations, Inuit, Métis in Canada and the impact of the past on the present and future. Educator's contribute toward, truth, reconciliation and healing. Educator's foster a deeper understanding of ways of knowing and being, histories, and cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

- I believe that right now listening to our indigenous communities is very important; hearing their stories and sharing space with and for them to do so.
- Sharing material that has been looked at or sourced through your school aboriginal support workers and you have permission to share. Respectful relations begin with truly listening and overcoming any colonial preconceptions we may have from our upbringing and seeking advice or permission when you are unsure of using content.
- Creating a diverse library of books and stories in the classroom is a great way to naturally share the diversity of our Indigenous culture with our students in the classroom.