

2021-22 Annual School Development Report

MSB Regional Academy



Strategic Issue: The learning environments located at MSB Regional Academy need to be engaging and provide opportunities for students to have voice and choice in instruction and assessment.

How did you know this was a Strategic Issue? What evidence did you have?

Student academic achievement has been fairly positive, however, student engagement and retention of learning is seen as low. Students indicated via surveys that they value school and see it as important but the majority are not highly interested or use ideas from school in daily life. PMF data has indicated that the majority of students believe they will not remember what they have learned in their current classes. Anecdotal information along with survey data indicate that students value more choice and voice as well see the learning environments as less than optimal. Conversations and discussions with students pointed us to visit optimal learning environments as an important and strategic place to start with improving learning at MSB.

Year-end Summary of Progress. What evidence do you have to support this progress?

We are currently in the early stages of developing plans to tackle our strategic issue. Throughout this year, which has been challenging due to much absenteeism as a result of the pandemic, the staff have made efforts to engage students with their voice and choice, thereby providing opportunities to invite greater student engagement both academically and socially. Project based learning was a focus this year. Examples of such efforts include: Human Dynamics - “Books for Africa”, K-12 Christmas cards for seniors, MSB Memorial outdoor area project, World Ocean Day Clean-up - a school wide initiative, humanitarian project: “Drive-Thru Fundraiser for our sponsor child”, and presentations/online involvement with focus on climate change - “Change in Me, Change at Home” and online tours such as a dairy farm tour with students from school in the St. John’s area. Student leadership has through the year presented positive messages via art work around the school. Safe, Caring and Inclusive Itinerant has several sessions with students on restorative practices, empathy and respect.

The varied initiatives and activities we accomplished seems to have improved student overall perception of school. SEL has been a focus of the staff and students' needs have been addressed, although we recognise there is much room for improvement.

Next Steps...

MSB is on the path of tackling our strategic issue. This spring efforts were made to understand what students want and need from their school. Consultation has begun with students to ascertain this important knowledge so that we can create a school where student voice and choice are important driving forces behind what and how we do things. Of course this will need to continue this coming school year. While we will endeavor to further develop project-based learning opportunities as mentioned above. Also, our school is embarking on a Comprehensive School Health Project which will address social and mental health. The staff will continue to seek out avenues to further develop student “character” - resilience and self-confidence, as this continues to be a dimension of student learning needing growth.

As was the case in our SD Plan from the previous year, student choice and voice needs to become part of the fabric of our pedagogical practice. Greater student engagement is the central goal and so the creation of optimal learning environments is our focus. This will continue as we move forward.