Professional Development Reflection Sept 30

I spent the day at Suwilaawks with my coworkers participating in The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. As a group we met in the library to watch the live stream from the district. The day started with the interim Superintendent Janet Meyer going over some data to show where indigenous vs non indigenous students are at. I don't fully understand all the data but I know it is important to see and go over this information. One thing that stood out to me that Janet said was “put children at the center of everything you do” . As I reflect on this quote I think what it means to me is, prioritizing students' needs, interests, and well-being in every decision ensures that education will support their growth.

Next we heard from Chief Cadmus Delorme. The chief shared his thoughts and recommendation on truth and reconciliation through his own personal journey and story. I enjoyed this because as I have learned storytelling is a way to preserve cultural knowledge, foster community, and tradition and values.

We then heard from Sara Dadeau. Sara shared a lot of information on racism, white supremacy, and misogyny. I was reminded of the first semester taking our first indigenous education course in the fall of 2023. Watching the video white fragility made me realize the importance of confronting my own discomfort around race to truly engage in meaningful conversations about privilege and systemic racism.

Last we heard from Beverly Azak who provided us with activities to do as a group in the afternoon. She also presented resources for the schools and educators to use in the schools and classrooms. Her quote “together, we’ll strength our commitment to providing exceptional learning experiences for our learners” reminds me that collaboration with colleagues and the community is essential to continuously improve and create impactful learning experiences that meet the needs of all students.

In the afternoon we moved into discussion as a whole group about what we can do as a school and individual to move forward with reconciliation. We shared that we can use authentic resources, spend more time on the land, get out of the classroom for community involvement, and find ways to incorporate the different languages in our traditional territory.