

Curriculum Committee Annual Report 2012-13

Curriculum committee members

Grant Frost – Chair,

Sarah Tutty,

Joyce Lively,

Cathy Doucet,

Pam Hillier – Provincial Executive Liaison,

Tanya Sampson,

Sophie Pedneault,

Steve Trussoni,

Ron Brunton – staff liaison (outgoing)

Debbie McIsaac – staff liaison (incoming)

Proceedings

The NSTU standing curriculum committee met three times in 2012-2013, on September 28th, January 11th and April 12th. The first meeting was punctuated by a bittersweet moment as the members bid a fond farewell to Ron Brunton, who had been serving as the curriculum committee liaison officer for the NSTU for the last few years. The committee then took a moment to welcome incoming staff officer Debbie McIsaac.

This first meeting of the year was a very exciting one for the committee, as it was here that the new format of school improvement was unveiled to the group. The new initiative entitled Continuous School Improvement seemed an improvement on the previous models of Planning for Improvement and Accreditation.

As has been the case for the last several years, the curriculum committee invited Ann Blackwood, Executive Director of English Program Services in to speak and there was a great deal of discussion around several issues, most notably the inclusion of teachers in the creation of curriculum material and the new math curriculum implementation. Ann brought with her Sharon McCready and Robin Harris to discuss plans for professional development and the online format of the new math program. The committee was then joined by Janet Porter who presented information about the Succeeding in Reading program.

The Committee next met on January 11th and after a morning dedicated to discussing policy review recommendations from the resolutions committee, was joined by Shannon Delbridge, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister. This conversation centered specifically around PLCs and how they had changed over the past three years as the educational partners began to form a clearer vision of the process. It was clear that time to PLC seemed to be the largest issue that needed to be addressed by the partners. This discussion was so informative that it was suggested that Shannon be invited back to the curriculum committee's final meeting of the year to provide updates to the committee.

The final meeting of the year for the curriculum committee was held on April 12th, and the immediate business was an update on the report of the Partners Working Group. The Committee was informed that the report was in the hands of the Minister of Education, and that the report was embargoed until such a time as the minister responded to the recommendations. There was a review of resolutions for annual council, and then the group was joined once again by Shannon Delbridge, and the focus of that conversation was again PLCs and CSI.

After lunch, the committee welcomed Jim Rice, Director of Evaluation Services who provided an update on the new large scale assessment practices that were being introduced. It was indicated that the new format of the assessments would be less challenging and more useful to teachers. Finally, Don Glover and Tara Moore joined the committee to discuss the progress of the Schools Plus program across the province. It was reported that many new conversations were happening among care providers since the implementation of the Schools Plus program, and that positive results were leading to the program expanding.

The Committee made a final recommendation for next year that it consider sending a resolution to Annual Council for 2014 that the term of office of members sitting on the curriculum committee be extended to three years from the current two year term.

The budget for 2012-13 was \$6,600 and expenditures were \$5,879.