

## 2013-2014

### Committee members:

Sarah Tutty – chair  
Sophie Pedneault  
Marc Breagh  
Darlene Bereta  
Jason Ralph

Steve Trussoni  
Kathy Fougere  
Pat Hillier– Provincial Executive liaison  
Debbie McIsaac – NSTU staff liaison

### Proceedings

In accordance with normal procedure for NSTU standing committees, the NSTU Curriculum Committee met three times this year; on October 4, 2013, February 28, 2014, and April 11, 2014. The Committee has established the practice of inviting Ms. Ann Blackwood, Executive Direct English Language Services, to the first meeting for a discussion concerning specific topics raised by the Committee as well as an overview of Department of Education directions for the year. This year, Ms. Blackwood attended, accompanied by a number of her colleagues.

Sharon McCready and Robin Harris spoke about their continued efforts to update our mathematics curriculum, especially with Mathematics 10 and Math to Work. Kilah Hayden discussed the launches of Technology Education 7 and 8 and the upcoming launch of Technology Education 9. Natalie Flinn discussed the need for more emphasis to be placed on educating the student’s social emotional learning through Healthy Living courses. Susan Mac Donald updated us on the direction being taken in the French Department. The Committee also reviewed and discussed issues and concerns with the Continuous School Improvement Document and Professional Learning Communities.

In compliance with NSTU Standing Orders, the committee reviewed official policy in the area of Professional Development in advance to Council 2014.

The second meeting of the Curriculum Committee took place on February 28, 2014. During this meeting the committee met with Jim Rice, former Director of Evaluation Services to discuss large-scale assessments. As he was recently reassigned to oversee the data collection and culmination for the Educational Review Panel from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Mr. Rice provided the committee with a greater insight into that process as well. Committee members discussed the composition and mandate of the panel with Mr. Rice, who informed us of the four phases of the process set forth for the Educational Review Panel.

The committee reviewed three resolutions going forward to Council 2014 and provided recommendations to the Resolutions Committee.

The final meeting of the Curriculum Committee took place on April 11, 2014. The committee met with Sue Taylor-Foley, Director of Learning Resources and Technology and Sarah Hainsworth, Coordinator of Distributed Learning to discuss the mandate of Nova Scotia Virtual Schools (NSVS). The mandate has three components; to provide high school courses online for registered high school students; to provide professional learning opportunities for teachers; and to provide online resources for the two aforementioned groups. Ms. Taylor-Foley also spoke to the history of Nova Scotia's Distance education, which interestingly enough dates back to 1917. Ms. Taylor-Foley explained that students and teachers enrolled in the NSVS program are surveyed each year, via virtual office hours or in E-chat environments, to determine if changes need to be made with the program. The committee received a demonstration on how to access resources on the EDU portal, including Moodles; an online video library, and curriculum resources associated with the Learn 360 media library. Discussion was also held regarding the process for selection of teachers for the virtual courses, parameters as set out in the Teachers' Provincial Agreement, and the process for student registration for courses.

The meeting wrapped up with the recommendation of Marc Breaugh to the position of 2014-2015 Chair. Marc graciously accepted the recommendation be sent to the Nominating Committee for consideration.

The budget for 2013-2014 was \$6,600 and expenditures were \$5716.77.